

Se tu m'ami

If you love me

Paolo Antonio Rolli
English version by
James P. Dunn

Alessandro Parisotti (1853-1913)



Andantino, ♩ = 58

5

p

Se tu m'a mi, se tu so -
If you love me, If you do -

8

cresc. *rit.*

spi - ri Sol per me, gen - til pa - stor,
sigh for me a lone, O gen - tle one,

cresc. *rit.*

Idiomatic translation: If you love me, if you sigh only for me, kind shepherd,

11

P a tempo

Ho do - lor de' tuoi mar - ti - ri, Ho di - let - to del tu a - mor, —
 Tho' I'm sad for your af - flic - tions, And I'm glad for your af - fec - tions,

p a tempo

15

f rit.

Ma se pen - si che so - let - to Io ti deb - ba ri - a - mar,
 My dear fel - low, I can nev - er, Nev - er smile on you a - lone.

f rit.

19

a tempo

Pa - sto - rel - lo, sei sog - get - to Fa - cil - men - te a t'in - gan - nar;
 Gen - tle friend, be not de - ceiv - ed, Ne'er be - lieve it could be so,

a tempo

23

pp cresc.

Pa - sto - rel - lo, sei sog - get - to Fa - cil - men - te a t'in - gan - nar,
 Gen - tle friend, be not de - ceiv - ed, Ne'er be - lieve it could be so,

P cresc.

I feel sorrow for your suffering; I feel pleased that you love me. But if you think that I must love only you, little shepherd, you are easily subject to self-deception.

27 *P*

Fa - cil - men - te a t'in - gan - nar. Bel - la rō - sa por - po - ri - na Og - gi Sil - vio
 Ne'er - be - lieve it - could be so. See the beau - teous pur - ple - ros - es Syl - vio plucks at

32 *poco cresc.* *sempre cresc.*

sce - glie - rà, Con la scu - sa del - la spi - na Do - man poi la sprez - ze - rà,
 tom to - day, But be - cause the rose is thorn - y Soon they'll all be thrown a - way,

poco cresc. *sempre cresc.*

37

Do - man poi la sprez - ze - rà. Ma de - gli uo - mi ni il con - si - glio Io per me non
 Soon they'll all be thrown a - way. If the words of oth - ers freeze me, Bid me stay, no

42 *cresc. un poco* *rit.*

se - gui - rō. Non per - chē mi pia - ce il gi - glio Gli al - tri fio - ri sprez - ze - rō.
 more to dare. Tho' some blos - soms fail to please me, Should I scorn to pluck the fair?

cresc. un poco *rit.*

Today Silvio chooses a beautiful red rose, but with the excuse that the thorns prick, he will despise it tomorrow. The advice of men, I myself won't follow. Just because the lily pleases me, I won't despise the other flowers.

47

Se tu
If you

a tempo
p

52

m'a mi, se tu so spi ri Sol per me gen til pa stor,
love me, If you do sigh for me a lone, O gen tle one,

cresc. *rit.*

57

Ho do lor de' tuoi mar ti ri, Ho di let to del tu a mor, Ma se pen si
Though I'm sad for your af flic tions, And I'm glad for your af fec tions, My dear fel low,

p a tempo *f rit.*

62 *p a tempo*

che - so - let - to Io - ti - deb - ba ri - a - mar, Pa - sto - rel - lo, sei sog - get - to
 I - can nev - er, Nev - er smile on you - a - lone, Gen - tle friend, be not de - ceiv - ed,

p a tempo

67 *pp*

Fa - cil - men - te a t'in - gan - nar, Pa - sto - rel - lo, sei sog - get - to
 Ne'er be - lieve it could be so, Gen - tle friend, be not de - ceiv - ed,

p

71 *cresc.* *rit. assai*

Fa - cil - men - te a t'in - gan - nar, Fa - cil - men - te a t'in - gan - nar.
 Ne'er be - lieve it could be so, Ne'er be - lieve it could be so.

cresc. *rit. assai*



"Se tu m'ami"

Alessandro Parisotti
ales:sandro parizɔ:ti

Poetic idea

"Yes, I love you, but I love other men, too!"

Background

This song was first made public in 1885 in an anthology. It was presented as a work of Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710–1736), but no scholar today accepts it as genuine. Since no early manuscript of "Se tu m'ami" has ever been found, and the other songs in the book come from known sources, it is now believed that Parisotti wrote it himself. Parisotti was an able musician who sincerely loved early music, but he was not above publishing other editors' work as if it were his own (international copyrights were not yet enforced).

To make his forgery seem more genuine, Parisotti used a poem from the 1700s. The Italian poet Rolli lived in London and wrote opera libretti for both Handel and Bononcini.

Sources

Text, Paolo Rolli, *Di canzonette e di cantate libri due* (London: T. Edlin, 1727); music, Alessandro Parisotti, *Arie Antiche*, Vol. 1 (Milan: Ricordi, 1885). Key: F minor.

Rolli's poem is printed above with the original spelling and punctuation; in the music the text is modernized. Parisotti changed "Silvio" to "Silvia," as if the singer herself were picking a rose; this is incorrect. What the text says is that a typical man would reject a former lover in favor of a new one. The singer says that she would not follow this example, because she is able to love more than one man at a time.

The style of performance should be late Romantic; Baroque ornamentation and Classical strictness of tempo would both be inappropriate here.

se tu · mami se sospiri
Se tu m'ami, se sospiri
If you me-love, if you-sigh

sol per me dʒentil pastor
Sol per me, gentil Pastor;
only for me, kind shepherd,

ɔ dolor de twɔi martiri
O dolor de tuoi martiri,
I-have sorrow [of-the] (for) your sufferings,

ɔ diletto del tuamor
O diletto del tu' amor:
I-have pleasure [of-the] (in) your love,

ma se pnsi ke soletto
Ma se pensi che soletto
but if you-think that alone

jo ti dɛb:ba riamar
Io ti debba riamar,
I you must love-in-return,

pastorel:lo sei sod:ʒɛt:to
Pastorello, sei soggetto
little-shepherd, you-are subject

fatfilmentea tɪŋan:nar
Facilmente a t'ingannar.
easily to yourself-deceive.

bɛ:l:la rɔza porporina
Bella Rosa porporina
Beautiful rose red

ɔd:ʒi silvjo feʎ:ʎera
Oggi Silvio sceglierà,
today silvio will-choose;

kon la skuza del:la spina
Con la scusa della Spina
with the excuse of-the thorn

doman poi la spret:sera
Doman poi la sprezzera.
tomorrow then it he-will-despise.

ma dɛ:ʎwɔminil konsi:ʎo
Ma degli Uomini'l consiglio
But of[-the] men the advice

jo per me non segwirɔ
Io per me non seguirò,
I for myself not will-follow:

non perke mi pjatfeil dʒi:ʎo
Non perché mi piace il Giglio
not because to-me pleases the lily

ʎaltri fjori spret:serɔ
Gli altri Fiori sprezzera.
the other flowers will-I-despise.