

LYRIC TRANSLATIONS – OPERA OUTDOORS 2022

“La donna è mobile” from *Rigoletto*

DUKE

Woman is fickle
Like a feather in the wind,
She changes her voice – and her mind.
Always sweet,
Pretty face,
In tears or in laughter, – she is always lying.
Always miserable
Is he who trusts her,
He who confides in her – his unwary heart!
Yet one never feels
Fully happy
Who on that bosom – does not drink love!
Woman is fickle
Like a feather in the wind,
She changes her voice – and her mind,
And her mind!

“Regina Coeli and Inneggiamo” from *Cavalleria Rusticana*

CHORUS

Regina coeli laetare.
Alleluja!
Quia quem meruisti portare.
Alleluja!
Resurrexit sicut dixit.
Alleluja!

SANTUZZA and CHORUS

Let us rejoice
That Our Lord is not dead,
And in glory
Has opened the tomb!

Let us rejoice
That Our Lord is risen again
And today is gone up
Into the glory of Heaven!

CHORUS
Alleluja!

"Ol' Man River" from *Showboat*

Ol' man river
That ol' man river
he must know something
But he don't say nothing
Cause he just keeps rolling
He keeps rolling along

He don't plant tators
He don't plant cotton
Them that plants 'em is soon forgotten
But ol' man river
Just keeps rolling along

You and me
We sweat and strain
Body all aching
And wracked with pain
Tote that barge
Lift that bale
Get a little drunk
And you land in jail

I gets weary
Yes I' am sick of trying
I'm tired of living and I'm
Feared of dying
But ol' man river
Keeps rolling along

“Come per me sereno” from *La sonnambula*

AMINA

Dear companions,
and you, my friends,
who understand and
share my happiness,
oh how sweetly is
Amina's heart
affected by these songs
which love inspired!

VILLAGERS

May you be happy!
We all wish you that, Amina.

AMINA

Dear and tender mother
to whom I,
an orphan, owe this happy day,
may these tears of joy,
welling from my heart
rather than from my eyes,
speak my feelings to you

Companions, loving friends...
oh, mother! How happy I am!

How brightly this day
dawned for me!
How the earth blossomed,
lovelier than ever before!
Never, never has the face of nature
smiled with such radiance;
love transfigured it,
the love of my beloved.

VILLAGERS

May heaven o happy Amina,
may heaven always strew
flowers upon the path
of all your future days.

AMINA

Place your hand
here upon my breast

and feel how wildly it throbs:
that is my heart,
which cannot contain
the happiness it feels.

“Wie schon ist die music” from *Die schweigsame Frau*

MOROSUS

Ah how beautiful is music -- but how even more beautiful when it is over!
Ah, how wonderful is a young woman who keeps silent --
but how even more wonderful when she remains the wife of another!
Ah, how beautiful is life -- but how even more beautiful
when one is not a fool and knows how to live life!
Ah, my good people, you have cured me splendidly,
never before have I felt so happy . . .
Ah, I feel an indescribable sense of well-being. Pure peace!
Pure peace! Aaah - - - Aaah - - - Aaah! - - -

“Maria” from *West Side Story*

The most beautiful sound I ever heard
Maria, Maria, Maria, Maria
All the beautiful sounds of the world in a single word
Maria, Maria, Maria, Maria,
Maria, Maria
Maria!
I've just met a girl named Maria,
And suddenly that name
Will never be the same to me
Maria!
I've just kissed a girl named Maria,
And suddenly I found
How wonderful a sound can be
Maria!
Say it loud and there's music playing,
Say it soft and it's almost like praying
Maria
I'll never stop saying Maria!
Maria, Maria, Maria, Maria,
Maria, Maria, Maria, Maria, Maria,
Say it loud and there's music playing
Say it soft and it's almost like praying

Maria, I'll never stop saying Maria
The most beautiful sound I ever heard
Maria!

“Patria oppressa” from *Macbeth*

Oppressed land of ours! You cannot have
the sweet name of mother
now that you have become a tomb
for your sons.

