

Matthias Bonitz

Cat Carlo's Journey to Liguria

- A musical fairy tale -

for:

Speaker & Tenor & Pianoforte

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I.: Prologue

1.)

At the edge of the jungle, where the desert begins, in the shade of tall trees lives Carlos the cat, a very large, beautiful cat, so large that one could think he might even be a tiger. But then again he was too small for that.

2.)

But one day, in spring, everything changed for Carlos the cat: all his friends suddenly had no time to play, everyone had a girlfriend, except for Carlos.

3.)

He complained to the sly fox Pepe, maybe he would know what to do.

4.)

"We'll ask my cousin, the badger Don Camillo, he will surely help you," Pepe decided.

5.)

They find the badger in his cave, in deepest hibernation. Pepe shouts at his cousin: "Hey, old badger, wake up!" The old badger is startled and says: "Have you gone mad?"

6.)

Pepe told Don Camillo about the problem of his friend Carlos, who didn't know how to find a girlfriend because he was always too stupid.

7.)

"Can you sing?" the badger asked the desperate cat. "Singing will solve your problem quickly, for cat ladies love singing very much."

8.)

"Unfortunately not," Carlos stammered softly. 8b.) "Then you must take singing lessons with the nightingale Bella Canta in Perinaldo. Pack everything up and let's go", Don Camillo decided.

9.)

They set off in the beautiful great white ship of Luxore the Lion, King of the Beasts, because Don Camillo the Badger was an important diplomat for his King and had a job to do in Liguria.

II: Arrival in Liguria

10.)

They had reached their destination: in the beautiful harbour "Cap Ampelio" of Bordighera their ship dropped anchor. "We'll spend the night at the Hotel Angst with Maurizio, who is already waiting for us before we continue our journey to Perinaldo in 3 days", Don Camillo decided.

11.)

They continued their journey through beautiful olive groves...

11b.)

over donkey tracks to the mountain village of Perinaldo, 571 metres above sea level.

11c.)

"We have to go to the Castello in Via Maraldi Numero 22".

11d.)

the Gevatter Dachs informed his fellow travellers.

11e.)

"There in the tower room lives our friendly friend, the nightingale Bella Canta with Count Grimaldi.

11f.)

She is a tutor there.

11g.)

, Carlos, and you, Pepe, will now stay with Bella Canta for a few days,

11h.)

I still have some things to do at the Count's."

III: Singing lessons with the nightingale Bella Canta

12.)

Carlos and Pepe the fox strode into the tower room of Bella Canta the nightingale. Carefully they knocked on the colourful wooden door in the top room.

13.)

"Come in, I've been expecting you," a beautiful voice sounded from the tower room. "So you are Carlos, the cat, who wants to learn the wonderful art of singing from me? Stand here at the tower window with the magnificent view all the way to the sea, enjoy the velvety air, breathe well, then we can begin."

14.)

Obedient as a schoolboy, Carlos did as the nightingale told him. Pepe, meanwhile, made himself comfortable in the plush sofa, glad not to have to be the singing pupil himself.

15.)

The nightingale went to her white grand piano, struck a few notes and then said very firmly: "Now sing all the notes after me. I'll name the note we're practising each time, and then you name it too before you sing. Understand?"

16.)

Carlos nodded. Then off we went: "Do - Rè - Mi - Fa - Sol - La - Si – Do".

17.)

Carlos tried it - it sounded awful, like catcalling. But the good nightingale was not deterred: "You may be a problem singer, but we'll get it right. One more time!!!" The whole procedure started all over again. "You need to breathe better, brace your air over your diaphragm, and exhale slowly as you sing. One more time!!! "

18.)

After a few days, Carlo's voice already sounded beautiful.

18b.)

"Today we will sing a folk song from Sicily.

18c.)

I sang there for a very long time at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo," the Bella Canta fluted.

19.)

Beautifully, the nightingale sang the yearning andante of the old love song. "Now I understand why your name is Bella Canta!" breathed Carlos after the nightingale had finished.

20.)

Flattered, the nightingale added: "That's my stage name, that's what they called me in Sicily."

20b.)

After a while of reflection: "So, now let's get to work, learn the words and melody and sing them beautifully!"

21.)

It took the whole morning, then finally Carlos could sing the required song in the purest tones - even from memory.

21b.)

"Who would have thought it! No one has ever learned so quickly with me!" the nightingale rejoiced. Carlos was overjoyed.

21c.)

"In a few days, our friends at Doria Castle in Dolceaqua will have a big banquet. There, Carlos, you shall sing your new song," the nightingale fluted.

22.)

A few days later they travelled over a pass road to neighbouring Dolceaqua.

IV: The feast at Doria Castle in Dolceaqua

23.)

There they were welcomed by Baron Andrea Doria and his retinue to a great banquet with kettledrums and trumpets.

24.)

"Hey, Pepe, when am I going to sing my new song?" whispered the cat in his friend the fox's ear.

24b.)

"Wait a little longer, Don Camillo will surely let you know," Pepe answered just as quietly.

25.)

"Hey, Pepe," the cat breathed again, "what's that beautiful cat over there with all those friends?"

25b.)

"Shall we go and ask her?" suggested Pepe.

26.)

But the old badger Don Camillo got in their way and said, "Carlos, that's the stage over there.

26b.)

Go to the musicians and sing your new song with them. Everyone here is looking forward to it."

27.)

The concertmaster of the orchestra stood up, greeted the cat with a friendly "Hello" and asked him what he wanted to sing: "Malatu p'amuri!" Carlos replied proudly. "O, a beautiful song," the concertmaster was pleased, "we'll play an overture and give you a sign when you have to start. How many verses do you sing?" "All three!" Carlos answered, not without pride.

MALÀTU PÀMURI

Taliannuti a lu spissu,
Sugnu tutto ammaraggiatu,
Lu mè sangu 'un è lu stissu
Como un gelu è divintatu;
Cu st'ucchiuzzi ti taliu,
Moru, spasimu e diliru,
Iu mi sentu 'ntra lu cori
'Na mancaza di rispiru.

Vinni 'u medicu a osservari
Li me' affanni e li me' peni,
Iu mi misi a raccontari
La caciuni d'unni veni.
E lu medicu mi dissi:
Figghiu, lassa sta partita,
Si ssa donna tu nun lassi
Poco dura la tò vita.

Iu sintennu ddu parrari
Cci rispusi a vuci forti:
A sta donna 'un so lassari,
Nun mi scantu di la morti;
Idda stissa lu pò diri
S'è sinceru lu mè amuri,
M'accuntentu di muriri,
E 'un chiamarmi tradituri!

28.)

When he had finished, a storm of enthusiasm broke out. Carlos was completely moved. Suddenly the orchestra started again and he had to sing the whole song again. This time he did it even better than the first time.

28b.)

But this time everyone in the castle sang along, the picture-perfect cat jumped onto the stage and did a happy dance of excitement.

28c.)

Finally, in the midst of the raging cheers, she gave him a long, big kiss on his wet nose. A murmur went through the crowd.

29a.)

What a beautiful couple," the Baron was heard to say from the middle of the square. For the pretty kitten was his daughter, Princess Margherita.
"I think you are quite lovely. Shall we become friends? I would go with you to the ends of the earth."

29b.)

So, with the help of his friend Pepe, the old diplomat Don Camillo and especially through singing lessons with the nightingale Bella Canta with his beautiful voice, Carlos the cat was able to find a wonderful friend after all.

[Translated with DeepL](#)