

La bohème

by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

“Questo *Mar Rosso* mi ammollisce” (This *Red Sea* of mine)

The opera opens on the cramped attic apartment of the bohemians referred to by the opera's title. Rodolfo is thoughtfully gazing out the window while Marcello sits at a canvas trying paint “The Crossing of the Red Sea.”

MARCELLO

Questo *Mar Rosso* mi ammollisce
e assidera come se addosso
mi piovesse in stille.
Per vendicarmi affogo un Faraon.

MARCELLO

This *Red Sea* of mine
makes me feel cold and numb
as if it were pouring over me.
I'll drown a Pharaoh in revenge.