

piano accompaniment

Caro mio ben

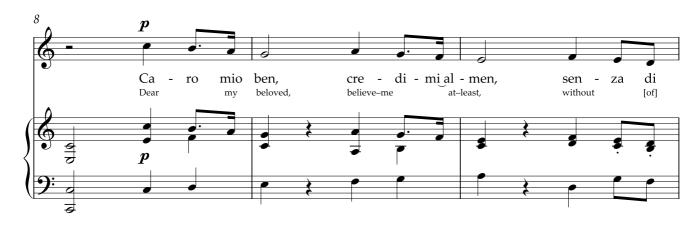
My dear beloved

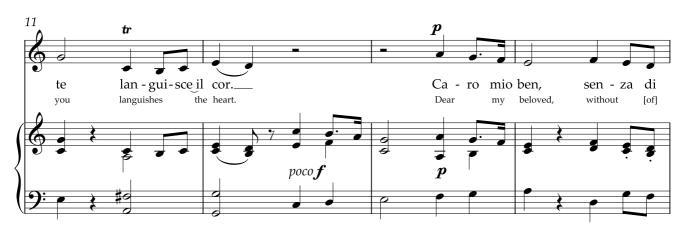
Poet unknown

Tommaso Giordani (1730–1806)









3 spoken text

Italian folksong

piano accompaniment

Santa Lucia

Saint Lucy

Teodoro Cottrau (1827–79)









Non lo dirò col labbro

I will not say this with my lips Georg Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Background

Handel's opera *Tolomeo* ('Ptolemy') opened at the King's Theatre in Haymarket, London in 1728. Set in ancient Cyprus, the banished joint ruler of Egypt, Ptolemy IX, lives on the island as a shepherd under the name Osmin, while his wife Seleuce takes the name Delia. The king of Cyprus, the despotic Araspe, pursues Seleuce while his sister, Elisa, is in love with Ptolemy. After various twists of the plot, Ptolemy is returned to the throne by his younger brother Alessandro (a castrato role) and is re-united with Seleuce. *Tolomeo* was the last opera written by Handel for the rival sopranos Faustina Bordoni and Francesca Cuzzoni, with the role of Ptolemy taken by the well-known castrato Senesino and the brother – Alessandro – sung by Antonio Baldi. This cavatina is sung in Act I by Alessandro but is more familiar to English audiences as 'Silent Worship', with alternative words by Arthur Somervell.

Idiomatic translation

I will not say this with my lips as they do not have courage; Maybe the sparks from my eager eyes will reveal the passion I have for you. My gaze will do the speaking.

Pronunciation - Non lo dirò col labbro [non lo diro kol lab:bro]

Non lo dirò col labbro che tanto ardir non ha. non lo dirò kol labbro ke tantoardir non a

Forse con le faville dell' avide pupille forse kon le faville dellavide pupille

per dir come tutto ardo lo sguardo parlerà. per dir kome tut:toardo lo zgwardo parlera

Further notes

Although liaisons are not marked between tanto ardir, dell' avide and tutto ardo, these words are joined together when sung and no separation should be audible between them.