Poetic idea

"Dear, I love you so much that when you stay away, I feel ill. Please be kind to me."

Background

English enthusiasm for Italian opera continued throughout the 1700s, and it continues today. Sixty years after Bononcini composed *Griselda* for London, Tommaso Giordani composed "Caro mio ben" for a concert there. A native of Naples, Giordani lived most of his life in London and published many vocal and instrumental compositions there.

Source

"The Favorite Song as Sung by Sigr. Tenducci at the Pantheon & Mr. Abel's Concerts, Composed by Sigr. Giordani" (London: Preston, 1782?), copy at University of Kansas at Lawrence. For voice (treble clef) and 4-part strings. Key: F.

The accompaniment in this edition is a reduction of the scoring for strings. The staccato markings given here are present in the string parts; one must judge whether they sound well when played on a piano.

The double grace-notes in the accompaniment and those in the voice in m29 and m30 are included in the original publication. The remaining ornaments are adapted from a manuscript volume of miscellaneous music that belonged to an unnamed British lady in 1788 or later: Additional 54,331, British Library, London. The ornaments have no particular authority, but they certainly reflect the amount and kind of ornamentation that a cultivated listener expected to hear.

Bibliography


The familiar edition, edited by Parisotti in 1890, names the composer as Giuseppe Giordani (no relation to Tommaso). The evidence for Tommaso as the actual composer is given in the above article.
Caro mio ben

Ah, dearest love

Poet unknown
English version by James P. Dunn

Larghetto, \( \text{\textit{d} = 36 - 42} \)

Idiomatic translation: My dear beloved, believe me at least, without you
Ah, dearest love, Heaven above knows how I'd grieve.

Your faithful one always sighs; cruel one, cease so much punishment.
gor! Caro mio ben Cre - di - mi gl - men, Sen - za di
pray! Ah, dear - est love, If you should leave, Heaven a-
te - Lan - gui - seg il cor. Caro mio ben, Cre - di - mi gl -
bove - Knows how I'd grieve, Ah, dear - est love, If you should

me - Sen - za di te - Lan - gui - seg il cor. Knows how I'd grieve.
leave, Heaven a -

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