

E lucevan le stelle

from the opera "Tosca"

The action of the opera takes place in Rome, 1800.

Mario Cavaradossi, Tosca's lover, is in prison and, though innocent of any crime, condemned to be executed by order of the brutal Chief of Police, Scarpia. In this Aria, he sings of his passionate love and his despair.

E lucevan le stelle ed olezzava la terra.
 Stridea l'uscio del l'orto . . .
 E un passo sfiorava la rena . . .
 Entrava ella, fragrante,
 Mi cadea fra le braccia . . .
 O dolci baci, o languide carezze,
 Mentr'io fremente le belle forme disciogliea dai veli!
 Svani per sempre il sogno mio d'amore . . .
 L'ora è fuggita . . . e muoio disperato!
 E non ho amato mai tanto la vita!

*The stars were shining and the smell of the earth was sweet.
 The gate to the garden creaked open . . .
 And a footstep gently stirred the gravel . . .
 She entered, fragrant.
 And fell into my arms. . .
 O sweet kisses, o languid caresses,
 While I, entranced, freed the beautiful body from its veils!
 My dream of love has vanished forever . . .
 That time is no more, and I am dying in despair!
 And never have I loved life so much!*



Libretto by LUIGI ILLICA and GIUSEPPE GIACOSA
 (based on the play by VICTORIEN SARDOU)

GIACOMO PUCCINI
 (1858-1924)

Andante lento appassionato molto

Voice

PIANO

rubando rit.

p dolcissimo, vagamente

E lu-ce-van le stelle

rit rubando rit