

URSULA KIRKENDALE

# ANTONIO CALDARA

## LIFE AND VENETIAN-ROMAN ORATORIOS

REVISED AND TRANSLATED BY  
WARREN KIRKENDALE

From the reviews of the German edition:

«The author carries out her ambitious program without either vagueness or academic aridity; her scholarly equipment is outstanding and there is scarcely one commonplace sentence on 400 pages. Dr. Kirkendale's knowledge of the large area which comes into her purview is most impressive...», a comprehensive command of general, musical, artistic and literary history that is always skillfully woven into the narrative. Obviously all this adds up to an extraordinary scholarly performance, yet this is not half the story of the adventure». «A number of [Caldara's] oratorios belong to the finest works created in the first half of the eighteenth century, and now that the scholarly spadework has been so brilliantly accomplished, perhaps the scores will be published – and performed» (Paul Henry Lang, «Musical Quarterly»).



«It was evident at once that here was one of those 'landmark' books destined to take a high rank among musicological studies». «The sheer amount of painstaking research evidenced here is paralleled only by the skill with which the vast material has been organized, ... useful not only for its content, but also as a model of method» (Donald Grout, JAMS).

«The rich *humanitas* of the author allows us to observe a detailed and lively picture of the milieu». «But all that, which is already so much, is only part of a volume exemplary in many ways, certainly monumental». «After a general discourse, of extreme interest, on the milieu and the librettos follows the long and detailed study of the style, ... in which the profound humanistic culture of Kirkendale permits a subtle investigation of rhetorical-affective motives, ... a method intelligently updated, ... often of extreme penetration» (Agostino Ziino, «Nuova Rivista Musicale Italiana»).

*Grazie alla sua prestigiosa serie di incarichi – come maestro di cappella del Duca di Mantova, del Principe Ruspoli a Roma e dell'Imperatore Carlo VI in Vienna – Caldara divenne il più pagato compositore del Settecento, ancora stimatissimo dai conoscitori di generazioni successive che hanno avuto accesso ai suoi manoscritti. È stato possibile ricostruire, in particolare, i suoi anni a Roma tramite documenti d'archivio ed esaminare nel loro contesto storico i suoi oratori composti in Italia.*

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