

Isabella Leonarda: *Dulcis amor*

This motet comes from the composer's fourth book of solo motets, published in Bologna in 1690: MOTETTI A VOCE SOLA / D'ISABELLA LEONARDA / Superiora nel Nobilissimo Collegio di S. Orsola in Nouara / OPERA DECIMA QVINTA / CONSACRATA / Al merito Impareggiabile dell'Illustrissima, & Eccellentissima Signora la Signora / D. PAVLA BEATRICE / ODESCALCHI / Nipote del Santissimo Padre di Beatissima memoria INNOCENZO XI. / E Monaca nell'insignissimo Monasterio di Santa Croce in Como. / IN BOLOGNA, per Pier-maria Monti. 1690. Con licenza de' Superiori. / Si vendono da Marino Siluani, all'Insegna del Violino. Con Privilegio.

Spelling and capitalization of the Latin text have been normalized, and punctuation has been added. Abbreviated repetitions (ii) are tacitly written out, as are other textual abbreviations. Dashed barlines supplement the rare and irregular barlines of part-books (where they generally mark the end of a section, and often appear in the continuo part only), but also the inconsistent barring of scores. All the original time signatures are retained, as well as the note values. Values that overlap the barlines (and dotted notes that cross the mid-point of a measure) are converted to tied notes. All accidentals of the source are reproduced (changed to naturals when needed), except on identical pitches immediately repeated. Accidentals either in brackets or above the staff are editorial. The continuo figures are those of the source; only their placement has been tacitly standardized. Slurs indicating melismas that are beamed in our edition are not reproduced.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Bar 5	Bc	4 th note: 6 on preceding note
Bar 45	Bc	Two tied minims (half notes)
Bar 48	Bc	1 st note figured $\frac{6}{4}$
Bar 59	Bc	Two tied minims (half notes)
Bar 94	Bc	2 nd note: sharp (natural) missing

Dulcis amor, quid vis a me, si te solum cor
suspirat, si amando te delirat et adorat,
solum te?

Quantæ flammæ in pectore sunt; totæ
spirant ad tuos amores; quanta viscera,
quanti ardore tuo numini victimæ sunt.

Infelix anima mea, miserrimæ sortis
ludibrium exclama, ad Deum supplex precare
ut vota tua exaudiatur.

Pro te mortem non horreo, libenter pœnas
suffero, doloribus non crucior, tecum beata
sum.

O, o cara sors, si Deus me non despicit, o
felix cor meum, si voces audit suspirantis.

Sperat cor tuos dulcores, cupid mens tuos
amores et dum sperat tecum stare, en
amantis spirat cor.

Sweet love, what do you want from me, if my heart sighs
for you alone, if in loving it craves and adores you alone?

How great are the flames in your heart; they all breathe
to your love; how great the flesh, how great the
impatience, victims of your divine will.

My unhappy soul, shout out the mockery of my most
wretched destiny, pray supplicant to God so that he
may hear your prayers.

For you, I do not shrink from death, gladly suffering
punishment, I am not tortured by grief, I am blessed
with you.

O dear fate, if God does not look down upon me, O my
fortunate heart, if he hears the voices of one sighing.

My heart hopes in your sweetness, my mind desires your
love and, while it hopes to stand with you, lo, the heart
of a lover breathes.

Trans. Pastór de Lasala

DULCIS AMOR

Isabella Leonarda

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Canto

Largo

[*Basso continuo*]

Dul-cis a - mor, quid vis a me, quid vis a me, quid vis a me,

me, a me, si te so-lum cor su - spi - rat, si a-man-do te de -

li - rat et a - do - rat so - lum te, dul-cis a - mor, dul-cis a - mor,

quid vis a me, quid vis a me, si te so-lum cor su -

spi - rat, si a - man-do te de - li - rat et a - do - rat so-lum te, dul-cis a - mor,

quid vis a me, quid vis a me, quid vis a me, a me,