

Presentation Handout:

THE INFLUENCE OF TORQUATO TASSO'S POETRY ON MONTEVERDI'S
MADRIGALS¹

Prepared by

Dr. Christian Giddings
Deering High School, Portland, ME, United States

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¹For the complete analysis see, Giddings, Christian. 2020. "The Influence of Torquato Tasso's Poetry on Monteverdi's Madrigals." Order no. 28000504, The University of Arizona, ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. Link: <https://repository.arizona.edu/handle/10150/641714>

Musical Examples

Musical Example 1. Monteverdi, Book One, *Arsi e alsi*, mm.19-21

The musical score is for a five-part vocal setting of Monteverdi's *Arsi e alsi*, measures 19-21. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The parts are Soprano, Quinto (Fifth), Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The lyrics are in Italian. The score includes several performance markings: "Commoratio" appears above the Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass staves at different points. The word "Apocope" is written below the Bass staff at the end of the phrase. The lyrics for each part are as follows:

Soprano: e s'al tuo lieve in - ge - gno po - co ca - le

Quinto: e men lo sde - gno

Alto: e s'al tuo lieve in - ge - gno e s'al tuo lieve in

Tenor: e s'al tuo lieve in - ge - gno po

Bass: e s'al tuo lieve in - ge - gno po - co ca - le l'a - mor

Performance markings: "Commoratio" is marked above the Soprano staff (measures 19-20), above the Alto staff (measures 19-20), above the Tenor staff (measures 19-20), and above the Bass staff (measures 19-20). "Apocope" is written below the Bass staff at the end of the phrase (measure 21).

Musical Example 2. Monteverdi, Book Two, *Non si levava ancor*, mm. 35-42

Soprano

Ch'u - na fe - li - ce not - te ch'u - na

Quinto

dret - ti a - man - ti Ch'u - na fe - li - ce not - te

Alto

dret - ti a - man - ti Ch'u - na fe - li - ce not - te ch'u - na

Tenor

dret - ti a - man - ti

Bass

Ch'u - na fe - li - ce not - te

S

fe - li - ce not - te' agg - iuns' in - sie - me

Q

ag - giun - s' in - sie - me

A

fe - li - ce not - te' agg - iuns' in - sie - me

T

fe - li - ce not - te' agg - iuns' in - sie - me

B

ag - giun - s' in - sie - me

Musical Example 3. Monteverdi, Book Three, *Vattene pur crudel*, mm. 1-2, soprano

S

Vat - te-ne pur cru - del.

Musical Example 4. Monteverdi, Book Three, *La tra'l sangue* mm. 1-8

Soprano

Quinto

Alto

Tenor

Bass

La tra'l san - gu'e le mor -

La tra'l san - gu'e le mor - ti -

La tra'l san - gu'e le

La tra'l san - gu'e le mor -

La tra'l san - gu'e le mor - - - ti -

S

Q

A

T

B

ti egro gia - cen - te

egro gia - cen - te

mor - ti - egro gia - cen - te Mi

- - ti egro gia - cen - te

- - egro gia - cen - te

Musical Example 5. Monteverdi, Book Four, *Piagn'e sospira*, mm. 95-99

Hypotyposis

Soprano

te spar - gea di pian - to le ver - mi - glie ____

Quinto

te spar - gea di pian - to le ver - mi - glie go -

Alto

te spar - gea di pian - to le ver - mi - glie

Tenor

te spar - gea di pian - to le ver - mi - glie

Bass

Musical Example 6. Monteverdi, Book Seven, *Al lume delle stelle*, mm. 51-56

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

vio gli oc - chi lu - cen - ti.

Bass

vio gli-oc - chi lu - cen - ti.

BC

S

A

T

ti.

B

ti.

BC

GLOSSARY OF RHETORICAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS²

- Admonitio:** Reminding, recalling to mind.
- Adtenuata:** A weakened or reduced utterance.
- Alletheta:** Substitution of one mood for another.
- Amplificatio:** Enlargement, expansion.
- Anabasis:** Going up, climax.
- Anaphora:** Repetition of the same word at the beginning of successive clauses or verses.
- Antimetabole:** Inverting the order of repeated words to sharpen their sense or to contrast the ideas they convey or both.
- Antithesis:** Conjoining contrasting ideas.
- Apactesis:** A matter put aside in anger is resumed later.
- Apocope:** Cutting off discourse abruptly.
- Aposiopesis:** Stopping suddenly in midcourse, leaving a statement unfinished.
- Apothegm:** A short, pithy statement of general truth.
- Barbaralexis:** Wrenched accent to fit meter or rhyme.
- Commoratio:** Emphasizing a strong point by repeating it several times in different words.
- Comparatio:** Showing similarities between persons or things, like or seemingly unlike.
- Emphasis:** Stress of language in such a way as to imply more than is actually stated.
- Epanodos:** A general statement is expanded by discussing it part by part, and the terms used in the initial summary are specifically repeated in the discussion that follows.
- Epexegesis:** Adding words or phrases to further clarify or specify a statement already made.
- Epizeuxis:** Emphatic repetition of a word with no other words between.
- Exclamatio:** An exclamation.
- Exuscitatio:** Emotional utterance that moves hearers to like feeling.
- Hypotyposis:** A vivid musical representation of images found in the accompanying text.³
- Iteratio:** Repetition for vehemence.
- Peristasis:** Amplifying by describing attendant circumstances.
- Procatasene:** Giving an audience a gradual preparation and buildup before telling them about something done.
- Reditus ad propositum:** Return to the proposition after a digression.

² With one exception, all musico-rhetorical terms and their definitions are taken from John Walter Hill, *Baroque Music: Music in Western Europe, 1580-1750* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2005), 495-497.

³ This definition is taken from Joachim Burmeister's *Musical poetics*, ed. Claude Palisca V., trans. Benito Rivera (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993).