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Amor Priggioniero

Libretto by Pietro Metastasio

Characters:

Diana

Amore (Cupid/Love)

The action takes place in the woods of Delos

Diana

You struggle in vain, Love. No, this time you won't escape.

Amore

Alas!

Diana

Hurry, companions, to stare at this illustrious prey who has fallen into my trap. I have never caught better: Love is captured.

Amore

Pity!

Diana

I surprised the careless one submersed in sleep: I tied him in these knots, then woke him.

Amore

Will I find pity?

Diana

Yes, the same pity that you show to others. Neglected beautifef, betrayed nymphs, and desperate lovers, the tyrant is in; gather to punish his sins. The wicked one has laughed enough: now it is your turn.

Amore

Oh, dear huntresses, please have pity on me: you will be rewarded; Love promises you. Whoever frees me will never again know jealousy.

Diana

Don't trust him: he does nothing for those who place trust in him.

ARIA: Nymphs, if you wish to live happily, don't believe him, and don't trust him. He is a traitor; he will trick you. He promises much but delivers nothing; and when he tightens his noose, he never has pity on a heart.

Amore

If the Goddess of the woods, more deaf than they, will not listen to my cries, I pray that her followers not be as barbaric as she. Such cruelty is not deserved by the silly jokes of a simple boy. Alas! See what terrible wounds have been created on my side by this rough cord. Oh, please at least loosen them. I am your benefactor. All homage, vows, praise, and prayers, that are sent up by afflicted souls are gifts of Love. If Love is maltreated, oppressed and imprisoned, beautiful Nymphs, your empire is finished.

ARIA: If the entire world rebels against Love, beauty becomes a useless asset, lovely ones. Who can say more than, than he who loves and adores you? Who then will call you his hope and his beloved?

Diana

Then from your enemies, fool, you expect the gift of your freedom?

Amore

Who knows: perhaps they are not my enemies.

Diana

Did you hear that? Oh, take vengeance, my strict companions, for such an outrage. Cut his wings, break his arrows, and take this cruel one away in triumph. Come on, what is stopping you? Go on, I allow you to take your revenge.

Amore

At least they are pretty slow, these enemies of mine.

Diana

What am I to do? Will no one do my bidding? What are you trying to tell me with these timid glances, with these pathetic looks?

Amore

These enemies of mine are all lovers.

Diana

Is this true? Speak. A new sin is this vacant silence.

Amore

It is easily explained by seeing who blushes and stays silent.

Diana

And the severe Silvia, who disapproves of Clori even in her innocent care in making herself beautiful?

Amore

Pure jealousy: she is her rival.

Diana

And the modest Irene, who flees every man, as if each's glance were poisonous?

Amore

She must do so: Fileno commands it.

Diana

What am I hearing? And is there not one among you, who can boast of being faithful to me?

Amore

Not even one: they are all lovers.

Diana

Oh, rebels, oh betrayers! Disappoint me so? No, you will not remain unpunished.

Amore

Hey, don't worry. If love is a crime, where can you find someone not guilty if men, clouds, tree trunks, and stones all love each other? If this Goddess, if this other one, who claims to be so austere and proper; then is it not clear that this one who wishes me dead is burning with love?

Diana

Ipudent, what are you saying?

Amore

The truth.

Diana

Silence.

Amore

No, you're really angering me.

Diana

Silence; I will release you. There, you are free

Amore

I don't wish to be silent.

Diana

Alas!

Amore

Your mysterious loves will not remain among the stones of Latmos. That you adore Endimione, that you are not inhuman, as you would lead others to believe, everyone should know this. I fly off to inform all the planets!

Diana

Ah no, halt. I cede to you: you have won. I deserved that rage, I confess, but I am repentant, and I ask you for peace.

ARIA: Peace, Love, let us return to peace. Of your arrow, of your torch I will no longer be an enemy. Once again, I will recognize and submit to that sweet empire that reigns over the entire world.

Amore

See if you can find a more lovable deity than Love! A mild response is enough to placate me: and I cannot be cruel to the oppressed. Peace you desire, and I offer you amnesty. You shall be the favorite of all my followers.

Diana

I have no desire to figure among your followers. I am ignorant of the customs of the forest, the wisdom, the doctrines: and I fear that all would make fun of my simplicity.

Amore

I will be your teacher; trust me.

ARIA: You shall know, if you don't mind, the name of my follower, and how to conquer and cherish a heart. How he who fears too much must nourish himself with hope; how he who hopes for too much must learn fear.

Diana

Then begin to instruct us. See how my Nymphs already hang on your every word.

Amore

Something more important is calling me away. Then I will return.

Diana

Don't leave us, if you don't first...

Amore

What! Hold me here by force, how dare you? In these woods, you would expect Love to pass all his time as if he had no other thoughts but for you?

Diana

No; go ahead, you are right. Stop, go, return when you wish, but do not be angry.

Amore

This is exactly how I want you. I like your new docility.

Diana

I will be like you, as long as we keep our peace.

DUETTO: If you wish to placate Love, beautiful Nymphs, so in love, learn it from me.

Amore

You force Love to be cruel, beautiful Nymphs, so in love, when you defend yourselves from me.

Diana, Amore

Love challenges those who fight him; with those who submit, he is never so barbarous.