



**Lucio Dalla**



**Enrico Caruso**

## ***Who is Lucio Dalla? What does he have to do with Enrico Caruso?***

Lucio Dalla (1943-2012) was an Italian “cantautori”—singer-songwriter—who’s popularity spanned decades. Widely respected as one of the fathers of contemporary Italian popular music, he is remembered as “a national poet of rare sensibility.” One of his most popular songs was entitled ***Caruso***, written in 1986.

The lyrics describe an imagined meeting between Lucio Dalla and Italy’s legendary tenor Enrico Caruso near Naples, “on the old terrace, beside the gulf of Sorrento,” the same place “where the sea shines and the wind howls.”

Dalla dedicated the song to Caruso, who had a very complicated and unhappy life in Italy on both a personal and professional level. The song ***Caruso*** was Dalla’s way of romanticizing the tenor’s last days in Sorrento.

This is the story behind the song: while traveling, Lucio Dalla’s boat broke down between Sorrento and Capri and some of his friends invited him to

spend the night over at their hotel. It was the same hotel where Enrico Caruso died. Lucio Dalla decided to spend several days in Sorrento to find out more about the tenor's life. According to the hotel owner, a very ill Caruso spent many of his last days at the hotel giving canto music and singing lessons to a beautiful young woman. Maybe he was in love with her, nobody knows this for sure. It's also uncertain if the woman who Lucio Dalla describes in Caruso is the young woman to whom he was teaching canto or Caruso's daughter. All in all, the song **Caruso** was, and still remains, a musical masterpiece. This song has touched so many hearts and so many people around the globe.

To watch a musical video of Lucio Dalla singing **Caruso**, click the button below. Be sure to listen for this haunting refrain:

*Te voglio bene assaje  
ma tanto tanto bene sai  
è una catena ormai  
che scioglie il sangue  
dint'e vene, sai*

I love you very much  
very, very much, you know  
It is a chain by now  
that heats the blood  
inside of our veins, you know

[Caruso Song](#)

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