

ANCIENT GROOVE MUSIC

Pur dicesti, o bocca bella

Words by
Francesco Silvani

ANTONIO LOTTI or
C. F. POLLAROLO

Source: Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale (F-Pn, D. 7132): a collection of 32 arias by Lotti, in an 18th-century Venetian hand.

The basso continuo part has been provided with an editorial realisation. One correction has been made: bar 6, the last note of the 2nd Violin is a B in the source. Accidentals in brackets are editorial.

Ritornello

The musical score is presented in two systems. The first system includes staves for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Continuo. The second system, starting at measure 9, includes staves for Violin I, Violin II, and Continuo. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score consists of 12 measures in total. The Continuo part is an editorial realization. The first system ends at measure 8, and the second system begins at measure 9.

Pur dicesti, o bocca bella

18 

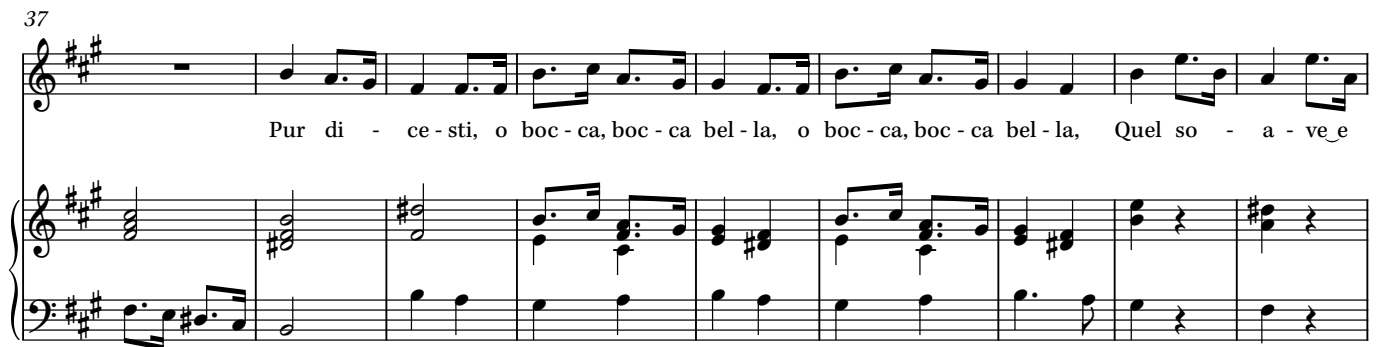
RICIMERO

Pur di - ce - sti, o boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, o boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, Quel so - a - ve e

Continuo

26 

ca - ro sì, sì, Che fa - tut - to il mio pia - cer, il mio pia - cer.

37 

Pur di - ce - sti, o boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, o boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, Quel so - a - ve e

46 

ca - ro sì, sì, quel so - a - ve e ca - ro sì, Che fa tut - to il mio pia - cer

56 

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.

76

Fine

Per o - nor di sua fa - cel - la,

86

Con un_ ba - cio a - mor t'a - pri, con_ un_ ba - cio a - mor t'a - pri, Dol - ce_ fon - te_

96

del go - der, _____

104

D.S. al Fine

del go - der.

EDITORIAL NOTES

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. Gevaert most likely copied the source now in the Bibliothèque Nationale.

The opera *L'infedeltà punita* was first performed on 15 November 1712 at the theatre of San Giovanni Grisostomo. The lyrics are by Francesco Silvani. The role of Ricimero was played by Bartolameo Bortoli. The music was written in collaboration with C.F. Pollarolo, and there is perhaps some doubt over which one of them wrote the aria. Very similar music appears in a chorus of *Tito Manlio*, an earlier opera by Pollarolo. Triplets are rare, though not unheard of, in Lotti's arias. The music is perhaps more *sdolcinato* than his other arias, many of which deserve greater recognition.

The entire opera is sadly lost, though six arias (and the printed libretto) survive.

Antonio Lotti was one of the most successful opera composers on the Venetian stage in the first quarter of the 18th century. He wrote 23 operas, of which only seven are known to survive complete. An assortment of arias from the remainder are found in 18th-century compilations, sometime with only the continuo part and voice.

*Pur dicesti, o bocca bella,
Quel soave, e 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.

Ben Byram-Wigfield
London, July, 2021