

Se bel rio

Italian
Raffaello Rontani

Respiration and Support

The sibilant [s] and fricative [f] appear frequently in the text. Using the rhythm of the melody, insert spoken [s] and [f] to facilitate the movement of the breath, which helps to articulate the rhythm with the muscles of breath support.

ss - ss - ss -

ff - ff - ff -

Resonance

Extract the vowels from the text while singing the opening melody. Repeat this exercise throughout the song. Keep the feeling of vowel-to-vowel legato as you sing the actual text. Final consonants should be as late as possible and should not interrupt the purity of the vowels.

[e ε i: o e ε a: u e a - a ε e a - u a i ɔ o a ε a]

Phonation

Words ending in vowels provide an excellent opportunity to teach coordinated offsets. In mid-range, practice this exercise to develop efficient offsets. If the offset includes a sudden burst of escaping air, closing the mouth or inserting a decrescendo might prove helpful.

a a

a a a a

a a a a a a a a

Registration

In the second verse, interpolated melismas assist in maintaining balance of registration. As you practice, employ a variety of vowels and sing the melismas from the melody in the second verse.



- [i]
- [e]
- [a]
- [o]
- [u]



- 1. [e]
- 2. [i]
- 3. [e - i - e - o - e - i - e - o]



- 1. [u]
- 2. [a]
- 3. [i - e - a - wa - u - a - e - a - e - i]

Diction/Articulation

Follow this four-step exercise to develop flexibility of articulation:

1. In a simple rhythm, speak the text of the second verse.
2. In a simple rhythm, sing the text on one pitch.
3. Speak the text in the rhythm of the melody.
4. Sing the text with the written melody.

Phonetic Transcription and Translation of the Text

Se bel rio, se bell'auretta fra l'erbetta
[se bel ri:o se bɛl.la:u.'ret.ta fra lɛr.'bet.ta]
If a beautiful brook, or a beautiful breeze

Sul mattin mormorand'erra;
[sul mat.'ti:n mɔr.mo.ran.'dɛr.ra]
wanders in the morning among the tender grasses;

Se di fiori un praticello si fa bello,
[se di 'fjo:ri un pra.ti.'tʃɛl.lo si fa 'bɛl.lo]
if a little meadow adorns itself with flowers,

Noi diciam ride la terra.
[no:i di.'tʃa:m 'ri:de la 'tɛr.ra]
we say the earth is smiling.

Quando avvien che un zeffiretto per diletto
['kwan.do av.'vjɛ:n ke un zɛf.fi.'ret.o per di.lɛt.to]
When for pleasure, a little breeze

Bagni il piè nell'onde chiare,
['ba.ɲil pjɛ nɛl.'lon.de 'kja:.re]
bathes its feet in the clear waters,

Sì che l'acqua su l'arena scherzo appena,
[si ke 'la.kwa su la.'re:na 'sker.tso ap.'pe:.na]
so that the water scarcely touches the sand,

Noi diciam che ride il mare.
[no:i di.'tʃa:m ke 'ri:de il 'ma:.re]
we say the sea is smiling.

Se bel rio

from *Le varie musiche*

Raffaello Rontani
(15??-1622)

Andante ♩ = 116 2

3

4 CANTO

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written on a single staff in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 6/8. It begins with a whole rest. The piano accompaniment is written on two staves (treble and bass clefs) and starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a *dolce* marking. The accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords and melodic lines.

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins at measure 5 with the lyrics "Se bel rio, se bel - l'au - ret - ta fra l'er -". The piano accompaniment continues with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The system ends with a fermata over the final note of the vocal line.

The third system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins at measure 8 with the lyrics "bet - ta sul mat - tin mor - mo - ran - d'er - ra; se di". The piano accompaniment continues with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The system ends with a fermata over the final note of the vocal line.