

**NO VERBAL LENGUAGE**

**“BEYOND THE OBSTACLES OF SPEECH”**

DOMENICO MODUGNO- IN THE BLUE PAINTED OF BLUE



Domenico Modugno was born on 9 January 1928 in Polignano a Mare (Bari), a village with white houses overlooking the sea. His father Cosimo is commander of the Municipal Guard Corps in San Pietro Vernotico (BR): from him the little Mimmo learns from childhood to play the guitar and the accordion, inheriting a great passion for music.

Nel blu, painted blue, also known as Volare, is a 1958 musical piece written by Franco Migliacci and Domenico Modugno and originally interpreted by the latter. Presented for the first time at the Sanremo 1958 Festival by Modugno himself paired with Johnny Dorelli, he was the winner of that edition and from there he achieved global success, becoming one of the most famous Italian songs in the world and with the greatest commercial response. . The word that opens the refrain, Volare, which has become the song's identification, has been deposited at the SIAE as an alternative title of the same. The song also participated in the Eurovision Song Contest 1958, finishing in third place.

The versions on the birth of the text by the two authors (who created a long artistic partnership) are contrasting and vary according to the reconstruction of the moment: Gianni Borgna collected them [3], and so it turns out that in the early days Modugno supported that the idea of ​​the refrain Volare, oh oh had come to him one morning while observing the blue sky with his wife Franca Gandolfi from the window of his house in Piazza Consalvi in ​​Rome, while Migliacci instead affirmed that the idea had come to him, observing the painting Le coq rouge dans la nuit by Marc Chagall [4], and who only later talked about it to the Apulian singer-songwriter.

Later, then, Modugno affirmed that, finding himself walking near Ponte Milvio with the lyricist, one of the two (claiming he did not remember which of the two had been) would have pronounced the line "I had painted myself blue", and from there the rest of the text would then develop.

Lately (see box), however, Franco Migliacci has changed version, claiming that the song was born after a nightmare. [5]

After the song was presented at the Sanremo festival, a little-known composer named Antonio De Marco (who had won the La Spezia Festival in 1957), traced some similarities between "Nel blu painted di blu" and a piece of his, entitled “The Castle of Dreams”, both in the motif of the verse and in the text. In an interview for Epoca magazine he accused Modugno and Migliacci of being two plagiarists. However, he had never deposited his song in SIAE, claiming that someone had stolen the briefcase in which he kept the original text. Domenico Modugno sued De Marco. The trial that followed ended with the sentence of the Court of Milan which in 1958 condemned De Marco for defamation [6].

Musically, the song represents by convention the breaking point of traditional Italian music and the beginning of a new era, incorporating the new style brought by the "screamers" and mediating it with a performance that is affected by the swing influences of American imports. [7 ] If the harmonic structure of the piece is still traditional, the arrangement is instead innovative.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7et470a3UME>

Testo

I think a dream like this never comes back

I painted my hands and face blue

Then, suddendly, I was kidnapped by the wind

And I began to fly in the infinite sky

Fly oh, oh

Sing oh, oh

In the blue painted blue

Happy to be up there

And I flew, I flew happily higher than the sun

And even higher

While the world slowly disappeared far down there

Sweet music was playing just for me

Fly oh, oh

Sing oh, oh

In the blue painted blue

Happy to be up there

But all dreams in the dawn vanish because

When the moon goes down, it takes them with it

But I keep dreaming in your beautiful eyes

Which are blue like a star-studded sky

Fly oh, oh

Sing oh, oh

In the blue of your blue eyes

Happy to be down here

And I keep flying happily higher than the sun

And even higher

While the world slowly disappears in your blue eyes

Your voice is sweet music that plays for me

Fly oh, oh

Sing oh, oh

In the blue of your blue eyes

Happy to be down here

In the blue of your blue eyes

Happy to be down here

With you