

# DIOGENIO BIGAGLIA

TWO COMIC CANTATAS IN VENETIAN

for soprano & basso continuo

edited by Michael Talbot



Diogenio Bigaglia (c.1676–c.1745)

Two comic cantatas

HH500.FSP

xiii/21 + 2 x 8 pages

The eighteenth century saw a great increase in secular music for solo voice and continuo set to texts in Venetian, which was then a recognized literary language, not a mere dialect of Italian. Most of these compositions are short gondola songs or canzonettas, but a few are cantatas in several movements indistinguishable from their counterparts with Italian texts except in language and subject matter, which favours contemporary themes treated in a comic manner. The two Venetian cantatas for soprano and continuo by Diogenio Bigaglia (1678–1745) published here for the first time – they are probably the first of their type ever to appear in a modern edition – are excellently crafted examples of their type, revealing an unexpectedly racy side of their composer, a Benedictine monk. One is a set of instructions for a shopping trip given by a nun to her aged servant, and the other is a woman's catty description of the rise from rags to riches of one of her neighbours through prostitution. The editions come with translations of the texts and a brief note on the pronunciation of Venetian.

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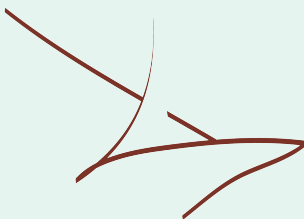
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TWO COMIC CANTATAS  
edited by Michael Talbot

### DONN'ELENA, SÉU QUA?

Cantata for Soprano and Basso continuo

DIOGENIO BIGAGLIA  
(1678-1745)

CANTATA:  
SOPRANO

BASSO CONTINUO

**I Recitativo**

Soprano

Don-n'E-le-na, séu qua? Vegni, al-la Rio-da Gran-da. Via, ca-ra

B.c.

4

vu; tio-lé sti bu-ga-ri-ni Co sti quat-tro cor-do-ni, E vendé-me-li,

7

ve-chia, e po' com-pré-me Del pe-sce bon cheno sia tut-ti spi-ni. E spendé

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a reputation for attractive  
publications."

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