



MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

**LIBRETTI
AND
MMDG SUPPORTERS**

February 25 - March 3, 2002

Libretti

I DON'T WANT TO LOVE

Non voglio amare (Madrigals, Book 9, 1651)

Non voglio amare
per non penare,
ch'amor seguendo
di duol sen va
l'alma struggendo
di pene amare.
Non vo'più amare,
no, no, no, no.

Chi vive amando,
s'è cieco amore?
S'è cieco amore,
come ch'egli è,
il mio dolore
non può mirare.
Non vo'più amare,
no, no, no, no.

Fuggir vogl'io
quest'empio e rio
s'amor è crudo,
come ch'egli è,
fanciullo ignudo,
che mi può dare?
Non vo' più amare,
no, no, no, no.

(anon.)

I don't want to love
so as not to suffer;
since love, following on
sorrow, goes on
to consume the soul
with bitter pain.
I wish to love no more,
no, no, no, no.

Who lives in love,
if Love is blind?
If Love is blind
as he is,
he cannot see
my sorrow.
I wish to love no more,
no, no, no, no.

I wish to flee
that wicked evil-doer;
if Love, the naked boy,
is as cruel
as he is,
what can he offer me?
I wish to love no more,
no, no, no, no.

Ah, che non si conviene (Madrigals, Book 7, 1619)

Ah, che non si conviene
romper la fede a chi la fe' mantiene.
Il mio fermo voler è quell'istesso
lontan da voi, ch'esservi suol appresso;
né può cangiarlo morte,
né mia malvagia sorte,
ma ferma come a l'onda immobil scoglio
e viver vostro e morir vostro i voglio.

It is not right to break faith
with one who keeps faith.
My firm desire remains the same
far from you as it does near you,
nor can death change it,
nor my unfortunate fate,
but firm as a rock to the wave
I wish to live and die yours.

G.B. Guarini

Lihretti

Zefiro torna (Scherzi Musicali, 1632)

Zefiro torna e di soavi accenti
l'aer fa grato e' il piè discioglie a l'onde
e, mormorando tra le verdi fronde,
fa danzar al bel suon su' il prato i fiori.

Inghirlandato il crin Fillide e Clori
note tempran d'amor care e gioconde;
e da monti e da valli ime e profonde
raddoppian l'armonia gli antri canori.

Sorge più vaga in ciel l'aurora, e' sole,
sparge più luci d'or; più puro argento
fregia di Teti il bel ceruleo manto.

Sol io, per selve abbandonate e sole,
l'ardor di due begli occhi e' il mio tormento,
come vuol mia ventura, hor piango hor canto.

O. Rinuccini

S'el vostro cor, madonna (Madrigals, Book 7, 1619)

S'el vostro cor, Madonna,
Altrui pietoso tanto,
Da quel suo degno
Al mio non degno pianto
Tal hor si rivolgesse
E una stilla al mio languir ne dess,
Forse nel mio dolore
Vedria l'altrui perfidia
E' l proprio errore:
E voi seco direste:
Ah, sapess'io
Usar pietà come pietà desio!

G.B. Guarini

Eccomi pronta ai baci (Madrigals, Book 7, 1619)

Eccomi pronta ai baci;
Baciami, Ergasto mio,
Ma bacia in guisa
Che dei denti mordaci
Nota non resti nel mio volto incisa;
Perché altri non m'additi e in essa poi
Legga le mie vergogne e i baci tuoi.
Ahi! tu mordi e non baci,
Tu mi segnasti, ah! ah!
Poss'io morir se più ti bacio mai.

G.B. Marino

Zephyr returns and with his sweet breath
freshens the air and ruffles the waters,
and, murmuring through the green branches,
makes the flowers in the field dance to his music.

Phyllida and Cloris, garlands decking
their hair, sing sweet and joyous love songs;
and sonorous caverns re-echo the harmony
from high mountains and deep valleys.

Dawn rises more lovely in the heavens,
and the sun spreads more golden rays;
purer silver decks Thetis' fair cerulean mantle.

Only I, through desolate and lonely woods,
as my fate decrees, now weep, now sing
of the brightness of two lovely eyes and of my
torment.

If your heart, my lady,
so merciful to others,
would at times turn
from its seemly tears
to my unseemly weeping
and a tear-drop bestow upon my grieving,
perhaps in my pain
it would see the malice of others
and its own erring;
and you with it would say:
Ah, if I knew how
to have mercy as I need it myself!

