

La bohème

by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

“O soave fanciulla” (Oh! lovely girl!)

Rodolfo and Mimi have fallen for each other. This duet is their declaration of love. Rodolfo's friends also realize the love, too. At the beginning of this excerpt you hear the bohemians sing “Trovò la poesia” meaning “He’s found his poem at last.”

RODOLFO

O soave fanciulla, o dolce viso,
di mite circondato alba lunar,
in te ravviso il sogno
ch'io vorrei sempre sognar!

MIMI

(Ah, tu sol comandi, amor!...)

RODOLFO

Fremon già nell'anima
le dolcezze estreme.

MIMI

(Tu sol comandi, amore!)

RODOLFO

Oh! lovely girl! Oh, sweet face
bathed in the soft moonlight.
I see in you the dream
I'd dream forever!

MIMI

(Ah! Love, you rule alone!...)

RODOLFO

Already I taste in spirit
the heights of tenderness!

MIMI

(You rule alone, o Love!)