

PASQUALE CAFARO

STABAT MATER

per Soprano, Contralto, archi e b.c.

A cura di Francesco Cirillo

Pasquale Cafaro, nato a S. Pietro in Galantina nel 1715; fu indirizzato dalla famiglia agli studi "scientifici" (*scienza del diritto*) ma ben presto li abbandonò per quelli musicali.

Entrò quindi come *figliolo* al Conservatorio della Pietà de' Turchini a 18 anni, quasi da adulto. Ebbe come principale maestro uno dei maggiori musicisti del '700, Leonardo Leo, che riconobbe subito il talento del giovane. Rimase a lungo alla "Pietà" come allievo prima e poi come *mastricello*; infine, alla morte del maestro, gli succedette meritatamente.

Era un esperto conoscitore della vocalità e in questa veste fu nominato maestro di canto della regina Maria Carolina.

Il servizio di corte gli divenne talmente insopportabile per i continui viaggi (riteniamo alquanto debilitanti in quell'epoca) verso le regge di Portici e Caserta e alle varie sontuose residenze di caccia, da preferir lasciare il posto, oltremodo remunerato, al suo allievo Giacomo Tritto.

Fu così stimato come compositore di musica sacra (ma fu anche acclamato operista) che il sommo Jommelli, invitato a mettere in musica un Salmo "si scusò dicendo modestamente che prima

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Pasquale Cafaro, born in S. Pietro in Galantina in 1715; he was directed by his family to "scientific" studies (*science of law*) but soon abandoned them for musical ones.

He then entered the Conservatorio della Pietà de' Turchini as a son at the age of 18, almost as an adult. His main teacher was one of the greatest musicians of the 18th century, Leonardo Leo, who immediately recognized the young man's talent. He remained at the "Pietà" for a long time as a pupil first and then as a *mastricello*; finally, on the master's death, he deservedly succeeded him.

He was an expert connoisseur of vocality and in this capacity he was appointed singing master of Queen Maria Carolina. The court service became considerably unbearable for him due to the continuous journeys (we consider them rather debilitating at that time) to the palaces of Portici and Caserta and to the various sumptuous hunting lodges, preferring to leave the place, extremely remunerated, to his pupil Giacomo Tritto.

He was so esteemed as a composer of sacred music (but he was also an acclaimed opera composer) that the great Jommelli, invited to set a Psalm to music, "apologized modestly saying that first the learned and elegant music of Cafaro had to

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Pasquale Cafaro (Caffariello)

San Pietro in Galantina, 1715 - Napoli, 1787

*Prima edizione assoluta a cura di
Francesco Cirillo*

Andantino

Violino I

Violino II

Viola

Soprano

Contralto

Basso

6

11

ma - ter do - lo - ro - sa, iux - ta cru - cem la - cri -

ma - ter do - lo - ro - sa iux - ta cru - cem la - cri -

4 2 8 3 6 4 2 6 4

17

mo - sa dum pen -

mo - sa dum pen - de -

6 6 5

23

de - bat Fi - li - us. bat Fi - li - us.

5 4 #4 6 5 4 # 5 6 #6 6 4 #

(attacca)

29 **Allegretto** (Cuius animam)

Measures 29-32. The score is in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piano part features a complex texture with sixteenth and thirty-second notes, including a sixteenth-note triplet in measure 32. The vocal part enters in measure 30 with the lyrics "Cu - ius a - ni - mam ge - men - tem - - - - - cu - ius". The bass line includes fingering: 6, b7 6 5, 6, #4 b3, 6, 6 4 #, 6.

Measures 33-36. The piano part continues with a strong *f* (forte) dynamic. The vocal part enters in measure 34 with the lyrics "a - ni - mam ge - men - tem, con - tri - sta - tam et do - len - tem per - tran -". The bass line includes fingering: 6 5, b7 6 5, 3 #4, 6 6 3 7 7, 5.

Measures 37-40. The piano part features a sixteenth-note triplet in measure 38. The vocal part enters in measure 39 with the lyrics "si - vit per - tran - si - vit gla - di - us.". The bass line includes fingering: b7 #, 6 3 6 #, #4, 6 4 #.