Here I am, ready for kisses;
kiss me, my Ergasto,
but kiss in such a way
that no trace of biting teeth
may leave a scar to mark my face;
so that others may not point to it and in it
read my shame and your kisses.
Ah! You bite and do not kiss,
you leave a tell-tale sign, Ah! Ah!
May I die if I ever kiss again.

Libretti

Lamento della ninfa (Madrigals, Book 8, 1638).

Non havea Febo ancora
Recato al mondo il dì
Ch'una donzella fuora
Del proprio albergo uscì.

Sul pallidetto volto
Scorgeasi il suo dolor.
Spesso gli veniva sciolto
Un gran sospir dal cor.

Si calpestando fiori
Errava hor qua, hor là,
I suoi perduto amori
Così piangendo va:

Amor, dicea, e' l'ciel
Mirando, il piè fermò,
Amor, dov'è la fé
Che'l traditor giurò?

Fa che ritorni il mio
Amor com'ei pur fu,
O tu m'ancidi ch'io
Non mi tormenti più.

Miserella, ah più no, no
Tanto gel soffrir non può.
Non vo' più ch'ei sospiri
Se non lontan da me,
No, no suoi
martiri più non dirammi affè.

Perchè di lui mi struggo
Tutt'orgoglioso sta,
Che sì, s'io'l fuggo
Ancor mi pregherà.

Se ciglio ha più sereno
Coei ch'el mio non è,
Già non rinchiede in seno
Amor sì bella fé.

Nè mai sì dolci baci
Da quella bocca havrà,
ne più soavi, ah taci,
Taci, che troppo il sa.

Si tra sdegnosi pianti
Spargea le voci al ciel.
Così ne' cori amanti
Mesce Amor fiamma e gel.

Phoebus had not yet given
the day back to the world,
when a damsel came out
of her own house.

On her pale face
her suffering
was plainly to be observed,
a deep sigh often rose from her heart.

Crushing the flowers underfoot,
she strayed back and forth,
bemoaning her
lost love.

Love! she cried, and paused,
looking up to heaven:
Love, where is the fidelity
that the betrayer swore?

Send back my lover,
as he once was;
or kill me,
so that I may no longer torment myself.

Ah, wretch! No, no further!
She cannot bear so much coldness.
I don't want him to sigh
unless he is far from me
no, no, because he no longer
will tell me what ails him.

If I torture myself for his sake
he is unmoved,
but if I flee from him,
he will again bid me.

Even though she may have
a prettier face than mine,
Love has not endowed her heart
with equal fidelity.

Never again will he receive such sweet kisses
from that mouth,
and none more tender—ah, say no more,
say no more, he knows it only too well.

As between angry tears
the cries rise up to heaven,
so in lovers' hearts
Amor mixes fire and ice.

Libretti

Soave libertate (Madrigals, Book 7, 1619)

Soave libertate,
Già per sì lunga etate
Mia cara compagna,
Chi da me ti disvia?
O Dea desiata
E da me tanto amata,
Ove ne vai veloce?

Lasso, che ad alta voce
Invan ti chiamo e piango.
Tu fuggi ed io rimango
Stretto in belle catene
D'altr'amorose pene
E d'altro bel desio.
A Dio per sempre, a Dio.

G. Chiabrera

Sweet freedom,
for so long a time
my dear companion,
who will deprive me of you?
Beloved Goddess
by me much loved,
where are you fleeing so quickly?

Alas, aloud and in vain
I call and implore you.
You run away and I remain
ensnared in beauteous chains
of love for another
and other allurements.
Farewell for ever, farewell.

BIJOUX

Quatre petites mélodies

Elégie (Alphonse Marie Louis de Lamartine,
1790—1869)

Que me font ces vallons,
Ces palais, ces chaumières?
Vains objets dont pour moi le charme
est envolé;
Fleuves, rochers, forêts, solitudes si chères,
Un seul être vous manque, et tout est dépeuplé

Elegy

What can I make of these thatched cottages,
These castles on top of every peak?
Meaningless – for me their charm has fled.
Rivers and rocks, beloved solitudes:
One Being lost, the world is desolate.

Danseuse (Jean Cocteau, 1889—1863)

Le crab sort sur ses pointes
Avec ses bras en corbeille;
Il sourit jusqu'aux oreilles.

La danseuse d'Opéra,
Au crabe toute pareille,
Sort dans la coulisse peinte
En arrondissant les bras.

Dancer

The crab advances on tiptoe,
Arms in a curving embrace
And smiling from ear to ear.

