

Editor's Notes for *Ah! Schiudi il ciglio* from the opera *Il Solitario*

"*Il Solitario*" was Hilarión Eslava's first opera, sung in Italian from a libretto by Cesare Perini. Premiered in 1841 in Cádiz, it was met with enthusiastic acclaim in Cádiz, Sevilla, Madrid, and Pamplona. For a more complete description of the opera and its plot, please see the Editor's Notes for its overture, at <https://hilarioneslava.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Sinfonia-de-la-Opera-Editors-Notes.pdf>

I originally transcribed this piece in 2019 – one of the first results of our project to recover the music of Hilarión Eslava. The source score contained several errors in its Italian lyrics, with practically no punctuation, making it difficult to determine the accuracy of the text, nor did I have then the Italian libretto that would have provided a means of correcting/clarifying the lyrics. My husband and I have recently been able to access the libretto used for the opera's Cádiz premiere, so now I am able to revisit this piece, making appropriate corrections to the lyrics (where I can) as well as applying improved MuseScore formatting and playback techniques I have learned during the past couple of years.

The original source for this transcription is a printed score obtained from the Biblioteca Nacional de España in Madrid. It appears to have been part of a set (it is labeled "Nº 3"). The printer is unknown. Printed musical scores were not common in Spain until the late 1850's or early 1860's, so this work would have been published well after the opera was composed, and when the dramatic works of Eslava were no longer being performed in theatres. The piece is labeled as a "*romanza*" and features a solo soprano part with a piano reduction "arranged by the author." It comes from Scene I of the third Act, when Elodia has just discovered that "*Il Solitario*" is in fact the man who murdered her father, but she loves him anyway, and therefore forgives him, and is prepared to marry him. Unlike some of the other pieces I have transcribed from this opera, in this instance, the lyrics match the original Cádiz libretto.

You can hear this piece being sung by a wonderful soprano, Miriam Anderson (accompanied by Ta Wei Tsai at the piano), along with a brief introduction in English, at <https://youtu.be/yqSPfi6KPw?t=1301>

The Italian lyrics (transcribed to the best of my ability) and my English translation follow:

ITALIAN LYRICS	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
Ah! schiudi il ciglio, ti rassicura, Afflitta vergin te ne scongiura. Tregua ai rimorsi, tregua al dolore, L'ira paterna si placherà! Nunzio di pace dal Ciel discende un Cherubino, la man ci stende, ci porta all'ara, curviam la fronte, il nostro pianto finito é già.	Ah! open your eyes, I reassure you, an afflicted Virgin beseeches you. End the remorse, end the sorrow, My Father's wrath shall be appeased. A Cherubim of peace descends from Heaven, Extends his hand to us, leads us to the altar; let us bow our heads, Our weeping is finally done.