

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

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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>

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