

Don Giovanni

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

“Madamina, il catalogo è questo” (My dear lady, this is a list)

In this aria, Leporello is trying to convince Elvira that Giovanni is a terrible man who she should avoid. While the tone is humorous, the aria depicts the title character's true nature as a man who uses women without any regard to their feelings or wellbeing.

LEPORELLO

Madamina, il catalogo è questo
delle belle, che amò il padron mio;
un catalogo egli è, che ho fatt'io.
Osservate, leggete con me.

In Italia seicento e quaranta,
in Almagna duecento e trentuna,
cento in Francia,
in Turchia novantuna,
ma in Ispagna son già mille e tre!

V'han fra queste contadine,
cameriere, cittadine,
v'han contesse, baronesse,
marchesine, principesse,
e v'han donne d'ogni grado,
d'ogni forma, d'ogni età.

LEPORELLO

My dear lady, this is a list
of the beauties my master has loved,
a list which I have compiled.
Observe, read along with me.

In Italy, six hundred forty;
in Germany, two hundred thirty-one;
a hundred in France;
in Turkey ninety-one.
In Spain one thousand and three!

Among these are peasant girls,
maidservants, city girls,
countesses, baronesses,
marchionesses, princesses,
women of every rank,
every shape, every age.