



"Sento nel core"

Alessandro Scarlatti
ales:sandro skarlat:ti

Poetic idea

"Something is bothering me; maybe I'm falling in love!"

Background

Throughout his long career, Alessandro Scarlatti composed *cantate da camera*, "chamber cantatas." There were no concert halls such as we have today, but Italians categorized music according to the place of performance: operas for the theater, Latin sacred music for the church, and chamber music for private homes. Cantata was the name often given to music for one or more voices with instrumental accompaniment.

Most cantatas were unpublished and were preserved only in handwritten books made by professional copyists. These books were treasured possessions of the wealthy, used by the singers they employed. Many such books survive today in European libraries.

Scarlatti composed over 600 cantatas, noteworthy for their ingenuity and variety in dealing with the unchanging subject of romantic love. "Sento nel core" is one of the simplest, consisting of two arias separated by a recitative. In the recitative the lover speaks to the beloved, expressing fear and uncertainty about falling in love. The final aria says "I fear falling in love, but I feel that I shall love you."

Sources

(1) Manuscript, Additional 31,512, British Library, London; (2) Manuscript, Nosedà L.22-24, Library of Conservatorio di Musica Giuseppe Verdi, Milan; (3) Manuscript, uncatalogued, University of Aberystwyth, Wales, as reproduced in *The Italian Cantata*, vol. 13 (New York: Garland, 1986). Original key: E minor in sources (1) and (3), C minor in (2).

sento nel kore
Sento nel core
I-feel in[-the] (my) heart

tfero dolore
Certo dolore,
(a) certain pain

ke la mia patfe
Che la mia pace
which [the] my peace

turbando va
Turbando va.
disturbing goes.

splendeuna fatfe
Splende una face
(There) shines a torch

ke l'almat:sende
Che l'alma accende,
which the-soul inflames;

se non eamore
Se non è amore,
if not it-is love,

amor sarà
Amor sarà.
love it-will-be.

The familiar edition has incorrect slurs. In the 1600s it was common to place a weak syllable on a quick note slurred to a longer note, as in m6. Most modern editors reject such rhythms as being awkward, but if performed with lightness and grace, they can be charming.

Sento nel core

Sorrow unending

Poet unknown
English version by
James P. Dunn



Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725)
Vocal Ornamentation and Arrangement by
Arthur Schoep

Adagio, ♩ = 66 - 80

5

Sen - to nel co - re — Cer - to do - lo - re, Cer - to do -
Sor - row un - end - ing, — My heart tor - ment - ing, My heart tor -

10

lo - re, Che la mia pa - ce — Tur - ban - do — va,
ment - ing, All peace pre - vent - ing, — No rest — for — me!

Idiomatic Translation: In my heart I feel a certain pain which disturbs my peace.

15

P Nel co - re, nel co - re, Sen - to nel co - re
 Tor - ment - ing, tor - ment - ing, Sor - row un - end - ing,

p

21

Cer - to do - lo - re, Cer - to do - lo - re Che la mia
 My heart tor - ment - ing, My heart tor - ment - ing, All peace pre -

26

f pa - ce Tur - ban - do va, Che la mia pa - ce
 vent - ing, No rest for me, All peace pre - vent - ing,

f *decresc.* *f*

31

decresc. Tur - ban - do va.
 No rest for me.

decresc. *p* *mp* *mf*

f *mp*

37

f Splen - de u - na fa - ce Che l'al - ma ac - cen - de, Se non è a -
 Like sun's bright beam - ing, My soul - il - lum - ing, If not true

mf *P*

42

mo - re, A - mor sa - rà, A - mor, A - mor sa - rà.
 lov - ing, then soon, then soon, then soon, then soon - will - be.

mf

47

p Splen - de u - na fa - ce Che l'al - ma ac - cen - de;
 Like sun's bright beam - ing, My soul il - lum - ing;

p

51

f Se non è a - mo - re, A - mor sa - rà,
 If not true lov - ing, Then soon will be,

f

A torch shines which kindles my soul. If it is not love, it will become love.

55

f

Se non è a - mo - re, A - mor sa - rà.
 If not true lov - ing, Then soon will be.

mf

59

P

mf *mp*

63

p *mf* *p*

Sen - to nel co - re Cer - to do - lo - re, Cer - to do -
 Sor - row un - end - ing, My heart tor - ment - ing, My heart tor -

P *mf* *P*

68

decresc.

lo - re, Che la mia pa - ce Tur - ban - do va,
 ment - ing, All peace pre - vent - ing, No rest for me!

cresc. *decresc.*

73

P Nel co - re, nel co - re, Sen - to nel co - re—
 Tor - ment - ing, tor - ment - ing, Sor - row un - end - ing,—

79

Cer - to do - lo - re, Cer - to do - lo - re Che - la - mia
 My heart tor - ment - ing, My heart - tor - ment - ing, All - peace - pre -

84

f pa - ce Tur - ban - do va, Che la mia pa - ce—
 vent - ing, No rest for me, All peace pre - vent - ing,—

89

decresc. Tur - ban - do va.
 No - rest for me.