

Anvil Chorus Text & Translation
COC Virtual Choir

Italian:

*Vedi! Le fosche notturne spoglie
De' cieli sveste l'immensa volta;
Sembra una vedova che alfin si toglie
i bruni panni ond'era involta.*

*All'opra! all'opra!
Dàgli, martella.*

Chi del gitano i giorni abbellà?
La zingarella!**

*Versami un tratto; lena e coraggio
Il corpo e l'anima traggon dal bere.*

*Oh guarda, guarda! del sole un raggio
Brilla più vivido nel mio [tuo] bicchiere!
All'opra, all'opra!*

*Chi del gitano i giorni abbellà?
La zingarella!*

English:

Look! See how the darkness of night is lifting
and revealing the great vault of heaven;
Seems like a widow who is finally casting off
the dark clothes in which she was enveloped.

To work! To work!
At it! Hammer!

Who brightens the Roma* man's days?
The Roma maid.

Pour me a draught: strength and courage
the body and soul draw from drinking.

Oh, look, look! A ray of the sun
sparkles brighter in my [your] glass!
To work! To work!

Who brightens the Roma* man's days?
The Roma maid.

**As we navigate the challenges of presenting artworks outside of the time and place in which they were created, we have, in this English translation, opted to replace the term “gypsy” with “Roma”. We recognize that, today, the term “gypsy” is often considered a racial slur, whereas “Roma” is used as a catchall term by the European Commission to designate a complex group of nomadic ethnic minorities living in Europe (including Roma, Travellers, Manouches, Ashkali, Sinti and Boyash and groups reclaiming the name of Gypsy). This group has long been marginalized; stereotypes of their way of living are found throughout Western art and culture, and are often depicted in 19th-century opera, including their large role in the plot of *Il Trovatore*. If you want to find out more about Roma people today and throughout history, you can learn more from the [European Commission](#), the [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#), [The Roma Education Fund](#), the [Canadian Romani Alliance](#) or the [Toronto Roma Community Centre](#). We are at the beginning of this important conversation, and we would love to hear from you. If this discussion is meaningful to you — particularly if it resonates with your own lived experience — please email us at education@coc.ca.