Each ballerina at the Opéra
Enters *en pointe* from the wings,
Curving her arms as she comes:
Point for point, another crab.

Libretti

Chanson (Anonymous, 18th century)

C'est mon trésor, c'est mon bijou,
Le joli trou par où
Ma vigueur se réveille...
Oui, je suis fou, fou, fou
Du trou de ma bouteille.

Drinking Song

That neck! that mouth! that opening
Of what you need not ask:
All passes through the opening
Of... my beloved flask!

Adieu (Raymond Radiguet, 1903—1923)

Amiral, ne crois pas déchoir
En agitant ton vieux mouchoir.
C'est la coutume de chaser
Ainsi les mouches du passé

Farewell

Admiral, don't worry that
Waving your hanky looks gay:
It's customary here to swat
the flies of the Past that way.

Translations by Richard Howard

Ludions (poems by Léon-Paul Fargue)

Air du Rat

Abi Abirounè
Qui que tu n'étais don?
Une blanche monère
Un jo Un joli goulifon
Un oeil Un oeil à son pépère
Un jo Un joli goulifon

Rat's Song

Abi Abirounè
Who were you today?
A white amoeba
A busy protozoan
Keeping an eye on daddy
Fizzy protozoan

Spleen

Dans un vieux square où l'océan
Du mauvais temps met son séant
Sur un banc triste aux yeux de pluie
C'est d'une blonde Rosse et gironde
Que tu t'ennuies
Dans ce cabaret du Néant
Qu'est notre vie?

Spleen

In an old square where the sea
Keeps state in bad weather
On a sad bench with rainy eyes
Aren't you bored to death
With your plump little blonde
In that Nothing-Doing Bar
We call life

Libretti

La Grenouille Américaine

La grenouille américaine
Me regarde par dessus
Ses béscicles de futaine.
Ses yeux sont des grogs massus
Dépourvus de joli taine.

Je pense à Casadesus
Qui n'a pas fait de musique
Sur cett scène d'amour
Dont le parfum nostalgique
Sort d'une boîte d'Armour.

Argus de table, tu gardes
L'âme du crapaud Vanglor,
O bouillon que me regardes
Avec tes lunettes d'or...

The American Frog

The American frog
Watches me over
His timber goggles
His eyes are dim toddies
Scraped clear as glass

I recall Casadesus
Who played no music
For that love scene
Nostalgically redolent
Of all our old trysts

Tame, Argus, you guard
The soul of boastful Toad
O Bubbly, watching over
Me with your golden specs

Air du Poète

Au pays de Papouasie
J'ai caressé la Pouasie
La grâce que je vous souhaite
C'est de n'être pas Papouète.

Poet's Song

In the land of Papuasie
I caressed young Puasia
Who made me one bet
Not to be a Papoet

Chanson du Chat

Il est une bête
Tili petit n'enfant Tirelan
C'est une byronnette
La beste à sa moman Tirelan
Le peu Tinan faon c'est un til blanblanc
Un petit Potasson
C'est mon goret, c'est mon pourçon
mon petit potasson

Il saut' sur la fenêtre
Et groume du museau Tirelo
Pas qu'il voit sur la crête
S'dé couper les oiseaux Tirelo
Le petit n'en faut c'est un ti bloblo
Un petit Potaçao
C'est mon goret, c'est mon pourceau
mon petit potasseau.

Cat's Song

Pretty kitty Witty cat
Tell me where your mama's at
Tell me when your daddy's gone
Put my Whitie's nightie on
Velvet claws Velvet jaws
Itty Bitty Kitty-cat

Up on the sill Cellar down
Silvery dill Celadon,
Hobbled birds Gobbled mice
Vanished with a strange device:
Velvet claws Velvet jaws
Itty Bitty Kitty-cat

Translations by Richard Howard

Libretti

JESU, MEINE FREUDE

Johann Sebastian Bach

(*Jesu, meine Freude* BWV 227)

Choral:

1.

Jesu, meine Freude,
meines Herzens Weide,
Jesu meine Zier!
Ach wie lang, ach lange
ist dem Herzen bange
und verlangt nach dir!
Gottes Lamm, mein Bräutigam,
süßer dir soll mir auf Erden
nichts sonst Liebbers werden.

Es ist nun nichts Verdammliches an denen,
die in Christo Jesu sind, die nicht nach dem
Fleische wandeln, sondern nach dem Geist.

Römer 8. 1

2.

