



ITALIAN TENOR

"A Marechiare nce sta na fenesta" - a famous Neapolitan song by Tosti conjures up in the evening twilight a balcony window behind which the beloved remains still unseen. Her impetuous admirer stands below and describes, in a lively and enticing manner, the rising moon and the sparkling sea. The waves are somersaulting in merriment, he sings; even the fish are drunk with love, and he implores: "Come to me at last!"



The Neapolitan repertoire contains many such incantations that are capable of engendering vehement erotic agitation, from despairing desire through fervent praise all the way to jubilant seduction. Far too often, however, the expression of such extreme passion is reduced to exaggerated cliché, and some titles such as "O sole mio" risk superficiality by their sheer omnipresence.



George Frederick Takis avoids such wallowing in sentimentality through the level-headed approach of taking the texts seriously. A Neapolitan/Italian dictionary helped him to investigate the songs and to become sensitive to various nuances in the dialect. In his interpretation, the canzoni swell from their own source of feeling and culminate in an authentic intensity. The guests sense that the tenor knows what he is singing about and are led to listen with the same attentive involvement. His brief and often humorous introductions indicate the contents sufficiently to assure that the familiar melodies suddenly appeal to the understanding along with the heart.

Opera arias by Verdi, Donizetti, Rossini and Puccini are presented with the same loving care and attain genuine expressivity. Rapid coloratura and high tones do not shrink into trite and dazzling display but resonate with the text they are intended to serve. At the same time, the singer cultivates the sensual appeal of this music and masters its extreme demands with accomplished vocal technique. Soft tones rise from his throat, gather in hovering pulsation, then stream, strong and clear as a ringing bell, towards the rapt listeners.



REPERTOIRE

ARIE D'OPERA

Donizetti	Don Pasquale	Com' è gentil Cercherò lontana terra
	L'Elisir d'Amore	Quanto è bella, quanto è cara Una furtiva lagrima
Puccini	La Bohème La Fanciulla del West	Che gelida manina Ch'ella mi creda libero e lontano
Rossini	Il Barbiere di Siviglia	Ecco, ridente in cielo Se il mio nome saper voi bramate
Verdi	La Traviata	De' miei bollenti spiriti Libiamo, libiamo ne' lieti calici
	Rigoletto	La donna è mobile Questa o quella per me pari sono

CANZONI DI NAPOLI

Anonimo	Fenesta che lucive	Di Capua/Mazzucchi	'O sole mio
Buzzi-Peccia	Lolita	Labriola	Voca voca
Cardillo	Core 'ngrato	Mario	Santa Lucia luntana
Cottrau	Santa Lucia	Tagliaferri	Piscatore 'e Pusilleco
De Curtis	Torna a Surriento	Tosti	Marechiarè
Denza	Funiculi - Funiculà		La Serenata