

"L'amour est un oiseau rebelle,"

from Carmen, libretto by Meilhac and Halévy

<p>L'amour est un oiseau rebelle, Que nul ne peut apprivoiser, Est c'est bien en vain qu'on l'appelle, S'il lui convient de refuser; Rien n'y fait, menace ou prière, L'un parle bien, l'autre se tait; Et c'est l'autre que je préfère, Il n'a rien dit, mais il me plaît. L'amour est enfant de Bohème, Il n'a jamais, jamais connu de loi, Si tu ne m'aimes pas, je t'aime Si je t'aime, prends garde à toi! L'oiseau que tu croyais surprendre, Battit de l'aile et s'envola; L'amour est loin, tu peux l'attendre; Tu ne l'attends plus, il est là! Tout autour de toi vite, vite, Il vient, s'en va, puis il revient; Tu crois le tenir, il t'évite, Tu crois l'éviter, il te tient!</p>	<p>Love is a rebellious bird that nothing can tame, And well in vain one calls it If it is convenient to him to refuse; Nothing will bring him, not threat or prayer. One speaks much, the other holds his tongue; And it's the other that I prefer, He doesn't say anything, but he pleases me. Love is a Bohemian child It has never, never known law. If you don't love me, I love you And if I love you, watch out for yourself! The bird that you believed you caught Beats its wings and flies away; When love is far away, you may wait for it; You quit your waiting, and there it is! All around you, quickly, quickly, It comes, it goes, and it returns; You think you grasp it, it evades you, You thought you got free, it's got you!</p>
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Translation by Alexandra V. Schwab, 2006