

Ma che vi fece, o stelle ... Sperai vicino il lido

W. A. Mozart, KV 368

Recitativo

Ma che vi fece, o stelle, la povera Dircea,
che tante unite sventure contro lei?

Voi, che ispiraste i casti affetti alle nostr'alme;
voi, che al pudico imeneo foste presenti,
difendetelo, o numi;
io mi confondo.

M'opresse il colpo a segno,
che il cor mancòmmi,
e si smarrì l'ingegno.

Aria Andantino

Sperai vicino il lido,
credei calmato il vento;

Allegro
ma trasportar mi sento
fra le tempeste ancor.

E da uno scoglio infido
mentre salvar mi voglio,
urto in un altro scoglio
del primo assai peggior.

Rezitativ

Aber was hat sie euch getan, oh "Sterne", die arme Dircea,
die das gesamte vereinigte Unglück hat gegen sich?

Ihr, die ihr erweckt unschuldige Gefühle in unseren Seelen;
ihr, die ihr bei keuscher Vermählung wart anwesend,
verteidigt ihn, oh Götter;
ich bin verloren.

Mich trifft der Schlag so hart,
dass mein Herz versagt,
und ich verliere den Verstand.

Arie

Ich hoffte auf das benachbarte Ufer,
ich glaubte an beruhigten Wind.

aber fortgerissen fühle ich mich
immer noch durch den Sturm.

Und (während ich mich) auf eine tückische Klippe
während ich mich retten will,
stoße ich auf eine andere Klippe,
(im Vergleich) zur ersten noch viel schlimmer.

Historischer Hintergrund der Arie:

Text: aus dem Libretto zu *Demofonte* von Pietro Metastasio, geschrieben 1731 oder 1733, wurde immens populär, bis 1800 wurden 73 Opern darauf geschrieben, unter den Komponisten sind A. Vivaldi, A. Caldara, C.W. Gluck, G.B. Pergolesi oder N. Jommelli

Handlung des Librettos (Wikipedia): The Thracian king Demofonte asks the oracle of Apollo how long the practice of the annual sacrifice of a virgin will continue. The answer is puzzling: "as long as the innocent usurper sits on the throne". The nobleman Matusio tries to protect his daughter Dircea from being sacrificed. He and Demofonte are unaware that Dircea is secretly married to Timante, the son of Demofonte and the heir to the throne. Demofonte wants Timante to marry Creusa, a princess of Phrygia. Timante's younger brother Cherinto is accompanying her to the kingdom of Thrace, however he falls in love with her. Meeting Creusa, Timante admits that he can't marry her, but does not explain why. Dircea has been caught while trying to flee the country and imprisoned, and Demofonte orders the immediate sacrifice of Dircea. Timante tries to release her but with no success. He is also imprisoned. Creusa asks Demofonte for mercy. The king releases Timante and Dircea, and Timante decides to give up the throne in favour of Cherinto. Suddenly they find a letter revealing that Dircea is the daughter of Demofonte, which makes Timante and Dircea brother and sister. Timante is in despair, and tries to avoid Dircea. However another letter reveals that Timante is the son of Matusio. Everybody is happy. The marriage of Timante and Dircea becomes legal, and Cherinto is the real crown prince and can marry Creusa. No more virgins are sacrificed, since Timante is no longer the "innocent usurper of the throne".