

The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder

“Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja”

Sung by Papageno as he makes his first entrance—the Three Ladies have exited after killing the monster and saving Tamino’s life; Tamino has just regained consciousness.

PAPAGENO

The birdcatcher am I,
and always merry, tra la la!
As the birdcatcher I am known
by old and young throughout the land.
I know how to set decoys,
and whistle just like my prey!
So merry and carefree can I be,
knowing all the birds belong to me.

The birdcatcher am I,
and always merry, tra la la!
As the birdcatcher I am known
by old and young throughout the land.
I wish I had a trap for girls—
I’d catch them by the dozen then.
I’d keep them in a cage at home,
and all the girls would be mine alone.

If all the girls were mine alone,
some I’d trade for the finest sugar,
then to the one I liked the best
I’d give all the sugar she wanted.
And if she kissed me tenderly,
she’d be my wife and I her husband.
She would sleep beside me
and I would rock her like a child.