

Georg Gerson

(1790–1825)

Aria Napolitana

G.38

Score

Edited by
Christian Mondrup

Aria Napolitana

Andante

Georg Gerson (1790-1825)

Voce

E che sof-frir mi re-sta or che il mio ben per-de-i, tut-to mi tol-se-o

Forte piano

6

De-i la vo-strà cru-del-tà. Che bar-ba-ra for-tu-na, che in-

11

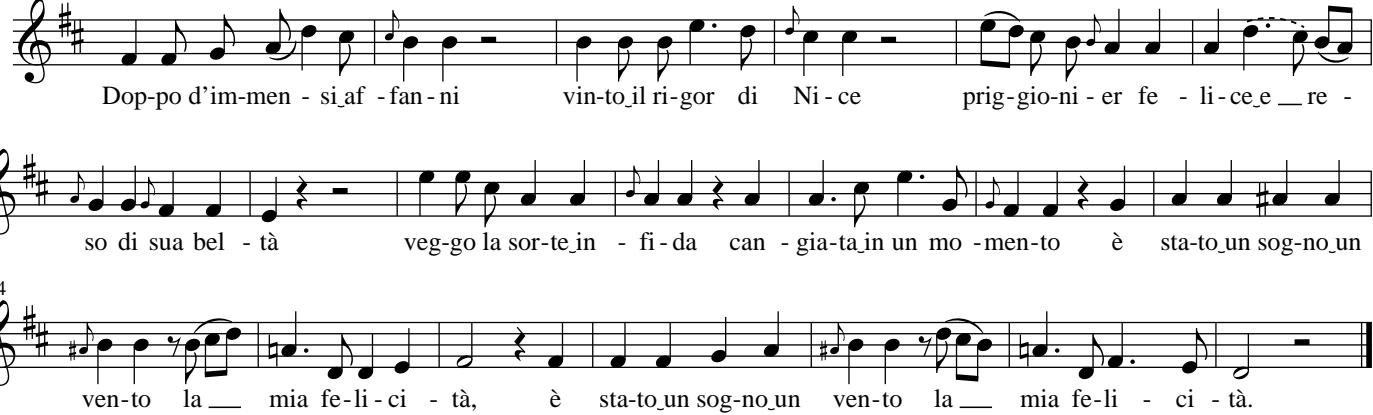
a-spet-ta-to_e ven-to, è sta-to_un sog-no_un ven-to la mia fe-li-ci-

cresc

16

tà, è sta-to_un sog-no_un ven-to la mia fe-li-ci-tà.

f p fp

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Critical notes

This score is the first modern edition of the song “Aria Napolitana” (G.38) by the Danish composer “Georg Gerson” (1790–1825). The song was composed May 13, 1810.

The source is:

MS “Partiturer No. 1”, “George Gersons samling: mu 7105.0963 C II, 6b”, a collection of manuscript scores by Gerson preserved at the Royal Library of Copenhagen, Denmark. The song is found on p. 148.

According to Gerson’s thematic catalogue “Verzeichniß über Zwei Hundert meiner Compositionen”¹ his text source is “Almanach aus Rom für Künstler und Freunde der bildenden Kunst” Vol. 1² Gerson’s text, however, differs slightly from that in “Almanach aus Rom”. The anonymous poem was published in Napoli 1799 in the periodical “Nuovo Monitore Napolitano” during the revolutionary “Parthenopean Republic”.

A song, “Barcarola Napoletana” with piano accompaniment on the poem (stanza 1–3 and 5) was published in the early 1800 decades in Napoli by Bernardo Girard as part of a collection, “Canzoncine Nazionali Napoletane e Siciliane” with “Principe Pignatelli” as composer. Poet and composer may, or may not, be “Ferdinando Pignatelli, principe di Strongoli” (1769–1799), participating in the defense of the “Parthenopean Republic” in Napoli 1799. A variant of the tune (stanza 1–4) with guitar accompaniment by Luigi Picchianti (1786–1864) was published around 1835 in Firenze as part of a collection “Trentasei ariette nazionali”. The initial 4 lines of the poem are found in Felice Romani’s (1788–1865) textbook to a buffo opera, “I due Figaro” based on a play, “Les deux Figaro” by Honoré-Antoine Richaud Martelly (1751–1817) performed 1792 in Paris. Among the 5 operas on this libretto is one composed 1826 by Saverio Mercadante (1795–1870), staged 1835 in Madrid.

In his manuscripts Gerson made use of various shorthand notations like slashed notes representing repeated notes. Such notation types are also found in music prints from that period like Gerson’s string quartet no. 5 (G.63) published as part books 1826. The full score of this modern edition comes in two versions: a score keeping as close as possible to the original notation and an alternative, ’contemporized’ score expanding the shorthand notations. In the contemporized scores the beaming of vocal staves has been adapted to modern practices. Separate parts are contemporized as well.

Performance indications within brackets and dashed ties and slurs have been added by the editor.

Bar No.	Part	Note No.	Comment
1–2	Solo v		Stanza 3, “estremo” in MS.
3	Solo v		Stanza 4, “il dolore” in MS.
5–6	Solo v		Stanza 5, “Ma a contrastar mi” in “Almanach aus Rom”.

Revised Lyrics³

1. E che soffrir mi resta
or che il mio ben perdei,
tutto mi tolse, o Dei,
la vostra crudeltà.
 Che barbara fortuna,
 che inaspettato evento
 è stato un sogno un vento
 la mia felicità.
2. Dopo d’immensi affanni
vinto il rigor di Nice
prigionier felice
restai di sua beltà.
 Veggo la sorte infida
 cangiata in un momento
 è stato un sogno un vento
 La mia felicità.
3. Che tenerezza estrema
provai fra pochi istanti,
e quanti segni, e quanti
ebbi di fedeltà.
 Tutto sugli occhi ho, tutto
 per mio maggior tormento
 è stato un sogno un vento
 la mia felicità.
4. Vivo fedele amante
Lungi da chi m’adora
e mi si vieta ancora
di domandar pietà.
 Nel mio cordoglio estremo,
 presso a morir mi sento;
 è stato un sogno un vento
 la mia felicità.
5. Spesso nel cor la speme
nasce con il dolore,
ma a consolarmi il cuore
giammai vigor non ha,
 ma a contrastar mi viene
 per mio maggior tormento
 è stato un sogno un vento
 La mia felicità.

¹ Royal Library, Copenhagen, mu 7105.0962, C II, 6b.

² Published in Leipzig 1810, edited by the German archaeologist Friedrich Carl Ludwig Sickler (1773–1836) and the German painter Johann Christian Reinhardt (1761–1837).

³ Revision by Luigi Catalaldi.