

## "So Anch'io La Virtu Magica" from Don Pasquale

By Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)

"So Anch'io La Virtu Magica" is an aria composed by Donizetti for *Don Pasquale*. It is sung towards the end of the first act of the opera by a character named, Norina. Norina was reading a passage about love from a novel when she started singing the aria. She was then approached by Dr Malatesta who is crafting a plan to fool Don Pasquale into bending the will of a woman. This aria describes about Norina who knows how to make a man do as she pleases.

Text:

"Quel guardo,  
il cavaliere in mezzo al cor trafisse,  
Piegò i ginocchio e disse:  
Son vostro cavalier.

E tanto era in quel guardo  
Sapor di paradiso,  
Che il cavalier Riccardo,  
Tutto d'amor conquiso,  
Giurò che ad altra mai,  
Non volgeria il pensier."  
Ah, ah!  
So anch'io la virtu magica  
D'un guardo a tempo e loco,  
So anch'io come si bruciano  
I cori a lento foco,  
D'un breve sorrisetto  
Conosco anch'io l'effetto,  
Di menzognera lagrima,  
D'un subito languor,  
Conosco i mille modi  
Dell'amorose frodi,  
I vezzi e l'arti facili  
Per adescare un cor.  
Ho testa bizzarra,  
son pronta vivace,  
Brillare mi piace scherzar:  
Se monto in furore  
Di rado sto al segno,

That look,  
pierced the knight in the middle of the  
heart,  
He folded his body, bent at his knees  
and said  
I am your knight.

And so it was in that look  
a taste of paradise,  
That the knight Richard,  
Conquered by love,  
Swore that never to another,  
Woman would he ever think about."  
Ah, ah!  
I too know the magical power  
of a look at the right time and place,  
I know how the heart burns  
in slow fires,  
of a brief smile  
I know the effect,  
Of lying tears,  
On a sudden languor,  
I know a thousand ways  
love can fraud,

Ma in riso lo sdegno fo presto a cangiar,  
Ho testa bizzarra,  
Ma core eccellente, ah!

The charms and arts are easy  
To fool the heart.

I have a bizarre mind  
I possess a ready wit,  
I like joking:  
If I get furious  
I'm rarely able to remain calm,  
But my disdain can soon turn to  
laughter,  
I have a bizarre mind  
But an excellent heart, ah!