String Virtuosi in Eighteenth-Century Naples

Drawing on extensive archival work, this book examines the crucial contribution of Neapolitan string virtuosi to the dissemination of instrumental music and to the development of string practices and musical culture in Europe. It presents a fresh look at the central place of instrumental music in early modern Naples and considers aspects of music pedagogy, performance practices, patronage, and musicians’ social mobility. Music examples, paintings, and lists of personnel of major music institutions inform the discussion and illustrate the opportunities for social mobility afforded by the music profession. Music production and consumption are considered within their cultural, political, and economic contexts and in connection with the rapid political changes of eighteenth-century Naples. This substantial contribution to the understanding of a previously understudied repertory places the cultivation of Neapolitan instrumental music at the center of aesthetic and cultural developments across eighteenth-century Europe.

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String Virtuosi in Eighteenth-Century Naples

Culture, Power, and Music Institutions

GUIDO OLIVIERI

University of Texas at Austin
Ai miei genitori
A Luisa
Contents

List of Figures [page ix]
List of Tables [x]
List of Music Examples [xi]
Acknowledgments [xiii]

Introduction: Parthenope’s Violin [1]
Sources and Choice of Repertory [10]

1 Music Institutions in Naples [20]
The Music of Power: Instrumental Music at the Cappella Reale [21]
Music and Social Mobility: The Virtuoso Pietro “Petrillo” Marchitelli [32]
Pietro Marchitelli’s Sonatas [40]

2 The Formation of the Neapolitan String Virtuosi [52]
A Wellspring of Talents: The Four Conservatories [54]
The Career of a Maestro: Giovanni Carlo Cailò [65]
Cailò’s Career in Naples [69]
Giovanni Carlo Cailò’s Sonatas [77]

3 Cello Virtuosi [82]
The Montecassino Manuscript: Early Cello Repertory by Gaetano Francone and Rocco Greco [84]
Toward a Definition of the Violoncello: Giovanni Bononcini’s Sinfonie per Violoncello [91]
String Pedagogy in Seventeenth-Century Naples: Counterpoint, Partimenti, and Continuo Realization at the Cello [99]
Cello Pedagogy in Eighteenth-Century Naples: F. P. Supriani’s Principij da imparare a suonare il violoncello [108]
Neapolitan Cello Virtuosi of the Early Eighteenth Century [115]

4 Between Naples and Paris: The String Sonata in France [121]
Regime Transition in Naples: The Advent of the Bourbon Dynasty [127]
The Italian Sonata in France: The Aesthetic Context/Contest [129]
Virtuoso Violin Technique in France: Giovanni Antonio Piani’s Solo Sonatas (1712) [135]
Contents

5 Neapolitan Virtuosi in the Public Sphere: The “Tastes Reunited” [146]
   Between Naples and Paris: Giovanni Antonio Guido’s Career in France [148]
   The Impact of the Public Sphere: The Career of Michele Mascitti [159]
   Pierre Crozat’s Concert Soirées [172]
   The “Tastes Reunited” [179]

6 Neapolitan Instrumental Music under the Austrian Domination [185]
   Changes in the Cappella Reale [187]
   Neapolitan Virtuosi in the Real Capilla de Barcellona [193]
   Music of the Nations: Neapolitan Performers in the Imperial Chapel [198]
   Giovanni Antonio Piani, Concertmaster of the Imperial Orchestra [201]

7 Under the Wings of the Imperial Eagle: String Virtuosi between Naples and Vienna [205]
   The Career of Angelo Ragazzi [205]
   Angelo Ragazzi’s Sonate a quattro (1736) [208]
   A Repertory for the Chapel: The Sonatas for Three Violins and Continuo (ca. 1713–1736) [213]
   The Printed Collections of Sonatas by Giuseppe Antonio Avitrano [214]
   The Sonatas for Three Violins in the Neapolitan Tradition: Cailò, Marchitelli, and Ragazzi [224]
   Epilogue [236]

Bibliography [241]
Index [270]
Figures

0.1 Paolo De Matteis, *Allegory on the End of the War of the Spanish Succession*. Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation, Houston (Texas) [page 2]


1.2 P. Marchitelli, *Sinfonia a Due Violini e Basso*, I-MC, Noseda L.23.16, fol. 2 [43]


3.1 Rocco Greco, *Sonate a due viole, Sinfonia viggesima quinta* (no. 25), second movement. I-MC, MS 2-D-13, fols. 52 v–53 r [89]

3.2 Rocco Greco, *Sonate a due viole, Sinfonia quinta*, first movement. I-MC, MS 2-D-13, fol. 13 v [100]


7.1 A. Ragazzi, Sonata op. 1, no. 12, first movement, violino primo. Bologna, Museo internazionale e biblioteca della musica, II.256. [212]
Tables

