

Practice Tips for *Amor, ben mi credevo*

1. Listen first (with the text)

Start by listening—this is the most important step. The vocal recording is your best guide for phrasing and articulation. Please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2fHENS0xcg>. It's in A=415, so you won't be able to play along, but use it as a reference.

While listening, follow the lyrics—they tell you a lot about phrasing and expression. Please refer to the translation below. [*Thank you to Zulema for the translation!*]

I also made a simple recording (apologies for the sound quality, it's just for practice), which you can use as an additional guide for phrasing and articulation.

2. Work phrase by phrase

Don't practice only from beginning to end. Work in short phrases:

- Where is the peak?
- Is your line leading or supporting?
- What are the other voices doing?
- Look out for imitations.

3. Sing before playing

Sing each phrase before you play it. The voice will naturally guide your phrasing and direction.

4. Shape the line and tone

Think in phrases, not individual notes. Each phrase has direction and a high point. Keep the tone supported and steady—breathing exercises can help with this, and I highly recommend including them in your regular practice. For quick breathing exercises, please refer to Sarah Jeffery's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VFOKImDE-s&t=355s>.

5. Articulation

Keep it natural:

- Repeated notes: slightly separated (*tu–tu*)
 - Stepwise motion: more connected (*tu–du*)
- Feel free to mark articulation in your part and use the recordings as a guide.

6. Rhythm practice

- Use the metronome at first.
 - If helpful, mark beats in the score.
- Then move toward a more natural flow.

7. Use the full score

Play all parts, not just your line. Notice when to blend and when to let your part shine.

If you have any questions or concerns during your practice, please feel free to contact me at adelabalima@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Translation:

*Amor, I well believed
that both lady and I you had bound
in a same link, so that same
be the desire and the immortal ardor*

*But now I see her free and untied
of the loving knots
and in thousand pleasures every day involved,
And I more than ever tied and prisoner
lacking any pleasure, full of torment
I stay in life but of life empty.*