

L'italiano nell'aria 1 e L'italiano nell'aria 2 Glossary of Opera and Music Terms

Traduzione ad opera di TperTradurre, Roma.

Aria: a musical piece for a solo voice. The spectator learns the most intimate feelings of the character.

Cavatina, also called “aria di sortita”: the various characters of an opera present themselves for the first time. Shorter and more simple with respect to an aria.

Cabaletta: final section of an aria or a duet.

Romance: a simplified aria. At the end of the 1800s, it split from opera and took on its own identity in song and piano accompaniment. The present day melodic Italian songs derive from the romance.

Recitative: the section in which action is concentrated. Always set opposite an aria, it has an instrumental accompaniment and the singer expresses him/herself in the so-called “recitar cantando” style.

Travesti (or en travesti): in opera terminology, it is used to define a singer (mezzosoprano, contralto) that interprets the role of a character of the opposite sex.

Opera Language - Some Definitions

acchetarsi: calm down, stop speaking

acciar: sword

ad alta notte: late at night, in the dead of night

aere/aure: air/airs

ad onta: despite

addoppiare (letterario): redouble, increase

affé: at all (in negative clauses), completely

affetta: shows

aita: helps

alfine: finally, in the end

alma: soul

almen: at least

al caro ben: to the dearly beloved

ara: altar

amistade: friendship

anco: also

angiolo: angel

appellare: to appeal, to call

arcano: secret

ascendere: to ascend

ascoso: hidden

asilo: asylum, refuge

astro: bright celestial body (sun, moon, stars),
luminary

augelletto: small bird

auretta: breeze

balsamo: salve, balm

battere: to hit, to batter

beltà/beltade: beauty

ben/ben mio/il mio ben(e): my beloved

ben veggo: I realize

bramare: to desire, to covet

brando: sword

cagione: reason

cangiare: to change

cessare: to cease

ciglio: eye

colà: there

cor/core: heart

crine, il: hair

dappresso: close to

debbo: I must

dee, dei, denno: must (different forms of)

deggio, deggia, deggiano: must (different forms of)

deh!, ahil!, ahimè!, ohimè!: exclamations

Dei, gli: Gods

desio: wish, desire

desso/a: exactly him/her

destare, destarsi: to awaken

di lì a poco: shortly

dì: day

diè/diede: gave

diletto: delight

diman: tomorrow

dissimulare: to hide

docile: obedient, meek

dolere: to hurt

dovria: I should, he/she should

doppier(e): two-branched candlestick

duolmi: pains me, grieves me

duolo: pain

egro: ill, anguished

empio: cruel

empire: to fill, to satiate,

errare: to wander, to err

face: torch, starlight

fan: they do

fausto: happy, auspicious

favellare: to talk, to speak

fe: he/she did

fé: faith, faithful

fei: I did, I made

fia, fiano: he/she/it will be, they will be

fiso: fixed

fo: I do, I am doing

foco: flame, fire

fora, saria: I would be, he/she/it would be

fronte: brow

L'italiano nell'aria 1 e L'italiano nell'aria 2
Glossary of Opera and Music Terms

galantuomo: gentleman	prece: prayer
germano: brother	prence: prince
giovine, giovinetto, giovinotto: young man	pria: first
guardo: gaze	pugnare: to fight
iattura: calamity, misfortune, harm	puossi: one can
imene: wedding, marriage	puote: he/she/it can
indarno: in vain	pupille (poetico): eyes
infausto: unhappy	rai (poetico): eyes
infino allor: until now	ratto: quick
involare: to fly off, to steal, to kidnap	reietto: rejected, outcast
ito: went	reo/a (rio/a): guilty, wicked
ivi: here	ricusare: to refuse
languire: to languish, to pine	rio (poetico): rivulet
lasso: tired	ritroso/a: reserved, bashful
lesto: fast, quick	sacrificio: sacrifice
lieve: light	scellerato: evil, malevolent
loco: place	sembiante: countenance
lume: light, candlelight	si (abbreviazione): thus
lumi: eyes	siccome: as, since
lune: months	sinor: until now
lungi: far off, far away	sparte: scattered
meco, teco, seco: with me, with you, with oneself	speme: hope
mensa: table	sperdere: to dispel, to ward off
mesto: sad	speciale: vendor of medicinal herbs, today: chemist
mirare (poetico): to see, to look	strale: arrow, dart
molceva: to flatter, to tempt	suora: sister
ne: we, there	talor/talora: sometimes
nol: don't it/he	tediare: to bore, to annoy
nol credo: I don't believe it	tai: such
occulto: hidden, unknown	tapino: miserable
ognor(a): always	tede nuziali (pl.): wedding torches
olezzare: to be fragrant with, to smell of	tempio: temple, church
omai: now, by now, almost	torria: to carry away
onnipotente: omnipotent, all-mighty	uopo (è d'): it's necessary
or: now	vago (poetico): graceful
orbene/orsù: therefore	veggo/veggio/vegg'io: I watch over, keep a vigil
ove/onde: where	vel/velo: veil
pel: for the	velo (ve lo): it to you
parmi: I think, I believe	veron(e): balcony
periglio: danger	vezzoso/a: charming
piagare: to torment, to wound	v'ha: there is
piè: foot	vo: I go
pietade: mercy	vo': I want
placido: calm, peaceful	voluttà: pleasure
ponno: they can	vanni (pl.): wings
potria, potriano: he/she or they could	

