

## Editor's Note

Giovanni Gastoldi (c.1554-1609) was a very popular Italian composer in the Renaissance period. He spent most of his career serving as maestro di cappella for the Gonzaga family in Mantua. Although he completed a variety of sacred works, madrigals, and instrumental pieces, his two sets of balletti were his most famous and influential. The editions of both the *Balletti a cinque voci* (*Balletti for five voices*), first printed in 1591, and *Balletti a tre voci* (*Balletti for three voices*), first printed in 1594, were homophonic settings for voices with passages of nonsense syllables (such as fa, la, la). They were quite popular because of their tunefulness and simplicity, and were intended to be sung, played, and danced.

Originally scored for three-part voices in Gastoldi's 1594 collection, this arrangement features the editor's English setting below the original Italian text. Although it would be very effective to perform the work a cappella, it would also be acceptable to use recorders, other woodwinds, strings, or the optional flute, keyboard, and hand drum parts. Instruments were often used in the Renaissance period for doubling or replacing vocal parts.

Perform "Sonatemi un Balletto" lightly and energetically with a feeling of two pulsations for each measure. Performers should emphasize the normally stressed syllables of the Italian words, indicated with accent marks below.

### Translation and Pronunciation Guide

So-na-te-mi un bal-let-to,  
*Soh-náh-tay-mee oon bah-láy:taw,*  
 Play a dance for me,

col mió a-mor vo-glio dan-zar!  
*kohl meéaw gh-móhr váw-lyaw dahn-tsahr!*  
 I want to dance with my love!

Ch'io pren-do grá pia-cer,  
*Keéaw préhn-daw grah peeah-cháyr,*  
 As I have great pleasure in dancing,

nel bal-lo a dir-vi il ver.  
*nehl báhl-law ah déér-vee eel vayr.*  
 I am telling the truth.

Hor via che sta-te a far? Co-min-cia-te a so-nar.  
*Hohr veéah keh stáh-teh ah fahr? Koh-meén-cháh-teh ah soh-náhr.*  
 What are you going to do? Begin playing.

Già pron-ta è la mia nin-fa  
*Djah próhn-tah eh la meéah neén-fah*  
 Already my Nymph is ready

per vo-ler me-co ballar!  
*payr voh-láyr méy kaw bahl-láhr!*  
 for wanting to dance for me!

E per far-mi fa-vor, la man mi strin-ge an-cor.  
*Ay payr fáhr-mee fah-vóhr, lah mahn mee streén-djeh ghn-kóhr.*  
 And to favor me, my hand is still shaking.

### Pronunciation Suggestions:

When singing the word "balletto" [bah-láy:taw], the singer should briefly stop on the first "t," creating a slight silence before the sounding of the second "t." When singing the word "voglio" [váw-lyaw], the "ly" in this transliteration indicates a similar sound to the "li" in the second syllable of the word "million," requiring only one tongue action. The double "ll" consonants in the words "balletto," "ballo," and "ballar" can be sustained on a pitch while maintaining a legato line.

# SONATEMI UN BALLETO

## (Play a Dance for Me)

for S.S.A. voices with optional piano,  
flutes, and hand drum, or PianoTrax CD\*

English Words by  
PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Music by GIOVANNI GASTOLDI (1554-1609)  
Edited and Arranged by PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Lightly and energetically (♩ = ca. 80)

SOPRANO I

SOPRANO II

ALTO

FLUTES

Lightly and energetically (♩ = ca. 80)

PIANO (optional)

Lightly and energetically (♩ = ca. 80)

HAND DRUM

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\* Also available for S.A.B. (39737) and T.B.B. (39739).  
PianoTrax 5 accompaniment CD available (39670).

