



"Sebben, crudele"

from *La costanza in amor vince l'inganno*
la kostantsa in amor vint fe ligan:no

Antonio Caldara
antonjo kaldara

Poetic idea

"I will go on loving you until my persistence makes you love me." The singer is Aminta, a shepherd, who is puzzled by the unresponsive behavior of Silvia, a shepherdess, who used to love him.

Background

Like Antonio Lotti, Caldara was a choirboy at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice under the direction of Giovanni Legrenzi. In 1710 Caldara wrote *Faithfulness in Love Defeats Treachery* for the public theater at Macerata. He was the music director of a princely household in Rome, where the opera was repeated the next year. The moralistic title assured the audience no religious person would be offended by the story.

In 1716 Caldara moved to Austria to serve the Imperial Court in Vienna. There he composed new music to the libretto of this opera. Entitled *Opera Pastorale*, it includes an aria, "Sebben crudele," but with a different melody.

Sources

(1) *La costanza in amor vince l'inganno*. manuscript score of the opera. Biblioteca musicale governativa del Conservatorio di Musica "S. Cecilia," Rome, G ms 184. In Act I, scene 3. For voice (tenor clef), two violins, viola and continuo (the upper strings play only when the voice is silent). Original key: E minor; (2) Libretto for the 1711 performance, same library, Libretto XII.13.

The essential parts of this aria consist of 30 measures of vocal music, which are repeated in various ways, by the voice and by the instruments, to form a full-length aria. With all of its repetitions, the original is 160 measures long. This edition omits some repetitions, shortening the aria

seb:bgn krudgle
Sebben, crudele,
Although, cruel one,

mi fai langwir
Mi fai languir,
me you-make languish,

sgmpre fedgle
Sempre fedele
always faithful,

ti vɔ:foamar
Ti voglio amar.
you I-want to-love.

kon la lungget:tsa
Con la lunghezza
With the length

del mio servir
Del mio servir
of[-the] my servitude

la tua fjeret:tsa
La tua fierezza
[the] your pride

saprɔ stankar
Saprò stancar.
I-will-know-how to-wear-down.

to 94 measures; nothing essential is left out.

The familiar version was edited by Parisotti in *Arie Antiche*, Vol. 1 (Milan: Ricordi, 1885). He used an eighth-note pulse throughout, lessening the minuet character of the aria.

Low Key
Sebben, crudele
 Tho' not deserving
 Canzonetta

English version by
 Dr. Theodore Baker

Antonio Caldara
 (1670-1736)

Allegretto grazioso $\text{♩} = 84$

p smorz.

Piano

Musical notation for the piano introduction, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) in 3/4 time. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piece concludes with a *p smorz.* (piano, decrescendo) marking.

Voice

p
 Seb - ben, cru - de - le, mi fai lan - guir, - sem - pre fe -
 Tho' not de - serv - ing Thy cru - el scorn, - Ev - er un -

cresc.

Piano accompaniment for the first vocal line, consisting of two staves. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piece concludes with a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking.

più cresc.

rit.

a tempo

de - le, sem - pre fe - de - le ti vo - gliò a - mar.
 swerv - ing, ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I love.

a tempo

Piano accompaniment for the second vocal line, consisting of two staves. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piece concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking.

più cresc.

rit.

mf

mf
 Seb - ben, cru - de - le,
 Tho' not de - serv - ing

deciso

p

mf

Piano accompaniment for the final vocal line, consisting of two staves. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piece concludes with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking.

cresc. *f* *rit. assai*

mi fai lan - guir, — sem - pre fe - de - le ti - vo - glio a -
 Thy cru - el scorn, — Ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I

cresc. *f* *dim.* *rit. assai*

a tempo *mf* *cresc.*

mar. Seb - ben, cru - de - le, mi fai lan - guir, —
 love. Tho' not de - serv - ing Thy cru - el scorn, —

a tempo *mf* *cresc.*

f *rit. assai* *a tempo* *p*

sem - pre fe - de - le ti - vo - glio a - mar. Con la lun -
 Ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I love. When to thee

f *dim.* *rit. assai* *a tempo* *p*

f

ghez - za del mio ser - vir la tua fie - rez - za,
 kneel - ing All I have borne, Thy pride un - feel - ing,

f

la tua fie - rez - za sa - prò stan - car la tua fie -
Thy pride un - feel - ing I - then shall move, Thy pride un -

rez - za sa - prò stan - car.
feel - ing I - then shall move.

