

Sebben, crudele

from the opera *La costanza in amor vince l'inganno*

Antonio Caldara
(c1670-1736)

One of the most productive composers of his era, Antonio Caldara began his musical career as a cellist. As a boy Antonio sang in the choir of St. Mark's in his native Venice, and in his musical studies there learned viol, cello and keyboard. Giovanni Legrenzi was *maestro di cappella* at St. Mark's in these years; Caldara was certainly influenced by him. Caldara began publishing works soon after the age of 20, and by 30 was an opera composer. Beginning in 1699, for approximately eight years he was in service to Ferdinando Carlo. After some travels and performances in Spain and time in Rome and other places related to commissions, he settled in Vienna in 1716, where for twenty years until his death he served as vice-Kapellmeister to Emperor Charles VI, a position with a handsome salary which required him to compose over 30 dramatic works.

"Sebben, crudele" is from Caldara's opera *La costanza in amor vince l'inganno*, a 1710 revision of *Opera pastorale* premiered in Mantua in 1701. *La costanza in amor vince l'inganno* was first performed in Macerata in 1710, and in Rome in 1711 coupled with the intermezzo *Pimpinone e Vespetta*. In *Arie antiche*, Parisotti noted that the plot of the *La costanza in amor vince l'inganno* is "simple and perfectly idyllic, but the graces of song are lavished throughout with a prodigal hand."

"Sebben, crudele" appeared in Parisotti's *Arie antiche* Volume 1, published by Ricordi in 1885, in the key of D minor. Parisotti's metronomic suggestion was quarter note = 84, a tempo reflecting the romantic age of the edition and slower than is commonly performed today. Parisotti's edition was published by G. Schirmer in 1894 in the *Anthology of Italian Song of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, later included in the 1948 Schirmer compilation *24 Italian Songs and Arias of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*.

seb: 'ben kru 'de le mi 'fa i lan 'gwir 'sem pre fe 'de le ti 'voʎ: ʎo a 'mar
Sebben, crudele, mi fai languir, sempre fedele ti voglio amar.
although cruel one me you make to languish always faithful you I want to love
Although, cruel one, you make me languish, I will always love you faithfully.

kon la luŋ 'get: tsa del 'mi o ser 'vir
Con la lunghezza del mio servir
with the length of the my serving
With the length of my servitude

la 'tu a fje 'ret: tsa sa 'pro stan 'kar
la tua fierezza saprò stancar.
the your pride I will know how to wear down
I shall wear down your pride.