L'italiano nell'aria 1 e L'italiano nell'aria 2
Glossary of Opera and Music Terms

Some Musical Terms

accelerando: accelerando (accelerating, gradually increasing in tempo)
accompagnato: accompagnato (accompanied)
acuto: high
adagio: adagio (played slowly, at ease)
adagissimo: adagissimo (played very slowly)
all'ungherese: in Hungarian style
alla tedesca: in the style of the Ländler
alla turca: in the Turkish (military music) style
alla zingara: in the style of Gipsy music
allargando: allargando (broadening, becoming slower)
allegramente: allegramente (merry, lively)
allegretto: allegretto (a little lively, moderately fast)
allegro: allegro (lively or fast)
allegro assai/vivace: vivace (very lively)
allentando: allentando (slowing down)
amabile: amabile (pleasant)
andante: andante (moderate pace, walking pace)
andantino: andantino (slightly faster than andante)
assai: assai (much, very much)
a tempo: a tempo (return to previous speed)
battuta/tempo: bar, beat
bocca chiusa: bocca chiusa (with a closed mouth)
brio: brio (vigour, as in con brio)
buffo: buffo (comic)
cadenza: cadenza (a solo section used to display the performer's technique)
calando: calando (falling away, getting slower and quieter)
calmando: calmando (calm, becoming calm)
cambiata: cambiata, changing tone
cantando: cantando (in a singing style)
cantata: cantata (vocal composition with instrumental accompaniment)
da capo: da capo (from the beginning)
capriccio: capriccio (humorous, bizarre or fanciful composition)
celermente, celere: celere (quick, nimble)
come prima: come prima (like the first time, as before)
concitato: concitato (in an agitated, excited manner)
concerto: concert
crescendo (cresc.): crescendo (growing, getting progressively louder)
coro: chorus (in a song), coro (choir, a group of singers)
decrescendo (decrec.): decrescendo (dwindling, gradually decreasing in volume)
dare l'attacco: attacco (move to the next movement immediately, attack)
diesis: sharp
doppio diesis: double sharp
diminuendo (dim.): diminuendo (dwindling, gradually decreasing in volume)
dirigere: conduct

direttore ospite: guest conductor
direttore musicale: music director
distinto: distinto (distinct, clear)
dolce, dolcemente: dolce (sweetly, softly)
espressività: expressivity
energico: energetico (energetic, strong)
enfasi: emphasis, as in con enfasi – with emphasis
facile, facilmente: facile (easy, happy)
fermezza: fermezza (firmness)
finale: finale
flebile: flebile (mournfully)
(f) forte: forte (loud, strong)
(fp) fortepiano: fortepiano (loud then immediately soft)
(ff) fortissimo: fortissimo (very loud)
(fff) più forte possibile: fortissimissimo (as loud as can be played)
forzato: forzato (forced)
fretta: fretta (played with haste)
frivolo: frivolo (frivolous)
fuga: fuga, fugue (flight; a complex and highly regimented contrapuntal form in music)
furioso: furioso (furiously)
giocoso/giocondo: giocoso (playful)
gioia: joy (as in con gioia)
glissato: glissando (sliding from one pitch to another)
grave: grave (played slowly and seriously)
impetuoso: impetuoso (impetuously)
inquieto: inquieto (restless)
insieme: insieme (together)
interpretazione: interpretation, acting
intimo: intimo (intimately)
istesso (tempo): istesso (the same, as in istesso tempo, at the same speed)
larghetto: larghetto (somewhat slowly)
largo: largo (broadly, slowly)
legato: legato (joined)
leggerezza: leggero, leggermente, leggiadro (lightly, delicately)
leggiadria: leggiadro (grace, with grace)
leggero: leggero (light, delicate)
lento: lento (slowly)
lento assai: lento assai (very slowly)
liberamente, libero: liberamente (freely)
lirico: operatic, opera
liscio: liscio (simple, smooth)
m.d. (mano destra): MD, mano destra (played with the right hand)
maestoso: maestoso (dignified)
maggiore: major
marcia: march
martellando: martellando (strongly marked, hammered)
medesimo: medesimo (the same)
meno: meno (less)

