

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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## SPECIAL FEATURE on GIUSEPPE MARIA JACCHINI

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**Giuseppe Maria Jacchini** was an important composer in the development of music for the cello in the Baroque era. Jacchini received his musical training as a choirboy in the San Petronio Basilica in Bologna. There he studied composition with Giacomo Antonio Perti and Domenico Gabrielli (it was said that Jacchini was his star pupil!). He is possibly the "Giosefo del Violonzino" referred to in the period from 1680 to 1688.

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On October 31, 1689, he became a regular cellist of the orchestra at the church of San Petronio in Bologna; however, it is likely that he was sometimes hired as an extra cellist on occasions before that.

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He remained in that position for the rest of his life, except for a period from 1693 to 1701, during which the orchestra had been disbanded for financial reasons. He was made a member of the Accademia Filarmonica of Bologna on December 16, 1688. His interest in it was apparently musical only, for there were members who objected that he did not attend to the spiritual exercises and sacred functions of the organization. He also served as conductor of the "Collegio dei Nobili" and the church of S. Luigi. He gained fame as an excellent cellist, and as an excellent companion; whilst later in his life he composed substantially he never forgot his activity as a cellist.

He composed mainly instrumental music with cello, violin, and keyboard continuo. He dedicated his opus 4 to Bolognese Count and composer Pirro Albergati, who had campaigned for Jacchini's permanent position in the orchestra of the cathedral of Bologna. His trumpet concertos prepared for celebrations at the San Petronio Basilica are in the tradition of the works of his teacher Perti, Giuseppe Torelli and Petronio Franceschini.

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His works helped to strengthen the position of the cello as a solo or a concertante instrument. At the time, the cello primarily had an accompanying function, usually doubling the bass line on organ or harpsichord. Jacchini's sonatas for string or trumpet are unusual in that they sometimes assign solo passages to the cello. Six of the ten concertos of his Opus four have cello obbligato parts. Furthermore, Jacchini wrote some of the first works for solo cello, which require a high level of virtuosity for the time. It is sometimes said that the first ever surviving cello concerto is one by Jacchini!

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JACCHINI works in the IMSLP:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Jacchini,\\_Giuseppe\\_Maria](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Jacchini,_Giuseppe_Maria)

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Hear JACCHINI:

Jacchini - Cello Sonata in A Minor

Ophélie Gaillard/cello and Violaine Cochard/harpsichord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yf2pOrP25C4>

Please do see other original works for many different instruments and groupings, and also special transcriptions for cellists, and cellists with other instruments on the *Johnstone-Music* web page

Also both general musical and cello based articles, directories of famous historical cellists, and many other items of interest

**DOWNLOADS** - Many downloads on *Johnstone-Music* are now available, for those that are interested, at a *symbolic* payment, which is to help cover the costs of this web site. Some scores/parts are presented in musical edition programmes but generally they are found here in a most “clear” hand-written manuscript copy (the majority to almost a professional copyist standard) and transferred to a PDF file.

As far as *Johnstone-Music* is concerned you are welcome to publicly perform or record any work or piece found in the web; however you DO need to make mention of the name of the composer and the arranger on any printed information (hand programmes, disc covers etc.).

**FREE PUBLICITY** - If you care to inform us of any public performance (no matter how formal or informal the event is), recording or other uses of the original music or arrangements of David Johnstone or of other musical colleagues included in this web, we are happy to give your event free publicity on the *Johnstone-Music* web.

To take advantage of this, try to write to us three weeks or more in advance with any information. Last-minute entries are certainly better than not writing at all - however, understandably, once we have past the calendar month of the event it is not usually possible to add old items to the calendar. It is very interesting for the promoters of *Johnstone-Music* to have knowledge of your activity - and so in return for your information you will be entitled to a free gift of a work/s for every diary addition you tell us about. To find out more about this, please visit the “*Cello Club*” section in the web!