

Zeffiretti lusinghieri

from the opera "Idomeneo"

This scene in Act III takes place on the island of Crete in the year 1200 B. C.

Iliia, daughter of Priam, King of Troy, is in love with Idamante, son of Idomeneo, King of Crete. Idomeneo, when returning with his ships from a victorious war, encountered violent storms, and promised to Neptune, the God of the Sea, any sacrifice for the safe arrival to his native Crete. Neptune demanded that the first person Idomeneo would meet upon landing be sacrificed to him. It happened to be his son, Idamante. While Idamante is about to be sacrificed, Iliia sings this aria.

Zeffiretti lusinghieri,
De volate al mio tesoro,
E gli dite, ch'io l'adoro,
Che mi serbi il cor fedel.
E voi piante, e fior sinceri,
Che ora inaffia il pianto amaro,
Dite a lui, che amor più raro
Mai vedeste sotto al ciel.

Gently blowing breezes,
Oh, fly to my beloved,
And tell him that I adore him,
Let him remain faithful to me.
And you, leaves, and lovely flowers,
Which my bitter tears now drench,
Tell him that a love more rare
Has never been seen below the heavens.

Text by *ABBOT GIAMBATTISTA VARESCO*

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Grazioso

PIANO

Voice

Zef - fi - retti lu - sin - ghieri,