L'italiano nell'aria 1 e L'italiano nell'aria 2
Glossary of Opera and Music Terms

mensura: measure	rigore: rigore (strictness, exactness, as in con rigore, with exactness)
mesto: mesto (mournful, sad)	rilasciando: rilasciando, rallentando (progressively slower)
mezza/o: half (as in mezzoforte, mezza voce)	rilassato: rilassato (relaxed)
(mf) mezzoforte: mezzoforte (moderately soft)	rinforzando (rfz., rf.): rinforzando (emphasizing)
minore: minor	ritardando (ritard., rit.): ritardando (gradually getting slower)
misura: misura (as in alla misura), measure, beat	ritenente, ritenuto: ritenuto (held back, suddenly slower)
mobile: mobile (flexible, changeable)	ritmo: ritmo, rhythm
moderato: moderato (moderate)	riverso: riverso (reversed, related to the motion of parts)
morbidezza: morbidezza (softness, delicacy)	rustico: rustico (rural, rustic)
mosso: mosso (moved, moving)	salmo: psalm
moto: moto (motion, as in con moto, with motion)	saltando, saltato: saltando (bouncing the bow)
moto primo: moto primo (first motion)	scala: scale
m.s. (mano sinistra): MS, mano sinistra (played with left hand)	scaldarsi la voce: warm up the voice (perform a vocal warmup)
netto: netto (clear, distinct)	scemando: scemando (diminishing in power or tone)
non molto: non molto (not very much)	in scena: on stage
non tanto, non troppo: non tanto, non troppo (not too much)	scherzando, scherzoso: scherzando, scherzoso (in a playful manner)
nuovo: new (as in di nuovo, again)	schietto: schietto (simple, plain)
obbligato: obbligato (required, indispensable instrument)	sciolto: sciolto (with freedom and boldness)
opus: opus	scordatura: being out-of-tune, scordatura (tuning in an unusual way to achieve certain effects)
ottava: octave	scorrendo: scorrendo (gliding from one tone to another)
ottava alta: high octave	secco: secco (dry, plain)
ottava bassa: low octave	segno: segno (a sign, as in dal segno, from the sign)
parte: part	segue: segue (now follows, go on with what follows)
partimento: partimento (a pitch sliding from one note to another)	semiserio: semiserio (semi-serious)
pesante: pesante (heavy)	semitono: semitone
pezzo: piece	sempre: sempre (always)
piacevole: piacevole (pleasing, agreeable)	sempre a tre corde: sempre a tre corde (always on three strings, not using the soft pedal on the piano)
(p) piano: piano (softly)	senza: senza (without)
(pp) pianissimo: pianissimo (very softly)	senza tempo: senza tempo (without set time)
(ppp) più piano possibile: pianissimissimo (as softly as possible)	serio: serious, grave, serio (serious)
pizzicato: pizzicato (plucked, instruction to string players)	sforzato (sfz., sf., fz., ffz., sffz.): sforzato (strongly accented)
placido: placido (calm, tranquil)	simile: simile (like)
poco: poco (little)	sino alla fine: sino alla fine (to the end)
poco a poco: poco a poco (little by little)	sin, sino: sino (until)
ponticello: bridge (of a string instrument), ponticello (instruction to play on the bridge)	slargando, slentando: slargando (broadening), slentando (getting slower)
precedente: previous	smanioso: smanioso (frenzied)
precipitando: precipitando (hurrying)	sminuendo: sminuendo (diminishing)
prestissimo: prestissimo (as fast as possible)	smorendo, smorzando: smorzando (dying away)
a prima vista: a prima vista (sight-read)	soave: soave (soft, gentle)
quieto: quieto (calm, serene)	soleenne: soleenne (solemn)
rabbia: rabbia (fury, as in con rabbia, with fury)	solfeggio: solfege (a singing exercise)
raddolcendo: raddolcendo (becoming softer)	solo: solo
rallentamento: rallentamento (slackening of the time)	solista (il/la): soloist
rallentando (rallent., rall.): rallentando (progressively slower)	sonata: sonata
rapidamente: rapidamente (rapidly)	sonata a tre: trio sonata
religioso: religioso (solemnly, in a devout manner)	
replica/ripetizione: replica (a repeat)	
riassunto: summary	
ricordanza: remembrance (composition style)	

L'italiano nell'aria 1 e L'italiano nell'aria 2
Glossary of Opera and Music Terms

sopra: sopra (above)	tempo giusto: tempo giusto (strict time)
sordina: mute, damper, sordino	tempo primo: tempo primo (revert to the tempo at the beginning of the piece)
con sordina: con sordino (with the mute)	tempo principale: primary tempo
sordo: sordo (muffled)	tenuto (ten.): tenuto (held, sustained)
sostenuto: sostenuto (sustained)	tonalità: key, tonality
sotto: below	tranquillo: tranquillo (calmly, peacefully)
sotto voce: sotto voce (in a soft voice, in an undertone)	tremolante: tremolo, tremolante (shaking, tremolant)
staccato: staccato (detached, separated)	trillo: trillo (a trill, a shake)
stretto: stretto (quickened in time)	tumultuoso: tumultuoso (tumultuous)
stringendo (string.): stringendo (gradually getting faster)	unisono: unisono (in unison)
suave: suave	un poco: un poco, un peu (a little)
suite (la): suite (a group of pieces consisting entirely of dance forms, all in the same key)	veloce: veloce (very quick)
tastiera: keyboard, fingerboard	versetto: versicle
tasto: key, fret (of an instrument)	vigoroso: vigoroso (bold, energetic)
tempestoso: tempestoso (tempestuous, passionate)	vivace: vivace (animated, brisk)
tempo: tempo, time	voce: voice
	voce principale: lead voice