From orphans, from those who mourn,
some for husbands, some for children,
at each new dawn a cry goes up
to outrage heaven.

To that cry heaven replies
as if moved to pity,
oppressed land, it would
proclaim your grief forever.

The bell tolls constantly for death
but no-one is so bold
as to shed a vain tear
for the suffering and dying.

“O don fatal” from *Don Carlos*

EBOLI

Oh, awful gift! O terrible gift
That Heaven gave to me in its rage!
You, that make me so vain and arrogant;
I curse you... I curse you, oh my beauty!

I can only shed tears upon tears,
I have no hope, I shall suffer so!
My crime is so very horrible
That I won't ever be able to wash it away!

I curse you! I curse you, oh my beauty!

Oh, my Queen, I have sacrificed you
For the sake of my heart's crazed error!
Now, from the world, only in a convent
Will I be able to hide my pain!

Oh, dear! Oh, dear! Oh, my Queen...
Oh, Heaven! And Carlos! Being taken to his death tomorrow...
Oh dear Lord! I will see him being taken to his death!
Ah, I have one day left!
Yet hope is smiling at me, ah...!
Heaven be blessed, I shall save him!
I have one day left!
Ah, Heaven be blessed, I shall save him!

“Ecco il Mondo” from *Mefistofele*

Here is the world,
Empty and round,
He gets up, he goes down,
It leaps and shines.
Carol around the sun,
It trembles, roars, gives and destroys,
Now sterile or fruitful.
Here is the world.
On his big one
Ancient hump
There is a lineage
And filthy and crazy,
Fair, cowardly, subtle,
Which devours itself every hour
From the top to the bottom
Of the guilty world.
Satan is in vain to her,
Laughter and mockery
Hell to her,
Heaven mocked and laughed.
Oh by God!
That I laugh too,
Oh by God! etc.
In thinking this
That I hide them.
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!
Here is the world!

“Epilogue” from *Mefistofele*

MEFISTOFELE

Keep on, keep on proud thought. Death is close at hand. I have rushed through the world and I have seized desire by the hair!

O songs! O memories of enchantment and glory, guide this vain soul to ruin. You have desired, enjoyed, and desired again. Nor have you said to the fleeting atom: Stay, you are beautiful.

FAUST

I have sounded each mortal mystery, reality, the ideal; I have had the love of a virgin and the love of a goddess. Reality was grief, and the Ideal a dream.

Having reached my final steps of old age, my soul steeped itself in a supreme dream. King of a peaceful realm, of an infinite land, unto a fertile people I'd give my life.

MEFISTOFELE

(I want to read his heart!)

FAUST

Under wisest laws I wish that by the thousands, nations, herds and fields arise. I'd have this dream, that the sacred poetry and the last need of my existence were revealed to me.

MEFISTOFELE

Watch out, tempter!

FAUST

A song is sounding from heaven!

I drink the august beams of such a dawn, and in this thought I enjoy an unforgettable hour!

MEFISTOFELE

Ah, I see a gleam of light! Is it a revelation from heaven?

FAUST

The crowd turns towards the heavens, I hear holy songs! I bathe in the radiant splendor of heaven's glorious morning!

MEFISTOFELE

Be careful, the struggle between heaven and hell is still uncertain! We must travel through the air!

Faust! Faust! Faust!

Hark to the song of love! Come intoxicate yourself on the bosom of sirens!

FAUST

Heavens!

CHORUS

Hail sovereign Lord of angelic hosts!

MEFISTOFELE

Turn away your glances!

FAUST

Here at last I find salvation.

Oh God of pity save me from the snares of temptation.

MEFISTOFELE

Angels now await for the dying, the deluge of roses upon my head have corroded my limbs and withered my powers, assailed by a thousand cherubs!

CHORUS

Lord of the cherubs, we pray for the spirit that is soaring upward, redeemed, and forgiven through thy pardoning love.
