

## **Tanto bella** ['tan.ta 'bɛl.la] (So beautiful)

Text by an anonymous poet

Set by *Ottorino Respighi* (1879-1936), P. 12

**A la tua culla vennero le fate**  
[a la tu:a 'kul.la 'ven.ne.ro le 'fa:.te]  
To the your cradle came the fairies  
(*The fairies came to your cradle*)

**E t'acceser d'incanto le pupille:**  
[e tat.'tʃe:.zer diŋ.'kan.to le pu.'pil.le]  
and you-lit-up with-spells the eyes:  
(*and with their incantations, brightened your eyes:*)

**Ti guardaron gli astri e di faville**  
[ti gwar.'da:.ron 'ʎa.stri e di fa.'vil.le]  
on-you looked the stars and with sparks  
(*the stars looked down on you*)

**Cosparsero le ciocche inanellate.**  
[ko.'spar.se.ro le 'tʃok.ke in.a.nɛl.'la:.te]  
sprinkled the locks curly.  
(*and sprinkled your curly locks with sparkels.*)

**Ninfe, sirene, in un'allegra danza**  
['nin.fe si.'rɛ:.ne in u.nal.'le:.gra 'dan.tsa]  
Nymphs, sirens, in a-happy dance  
(*Nymphs and sirens in a joyous dance*)

**T'appreser la voce armoniosa:**  
[tap.'pre:.zer la 'vo:.tʃe ar.mo.ni.'o:.za]  
they-taught-you the-(your) voice harmonious:  
(*gave you your harmonious voice:*)

**A la guancia diede il color la rosa,**  
[a la 'gwan.tʃa 'dje:.de il ko.'lo:r la 'rɔ:.za]  
to the cheeks gave the color the rose,  
(*the rose gave your cheeks their color,*)

**A l'alito, ogni fior la sua fragranza!**  
[a l'a:.li.to 'oŋ.ni fjo:r la su:a fra.'gran.tsa]  
to the-breath, every flower the its perfume!  
(*and every flower its perfume to your breath!*)

**O tutta rilucente! O profumata!**  
[o 'tut.ta ri.lu.'tʃɛn.te o pro.fu.'ma:.ta]  
Oh all brilliant! Oh fragrance!  
(*So brilliant and so fragrant!*)

**A statua rapita ad altra età!**  
[a 'sta:.tu.a ra.'pi:.ta ad 'al.tra e.'ta]  
To-a statue abducted from another age!  
(*A statue abducted from ancient times!*)

**T'hanno fatto tanto bella e t'han lasciata**  
['tan.no 'fat.to 'tan.to 'bel.la e tan la].['a:.ta]  
You-they-have made so beautiful and they-have-you given  
(*They have made you so beautiful and have given you*)

**L'anima che comprender sa!...**  
['la:.ni.ma ke kom.'prɛn.der sa]  
the-soul that to-understand knows!  
(*an all compassionate soul!*)

(Literal translation and IPA transcription © 2008 by Bard Suverkrop—IPA Source, LLC)