

# Pur dicesti, o bocca bella

*Gently murmur*

Poet unknown  
English version by  
James P. Dunn



Antonio Lotti (ca. 1667-1740)  
Vocal Ornamentation and Arrangement by  
François Auguste Gevaert

Allegretto grazioso, ♩ = 100 - 112

Piano

*p e leggiero*

*ten. ten. ten. ten.*

9

*mf pp*

18

Pur di - ce - sti, o boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, o boc - ca, boc - ca  
Gen - tly mur - mur, your lips all sweet and ten - der, your lips all sweet and

*sempre p*

23

bel - la, Quel so - a - ve e ca - ro sì, sì,  
ten - der, Ca - dence soft, so dear to me, yes,

*ten. ten.*

Idiomatic translation: O beautiful mouth, you said that sweet and dear word, "yes,"

29

Che fa - tut - to il mio pia - cer, il mio pia - cer.  
 Fill - ing hap - py hours with joy, my hours with joy.

35

Pur di - ce - sti, o boc - ca, boc - ca  
 Gen - tly mur - mur, your lips all sweet and

41

Quel so - a - ve e ca - ro  
 bel - la, o boc - ca, boc - ca bel - la, Quel so - a - ve e ca - ro  
 ten - der, your lips all sweet and ten - der, Ca - dence soft, so dear to

*ten. ten. ten.*

which makes all my pleasure.

47

sì, sì. Quel so - a - ve e ca - ro

sì, sì, Quel so - a - ve e ca - ro sì, Che fa  
me, yes, Ca - dence soft, so dear to me, Fill - ing

ten. ten. ten. cresc.

53

tut - to il mio pia - cer, il  
hap - py hours with joy, my

mf dim. p

(tr) (tr) (tr)

Quel so - a - ve e ca - ro sì, sì,

59

mio pia - cer, Quel so - a - ve e ca - ro sì, sì,  
hours with joy, Ca - dence soft, so dear to me, yes,

ten. ten. ten.

65



Che — fa tut - to il mio pia - cer,  
 Fill - ing hap - py — hours with joy,

*cresc.* *mf* *dim.* *p*

71

il mio pia - cer.  
 il mio pia - cer.  
 my hours with joy.

78

*Fine*  
 Per o - nor di sua fa -  
 To your beau - ty love brings

*Fine*  
*sempre p*

For the honor of his reputation,

85

cel - la Con un ba - cio A - mor t'a - prì. Con un  
 hom - age, With a kiss love sets you free, With a

91

ba - cio A - mor t'a - prì; Dol - ce fon - te del go -  
 kiss love sets you free, Sweet - est source and fount of

97

(pp) der. (Si...)  
 joy. Ah, Yes,

104

del go - der. D.S. & al Fine  
 fount of joy. Tempo I D.S. & al Fine

Love opened you with a kiss, sweet fountain of pleasure.



# “Pur dicesti, o bocca bella”

Antonio Lotti  
antɔnjo lot:ti

## Poetic idea

“You have just said yes to my love, after I kissed you, and I am so happy!”

## Background

Lotti sang as a choirboy under Legrenzi's direction at St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice; later in life he became the music director there. He also wrote about 30 operas and many cantatas, but the origin of this aria is not known.

## Source

Manuscript D. 7132, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. Introduction (labelled *ritornello*) for strings in four parts. Aria for voice (soprano clef) and continuo. Key: E Major.

Inside the cover of this large manuscript volume is written in English, *32 Arias by Sigr. Anto. Lotti*. At the head of each aria the copyist has written in Italian “*Del Sigr. Anto. Lotti*.” “*Pur dicesti*” is the only aria that is primarily accompanied only by continuo, the others all having string orchestra accompaniment throughout. Because various aria texts refer to such matters as Rome, emperor and heroes, it appears that the arias come from *opere serie* (serious operas), which were always based on stories from antiquity. There is no indication which aria comes from which opera or operas.

This manuscript is the probable source used by François Auguste Gevaert to prepare his anthology *Les Gloires de l'Italie* (Paris: private subscription, 1868). He made far fewer changes in the arias he edited than were usual for other editors of his time, and he used additional staves to present suggested vocal ornaments.

pur ditfesti o bok:ka bɛ:l:la  
**Pur dicesti, o bocca bella,**  
Yet you-said, O mouth beautiful,

kwel soave karo si  
**Quel soave e caro sì,**  
that sweet and dear “yes,”

ke fa tut:toil mio pjatfer  
**Che fa tutto il mio piacer.**  
which makes all [the] my pleasure.

per onor di sua fatfel:la  
**Per onor di sua facella**  
For honor of his [torch] (reputation),

kon un batso amor tapri  
**Con un bacio Amor t'apri,**  
with a kiss Love you-opened,

doltfe fonte del goder  
**Dolce fonte del goder.**  
sweet fountain of[-the] pleasure.

Unfortunately, he proposed some ornaments that are impossible to perform without drastically slowing down the tempo. These should be omitted or adapted to one's personal abilities.

Parisotti borrowed nine of Gevaert's editions for his *Arie Antiche*. The alterations that he made in this aria have been eliminated from this edition.