rit. *a tempo* *p smorz.*

Seb - ben, cru - de - le, mi fai lan - guir, -
Tho' not de - serv - ing Thy cru - el scorn, -

p

sem - pre fe - de - le, sem - pre fe - de - le ti vo - gliò a -
Ev - er un - swerv - ing, ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I -

cresc. *più cresc.* *rit.*

a tempo

mf

mar.
love.

Seb - bon, cru -
Tho' not de -

f deciso

p

a tempo

mf

cresc.

f

de - le, mi fai lan - guir, sem - pre fe - de - le ti -
serv - ing Thy cru - el scorn, Ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee

cresc.

f

dim.

rit. assai

a tempo

mf

cresc.

vo - glio a - mar,
on - ly I love;

sch - ben, cru - de - le, mi fai lan -
Tho' not de - serv - ing Thy cru - el

rit. assai

a tempo

mf

cresc.

rit. assai

guir, sem - pro fe - de - le ti - vo - glio a - mar.
scorn, Ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I love.

dim.

rit. assai

pp

Ed.

*

High Key
Sebben, crudele
Tho' not deserving
Canzonetta

English version by
Dr. Theodore Baker

Antonio Caldara
(1670-1736)

Allegretto grazioso

Plano

f *p smorz.*

Voice

p *cresc.*

Seb - ben, cru - de - le, mi fai - lan - guir, - sem - pre fe -
Tho' not de - serv - ing Thy cru - el scorn, - Ev - er un -

più cresc. *rit.* *a tempo*

de - le, sem - pre fe - de - le ti vo - glio a - mar.
swerv - ing, ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I - love.

più cresc. *rit.* *a tempo*

deciso *p* *mf*

Seb - ben, cru - de - le,
Tho' not de - serv - ing

mf

cresc. *f* *rit. assai*

mi fai lan - guir, — sem - pre fe - de - le ti - vo - glio a -
 Thy cru - el scorn, — Ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I

cresc. *f* *dim.* *rit. assai*

a tempo *mf* *cresc.*

mar. Seb - ben, cru - de - le, mi fai lan - guir, —
 love. Tho' not de - serv - ing Thy cru - el scorn, —

a tempo *mf* *cresc.*

f *rit. assai* *a tempo* *p*

sem - pre fe - de - le ti - vo - glio a - mar. Con la lun -
 Ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I love. When to thee

f *dim.* *rit. assai* *a tempo* *p*

f

ghez - za del mio ser - vir la tua fie - rez - za,
 kneel - ing All I - have borne, Thy pride un - feel - ing,

f

la tua fie - rez - za sa - prò stan - car, la tua fie -
 Thy pride un - feel - ing I - then shall move, Thy pride un -

rez - za sa - prò stan - car.
 feel - ing I - then shall move.

rit. *a tempo* *f* *p smorz.*

p
 Seb - ben, cru - de - le, mi fai - lan - guir, -
 Tho' not de - serv - ing Thy cru - el scorn, -

p

cresc. *più cresc.* *rit.*
 sem - pre fe - de - le, sem - pre fe - de - le ti vo - gliò a -
 Ev - er un - swerv - ing, ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I -

cresc. *più cresc.* *rit.*

a tempo *mf*

mar. love. *f deciso* *p*

Seb - ben, cru - Tho' not de -

a tempo *mf*

cresc. *f*

de le, mi fai lan - guir, sem - pre fe - de - le ti -
serv - ing Thy cru - el scorn, Ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee

cresc. *f* *dim.*

rit. assai *a tempo* *mf* *cresc.*

vo - glio a - mar, seb - ben, cru - de - le, mi fai lan -
on - ly I love; Tho' not de - serv - ing Thy cru - el

rit. assai *a tempo* *mf* *cresc.*

f *rit. assai*

guir, sem - pre fe - de - le ti - vo - glio a - mar.
scorn, Ev - er un - swerv - ing Thee on - ly I love.

f *dim.* *rit. assai* *pp*