1.1 Violinists in the Cappella Reale from 1594 to 1656  [page 27]
1.2 Setup of the Cappella Reale  [29]
1.3 Sources of Marchitelli’s sonatas  [41]
1.4 P. Marchitelli, *Sonate*, D-MUp, Santini HS 2682 (Mar 3–12)  [44]
1.5 P. Marchitelli, *Sonate*, I-Nc, MS 5328 (Mar 13–26)  [44]
1.6 P. Marchitelli, *Sonate*, US-BEmm MS 489 A-B (Mar 27–37)  [45]
3.1 Manuscript I-MC, MS 2-D-13: list of works  [85]
3.2 Rocco Greco, *Antifone*, I-MC, MS 2-D-13  [104]
6.1 Personnel of the Cappella Reale (1708)  [190]
7.1 Giuseppe Antonio Avitrano, *Sonate a tre* op. 1 (1697), I-MC, MS 915.2  [217]
7.2 Giuseppe Antonio Avitrano, *Sonate a tre* op. 2 (1703), I-MC, MS 916.3  [217]
Music Examples

1.1 P. Marchitelli, Sonata due violini e continuo no. 7, third movement, mm. 1–6 (D-MÜp, Santini HS 2682)  [page 46]
1.2 P. Marchitelli, Sonatas nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 (Santini HS 2682), no. 4 (Berkeley, MS 489 A-B), nos. 6, 9, 11 (Naples, MS 5328)  [47]
1.3 P. Marchitelli, Sonata no. 2 (Santini HS 2682), fourth movement, mm. 1–10  [48]
2.1 G. C. Cailò, Sonata a due violini e cembalo, first movement, mm. 1–9  [79]
2.2 G. C. Cailò, Sonata a due violini e cembalo, second movement, violins 1 and 2, mm. 1–5  [80]
3.1 G. Bononcini, Sinfonia per violoncello (no. 1), first movement, mm. 1–23  [94]
3.2 R. Greco, Sinfonia quinta, mm. 1–9, sample realization  [101]
3.3a R. Greco [?], Partimento 9, mm. 1–7. I-Nc 33.2.3, fol. 29.  [102]
3.3b R. Greco, Sinfonia viggesima ottava [no. 28]. Second movement, mm. 1–7. I-MC, MS 2-D-13, fol. 58 v.  [102]
3.3c R. Greco, Sinfonia prima [no. 1]. Third movement, mm. 1–17. I-MC, MS 2-D-13, fol. 3 v  [102]
3.4 F. P. Supriani, Sonata no. 10, mm. 36–46. I-Nc, Ms 9607  [112–113]
4.1 G. A. Piani, Sonata op. 1, no. 5, third movement, mm. 12–46  [143]
4.2 G. A. Piani, Sonata, second movement, mm. 1–14  [142]
4.3 G. A. Piani, Sonata, third movement, Giga per barcaroli, mm. 1–14  [142]
5.1 G. A. Guido, Sonata no. 8, second movement, mm. 1–9  [154]
5.2 G. A. Guido, Sonata no. 7, first movement, mm. 1–38  [156]
5.3 G. A. Guido, Sonata no. 8: (a) first movement; (b) second movement; (c) fourth movement  [158]
5.4 M. Mascitti, Sonata op. 1, no. 9, first movement, mm. 1–7  [162]
5.5 A. Corelli, Sonata op. 5, no. 1, first movement, mm. 1–2 and M. Mascitti, Sonata op. 4, no. 1, first movement, mm. 1–2  [166]
5.6 M. Mascitti, Sonata op. 4, no. 1, second movement, Allegro, mm. 29–38  [167]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>List of Music Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>M. Mascitti, Sonata op. 4, no. 11, second movement, mm. 1–10 [168]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>G. A. Guido, Sonata no. 3, first movement, mm. 1–15 [181]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>G. A. Guido, Sonata no. 1, fifth movement, Gavotta, mm. 1–31 [182]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>G. A. Guido, Sonata no. 3, third movement, Piacevole, mm. 1–16 [183]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>A. Ragazzi, <em>Sonata a tre</em>, first movement, Allegro, mm. 1–7 [209]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>A. Ragazzi, Sonata op. 1, no. 6, first movement, first violin, mm. 51–65 [211]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>G. A. Avitrano, Sonata op. 1, no. 6, first movement, mm. 1–7 [218]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4a</td>
<td>G. A. Avitrano, Sonata op. 1, no. 4, third movement, mm. 1–6 [219]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4b</td>
<td>G. A. Avitrano, Sonata op. 1, no. 6, second movement, mm. 1–6 [219]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4c</td>
<td>G. A. Avitrano, Sonata op. 1, no. 2, second movement, mm. 1–8 [220]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5a–h</td>
<td>G. A. Avitrano, incipits of second movements from Sonatas op. 3, nos. 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 8, 11, 12 [223]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>G. C. Cailò, Sonata for three violins, fifth movement, mm. 1–7 [225]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>G. C. Cailò, Sonata for three violins, second movement, mm. 1–14 [226]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>G. C. Cailò, Sonata for three violins, third movement, mm. 1–11 [227]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>P. Marchitelli, Sonata no. 2, second movement, [Allegro], first violin, mm. 1–9 [228]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.10a</td>
<td>A. Ragazzi, Sonata op. 1, no. 1, first movement, mm. 1–11 [230]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.10b</td>
<td>A. Ragazzi, Sonata op. 1, no. 1, first movement, mm. 51–57 [231]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.11</td>
<td>A. Ragazzi, Sonata op. 1, no. 4, first movement, Allegro, mm. 1–6 [232]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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