Unter deinen Schirmen
bin ich vor den Stürmen
aller Feinde frei.
Lass den Satan wüthen,
lass den Feind erbittern,
mir steht Jesus bei!
Ob es iltz gleich kracht und blitze,
ob gleich Sünd und Hölle schrecken;
Jesus will mich decken.

Denn das Gesetz des Geistes, der da lebendig
machet in Christo Jesu, hat mich frei gemacht
von dem Gesetz der Sünde und des Todes.

Römer 8. 2

3.

Trotz dem alten Drachen,
trotz des Todes Rachen,
trotz der Furcht dazu!
Tobe. Welt. und springe;
ich steh hier und singe
in gar sicherer Ruh!
Gottes Macht hält mich in acht;
Erd und Abgrund muss verstummen,
ob sie noch so brummen.
Ihr aber seid nicht fleischlich, sondern geistlich,
so anders Gottes Geist in euch wohnet. Wer aber
Christi Geist nicht hat, der ist nicht sein.

Römer 8. 9

Chorale:

1.

Jesus, my joy,
my heart's repose,
Jesus, my treasure!
My heart
has long been troubled
and desirous of thee.
Lamb of God, my bridegroom,
without thee, nothing good
can be my earthly lot.

Damnation befalls not those who are in Christ,
and who pursue not the flesh but the spirit.

Romans 8:1

2.

Beneath thy shield
I am protected from the raging
of all my enemies.
Let Satan storm,
let the evil one rage,
Jesus will stand by me
through thunder and lightning,
against sin and hell
Jesus will protect me.

For the law of the spirit, which gives life in
Christ Jesus, has liberated me from the law of
sin and death.

Romans 8:2

3.

Despite the old serpent,
despite death's vengeance,
despite fear of death!
The world may rave and be overthrown,
yet I stand here and sing
in confident tranquility;
I respect God's might:
earth and abyss will be silenced
although now so vociferous.
But ye are not of the flesh but of the spirit, so
strangely does God dwell in you. But he who has
not the spirit of Christ is not his.

Romans 8:9

Lihretti

4.
Weg mit allen Schätzen,
du bist mein Ergötzen,
Jesu, meine Lust!
Weg, ihr eitlen Ehren,
ich mag euch nicht hören
bleibt mir unbewusst!
Elend, Not, Kreuz, Schmach und Tod
soll mich, ob ich viel muss leiden,
nicht von Jesu scheiden.

So aber Christus in euch ist, so ist der
Leib zwar tot um der Sünde willen; der Geist
aber ist das Leben um der Gerechtigkeit willen.

Römer 8. 10

5.
Gute Nacht, o Wesen,
das die Welt erlesen,
mir gefällt du nicht.
Gute Nacht, ihr Sunden,
bleibet weit dahinten,
komme nicht mehr ans Licht!
Gute Nacht, du Stolz und Pracht!
Dir sei ganz, du Lasterleben,
gute Nacht gegeben!

So nun der Geist des, der Jesum von den
Toten auferwecket hat, in euch wohnet, so
wird auch derselbige, der Christum von
den Toten auferwecket hat, eure sterblichen
Leiber lebendig machen, um des willen, dass
sein Geist in euch wohnet.

Römer 8. 11

6.
Weicht, Ihr Trauergeister,
denn mein Freudenmeister,
Jesus, tritt herein.
Denen, die Gott lieben
muss auch ihr Betrübten
lauter Zucker sein.
Duld' ich schon hier Spott und Hohn,
dennoch bleibst du auch im Leide,
Jesu, meine Freude.

Johann Franck (1650)

4.
Away with all riches,
thou art my delight,
Jesu, my desire.
Away with vain honors,
I'll not hear your temptings,
do not enter my mind!
Misery, distress, affliction, shame and death
shall not part me from Jesus,
though I must suffer much.

When Christ is in you, the body is dead to sin,
but the spirit is life for the sake of righteousness.

Romans 8:10

5.
Farewell to the being
that chooses this world;
I love thee not.
Farewell, sins,
stay behind me,
never come to light again.
Farewell, pride and pomp,
Life of wickedness,
I bid you farewell.

Now the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the
dead lives in you; the same who raised Jesus
from the dead shall give life to your mortal bodies
because the spirit lives in you.

Romans 8:11

6.
Ye spirits of sadness, depart hence,
for Jesus enters,
the lord of my joy.
To those whom God loves
even their sorrow
must be sweetened.
Here I endure mockery and scorn even now,
yet, still suffering, thou art
Jesus, my joy.

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