

# 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'ami, se tu so - do  
If you love me, If you do

*p*

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,

*pp 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 O - 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,  
 mori 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 o - 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 - rà. Non per - ché mi pia - ce il gi - glio Gli al - tri fio - ri sprez - ze - rà  
 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*

*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.*

*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*

*p a tempo*

*f rit.*

*f rit.*

62 *a tempo*

che so - let - to lo - 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 parizot: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 dzentil pastor  
**Sol per me, gentil Pastor;**  
only for me, kind shepherd,

o dolor de twai martiri  
**O dolor de tuoi martiri,**  
I-have sorrow [of-the] (for) your sufferings,

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

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

io ti degba riamar  
**Io ti debba riamar,**  
I you must love-in-return,

pastorello sei sodzetto  
**Pastorello, sei soggetto**  
little-shepherd, you-are subject

fatfilmentea tingannar  
**Facilmente a t’ingannar.**  
easily to yourself-deceive.

bel:la rza porporina  
**Bella Rosa porporina**  
Beautiful rose red

od:zi silvjo fe:lera  
**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 de:l:awminil konsi:lo  
**Ma degli Uomini’l consiglio**  
But of[-the] men the advice

io per me non segwirò  
**Io per me non seguirò,**  
I for myself not will-follow:

non perke mi pjatfeil d:zi:lo  
**Non perché mi piace il Giglio**  
not because to-me pleases the lily

altri fjori spret:sero  
**Gli altri Fiori sprezzera.**  
the other flowers will-I-despise.