

Donna non vidi mai

from the opera "Manon Lescaut"

France — early 18th Century:

Act I finds the heroine, Manon Lescaut, reluctantly on her way to a convent under the guardianship of her brother. A stop-over in a small village en route occasions her meeting with the sensitive young student, Des Grieux, who is immediately captivated by her. When Manon is called away (having promised to return soon), Des Grieux, now alone, rhapsodizes on the charms of the girl he has just seen. This aria is his declaration of love, saying he has never before known such an enchanting beauty.



Donna non vidi mai simile a questa!
A dirle: io t'amo
a nuova vita l'alma mia si desta.
"Manon Lescaut mi chiamo"...
Come queste parole profumate mi vagan
nello spirito
e ascose fibre vanno a carezzare.
O sussurro gentil, deh! non cessar!

Never have I seen a woman like this!
When I tell her, "I love you",
My soul awakens to a new life.
"Manon Lescaut is my name"...
How these fragrant words pervade my spirit
and caress every fiber of my being.
Gentle whisper, oh! do not cease!

English translation by WALDO LYMAN

GIACOMO PUCCINI
(1858-1924)

Allegretto vivace
rall.

PIANO *pp*

Andante lento ♩ = 63
con accento appassionato

p

Don - na non vi - di ma - i si - mi - le a

Andante lento ♩ = 63

p con espress. dolce