

# Bella Ciao

Three-part Mixed Chorus and Piano

Traditional

Traditional Italian  
Arranged by Jerry Estes

Ranges: Part I Part II Part III



The original version of *Bella Ciao* was sung by women who were migrant rice paddy workers in Italy's Po Valley. The song was then adapted during World War II to become a resistance anthem for the *partigiani* (Italian patriots). The lyrics tell of a soldier's wish to be buried in the mountains beneath a beautiful flower if he should have to die for liberty.

The following is an approximate translation:

This morning I awakened, (Good-bye beautiful)  
This morning I awakened and found the invader.

Oh partisan carry me away, (Good-bye beautiful)  
Oh partisan carry me away when I feel death approaching.

Bury me up in the mountain, (Good-bye beautiful)  
Bury me up in the mountain under the shade of a beautiful flower.

And all those who shall pass, (Good-bye beautiful)  
And all those who shall pass will tell you what a beautiful flower it is.

And this flower of the partisan, (Good-bye beautiful)  
And this flower of the partisan is the flower of liberty.

*Bella Ciao* should be performed with much passion and drama.

—Jerry Estes

With spirit and passion ♩ = 120

Duration: approx. 2:10

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4 *mf*

I  
II

U - na mat - ti - na mi so - no al -  
oo nah mah tee nah mee soh nwahl

III *mf*

U - na mat - ti - na mi so - no al -  
oo nah mah tee nah mee soh nwahl

6

I  
II

za - to, O bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la  
zah toh oh beh lah chau beh lah chau beh lah

III

za - to, O bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la  
zah toh oh beh lah chau beh lah chau beh lah

8

I  
II

ciao, ciao, ciao, U - na mat - ti - na mi - so - no al -  
chau chau chau oo nah mah tee nah mee soh nwahl

III

ciao, ciao, ciao, U - na mat - ti - na mi - so - no al -  
chau chau chau oo nah mah tee nah mee soh nwahl

10

I  
za - to, E ho tro - va - to l'in - va - sor.  
zah toh yo tro vah toh leen vah sohr

II  
za - to, E ho tro - va - to l'in - va - sor.  
zah toh yo tro vah toh leen vah sohr

III  
za - to, E ho tro - va - to l'in - va - sor.  
zah toh yo tro vah toh leen vah sohr

13

I  
O bel-la ciao, O bel-la ciao,  
oh beh lah chau oh beh lah chau

II  
O par-ti - gia - no por - ta - mi vi - a, O bel-la  
Oh pahr tee djyah noh pohr tah mee vee yah oh beh lah

III  
O bel-la ciao, O bel-la ciao,  
oh beh lah chau oh beh lah chau

16

I  
 ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao, O par - ti -  
 chau beh lah chau beh lah chau chau chau oh pahr tee

II  
 ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao,  
 chau beh lah chau beh lah chau chau chau

III  
 ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao,  
 chau beh lah chau beh lah chau chau chau

18

I  
 gia - no por - ta - mi vi - a, Qui mi  
 djyah noh pohr tah mee vee yah kwee mee

II  
 O par - ti - gia - no por - ta - mi vi - a,  
 oh pahr tee djyah noh pohr tah mee vee yah

III  
 O par - ti - gia - no por - ta - mi vi - a,  
 oh pahr tee djyah noh pohr tah mee vee yah

20

I  
sen - to di mor - ir.  
sehn toh dee moh reer

II  
sen - to di mor - ir. *mp*  
sehn toh dee moh reer E sep - pe -  
eh sehpehl

III  
sen - to di mor - ir.  
sehn toh dee moh reer

23 *mp*

I  
O bel - la ciao, O bel - la ciao,  
oh beh lah chau oh beh lah chau

II  
lli - re sul - la mon - tag - na O bel - la  
leer ay soo lah mahn tahn ya oh beh lah

III  
*mp*  
O bel - la ciao, O bel - la ciao,  
oh beh lah chau oh beh lah chau

25

I  
 ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao, E sep - pe -  
 chau beh lah chau beh lah chau chau chau eh sehp pehl

II  
 ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao,  
 chau beh lah chau beh lah chau chau chau

III  
 ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao,  
 chau beh lah chau beh lah chau chau chau

27

I  
 lli - re sul - la mon - tag - na sot - to  
 leer ay soo lah mahn tahn ya soh toh

II  
 E sep - pe - lli - re sul - la mon - tag - na  
 eh sehp pehl leer ay soo lah mahn tahn ya

III  
 E sep - pe - lli - re sul - la mon - tag - na  
 eh sehp pehl leer ay soo lah mahn tahn ya

29

I  
l'om - bra di un bel fior.  
lahm brah dyoon behl fyohr

II  
l'om - bra di un bel fior.  
lahm brah dyoon behl fyohr

III  
l'om - bra di un bel fior.  
lahm brah dyoon behl fyohr

32 *rit.* **Much slower** ♩ = 76

I

II *rit.*

III *rit.* *mp*

Ca - si le gen - ti che pas - ser -  
cah see leh jehn tee kay pahs sehr

**Much slower** ♩ = 76

*rit.* *mp*

35 *mp*

I  
O bel - la, O bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao.  
oh beh lah oh beh lah chau chau chau

II  
O bel - la, O bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao.  
oh beh lah oh beh lah chau chau chau

III  
an - no O bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao, Ca - si le  
ahn oh oh beh lah chau beh lah chau beh lah chau chau chau cah see leh

38

I  
che pas - ser - an - no mi dir -  
kay pahs sehr ahn oh mee dee

II  
che pas - ser - an - no mi dir -  
kay pahs sehr ahn oh mee dee

III  
gen - ti che pas - ser - an - no mi dir -  
jehn tee kay pahs sehr ahn oh mee dee



40

*cresc.* *mf*

I  
an - no che bel fior. E quest' - il  
rahn oh kay behl fyohr eh kweh steel

*cresc.* *mf*

II  
an - no che bel fior. E quest' - il  
rahn oh kay behl fyohr eh kweh steel

*cresc.*

III  
an - no che bel fior.  
rahn oh kay behl fyohr

*cresc.* *mf*

43

I  
fio - re del par - ti - gia - no O bel - la  
fyoh ray dehl pahr tee djyah noh oh beh lah

II  
fio - re del par - ti - gia - no  
fyoh ray dehl pahr tee djyah noh

*mf*

III  
E quest' - il fio - re del par - ti - gia - no  
eh kweh steel fyoh ray dehl pahr tee djyah noh

45 *cresc.*

I  
 ciao, bel - la ciao, bel - la ciao, ciao, ciao, ciao, E quest' - il  
 chau beh lah chau beh lah chau chau chau eh kweh steel

II  
 O bel - la, O bel - la, ciao, ciao, ciao, E quest' - il  
 oh beh lah oh beh lah chau chau chau eh kweh steel  
*cresc.*

III  
 O bel - la, O bel - la, ciao, ciao, ciao, E quest' - il  
 oh beh lah oh beh lah chau chau chau eh kweh steel

*cresc.*

47 *f* *slight rit.*

I  
 fio - re del par - ti - gia - no mor - to  
 fyoh ray dehl pahr tee djyah noh mohr toh

II  
 fio - re del par - ti - gia - no mor - to  
 fyoh ray dehl pahr tee djyah noh mohr toh

III  
 fio - re del par - ti - gia - no mor - to  
 fyoh ray dehl pahr tee djyah noh mohr toh

*f* *slight rit.*