



GLYNDEBOURNE

Don Giovanni *Deh, vieni alla finestra*

Don Giovanni is the title character in Mozart's opera, and is a man entirely devoted to chasing women. He doesn't care if they're young or old, big or small, married or unmarried. Your teacher has just played his famous 'Canzonetta', or 'serenade' to you. At this point in the opera, Don Giovanni is trying to attract the attention of a young serving girl through the window of her mistress's house. (He has already managed to go out with the mistress herself, and has since dumped her!)

Here is the song in Italian and English:

Italian	English
Deh vieni alla finestra, o mio tesoro, deh vieni a consolar il pianto mio. Se neghi a me di dar qualche ristoro, davanti agli occhi tuoi morir vogl'io! Tu ch'hai la bocca dolce più del miele, tu che il zucchero porti in mezzo il core! Non esser, gioia mia, con me crudele! Lasciati almen veder, mio bell'amore!	Come to the window, O my dearest love And all my lonely sorrows senseless prove. If you refuse such loving charity, Before your eyes my lonely death you'll see! Dear girl, possessed of lips as honey sweet, And heart that with a secret love does beat, Don't give yourself, my love, to cruelty - Have mercy, and reveal yourself to me!

Look at the English translation of the song, and see how Don Giovanni is trying to persuade the girl to be his lover. Detail some of his dastardly tactics below:

1. Does Don Giovanni use any 'imagery' (Similes, metaphors etc.) in his song? Give an example in your answer, and perhaps explain why he chose that particular piece of language.
2. How does he try to make the girl feel guilty? Try and use a quotation in your answer.
3. This is the only time in the opera when a character sings an 'aria' - a song – without the full orchestra. It is also the only time when the verse works as well as a poem as it does as a 'song lyric'. Why do you think this is?