

ANCIENT GROOVE MUSIC

Pur dicesti, o bocca bella

Edited by
Ben Byram-Wigfield

from *L'infedeltà punita*
Act 2, Scene IV

Lyrics by
Francesco Silvani

ANTONIO LOTTI or
C. F. POLLAROLO

[♩ = 100]

Soprano

Continuo

10

RICIMERO:

Pur di - ce - sti, o

20

boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, o boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, Quel so - a - ve - e ca - ro sì, sì,

29

Che fa - tut - to il mio pia - cer, il mio pia - cer. Pur di -

39

ce - sti, o boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, o boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, Quel so - a - ve_e_ ca - ro__ sì, sì,

48

quel so - a - ve_e_ ca - ro__ sì, Che__ fa tut - to il mio pia - cer

57

il mio pia - cer, quel so - a - ve_e_ ca - ro__ sì, sì, Che__ fa

66

tut - to il mio pia - cer, il mio pia - cer.

75

Fine

Per o - nor di sua fa -

85

cel - la, Con un ba - cio_a-mor t'apri, con un ba - cio_a-mor t'apri,

94

Dol - ce fon - te del go - der,

103

del go - der. D.S. al Fine

This work is often included in compilations of famous Italian arias, most of which derive from Alessandro Parisotti's *Arie Antiche* of 1885. Parisotti is thought to have obtained his source material from an earlier compilation, *Les Gloires de l'Italie* (Paris, 1868) by François Auguste Gevaert. A manuscript in the French Bibliothèque Nationale (F-Pn, D. 7132) presents the work in E major, with a string instrumental ritornello for the first 17 bars, with the remainder of the work voice and continuo alone.

However, a number of German, earlier manuscripts sources show the work down a tone in D major, with only continuo accompaniment. An 18th-century Italian manuscript, now in Manchester, also shows the work for continuo only, but pitches it in G major (soprano starting on a D, high note A). Either key is more likely than the E major of the 19th century collections. The instruction 'Allegretto grazioso' is also unlikely to be original.

The work is presented here in D major with an editorial realization of the basso continuo line. No reference to the string ritornello has been made. It is suggested that the keyboard part in bars 18, 19, 53, 58, 66, 71, 94, 95 is played as a double dotted rhythm, to match the soprano line.

The opera *L'infedeltà punita* was first performed on 15 November 1712 at the theatre of San Giovanni Grisostomo. The music was written in conjunction with C.F. Pollarolo, and there is some doubt over which one of them wrote the aria. The aria's theme also appears in an earlier opera by Pollarolo. The lyrics are by Francesco Silvani. The role of Ricimero was played by Bartolameo Bortoli.

Pur dicesti, o bocca, bocca bella,
 Quel soave'è caro sì,
 Che fa tutto il mio piacer.
 Per onor di sua facella,
 Con un bacio'amor t'apri,
 Dolce fonte del goder.

O beautiful mouth, while you said
 That sweet and dear 'yes'
 That is all my delight.
 For the honour of his reputation
 You open up Love with a kiss;
 Sweet source of solace.