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10 *mf*

let - to, col mio a - mor vo - glio dan - zar! Ch'io  
 joy - ful, sing for - ev - er with de - light! Now

let - to, col mio a - mor vo - glio dan - zar! *mf*  
 joy - ful, sing for - ev - er with de - light! Ch'io

let - to, col mio a - mor vo - glio dan - zar! Now  
 joy - ful, sing for - ev - er with de - light! *mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

13

pren - do grá pia cer, nel bal - lo a dir - vi il ver.  
 join with me in song, to geth - er we be - long.

pren - do grá pia cer, nel bal - lo a dir - vi il ver.  
 join with me in song, to - geth - er we be - long.

pren - do grá pia cer, nel bal - lo a dir - vi il ver. Hor  
 join with me in song, to - geth - er we be - long. When

*mf*

Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so -  
 When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de -

Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so -  
 When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de -

via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Hor  
 shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. When

nar. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Ch'io  
 light. When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. Now  
 mp

nar. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Ch'io  
 light. When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. Now  
 mp

via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Ch'io  
 shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. Now

22

pren - do grá pia - cer, nel bal - lo a dir - vil  
 join with me in song, to - geth - er we be -

pren - do grá pia - cer, nel bal - lo a dir - vil  
 join with me in song, to - geth - er we be -

pren - do grá pia - cer, nel bal - lo a dir - vil  
 join with me in song, to - geth - er we be -

25

ver. long. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so -  
 When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de -

ver. long. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so -  
 When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de -

ver. long. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Hor  
 When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. When

*mf*

nar. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Già  
*light.* When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. Pre - *mf*

nar. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Già  
*light.* When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. Pre - *mf*

via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Già  
 shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. Pre -

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

**31** *mp*

pron - ta è la mia nin - fa per vo - ler me - co bal - lar! Già  
 pare to start the danc - ing, make we read - y day and night! Pre - *mp*

pron - ta è la mia nin - fa per vo - ler me - co bal - lar! Già  
 pare to start the danc - ing, make we read - y day and night! Pre - *mp*

pron - ta è la mia nin - fa per vo - ler me - co bal - lar! Già  
 pare to start the danc - ing, make we read - y day and night! Pre -

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

35

pron - ta è la mia nin - fa per vo - ler me - co bal - lar! *E*  
 pare to start the danc - ing, make we read - y day and night! *Your*

pron - ta è la mia nin - fa per vo - ler me - co bal - lar! *E*  
 pare to start the danc - ing, make we read - y day and night! *Your*

pron - ta è la mia nin - fa per vo - ler me - co bal - lar! *E*  
 pare to start the danc - ing, make we read - y day and night! *Your*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

39

per far - mi fa - vor, la man mi strin - ge an - cor.  
 sing - ing brings me joy, let cheer - ful song em - ploy.

per far - mi fa - vor, la man mi strin - ge an - cor.  
 sing - ing brings me joy, let cheer - ful song em - ploy.

per far - mi fa - vor, la man mi strin - ge an - cor. *Hor*  
 sing - ing brings me joy, let cheer - ful song em - ploy. *When*

*mf*



Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so -  
 When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de -

Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so -  
 When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de -

via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Hor  
 shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. When

nar. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. E  
 light. When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. Your  
 mp

nar. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. E  
 light. When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. Your  
 mp

via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. E  
 shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. Your

48

per far - mi fa - vor, la man mi strin - ge an - cor.  
 sing - ing brings me joy, let cheer - ful song em - ploy.

per far - mi fa - vor, la man mi strin - ge an - cor.  
 sing - ing brings me joy, let cheer - ful song em - ploy.

per far - mi fa - vor, la man mi strin - ge an - cor. Hor  
 sing - ing brings me joy, let cheer - ful song em - ploy. When

52

Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so -  
 When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de -

Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so -  
 When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de -

via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar. Hor  
 shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light. When

*cresc.* *rit.* *mf*

nar. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar.  
 light. When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light.

*cresc.* *rit.* *mf*

nar. Hor via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar.  
 light. When shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light.

*cresc.* *rit.* *mf*

via che sta - te a far? Co - min - cia - te a so - nar.  
 shall the dance be - gin? Let us dance with de - light.

*cresc.* *rit.* *mf*

*cresc.* *rit.* *mf*

*cresc.* *rit.* *mf*

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