



Egida Sartori and Laura Alvini Early Music Seminars
Director: Pedro Memelsdorff

Viola bastarda
and the art of Italian diminution
1580-1630

Master classes by Paolo Pandolfo

Venice, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, 2–6 November 2022

Deadline for applications: September 5, 2022

In Italian music treatises or collections of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, the term "alla bastarda" generally refers to a particular technique of adorning (or diminishing) vocal compositions with rapid and virtuosic passages of great extension performed on instruments such as the organ, harp, lute or viola. "Viola bastarda", on the other hand, seems to have designated a type of viola da gamba particularly suitable for the execution of these diminutions—due to its tuning and constitution. Considering the importance attributed to this technique by numerous ancient composers including Girolamo Dalla Casa, Giovanni Bassano, Riccardo and Francesco Rognoni, Orazio and Francesco Maria Bassani, Vincenzo Bonizzi, the relative scarcity of surviving compositions and modern historiography on the subject is surprising.

The seminar will address the technique of the viola bastarda—an instrument some of whose most important luthiers' workshops were located in Venice — as described or alluded to in treatises and repertories printed in Venice such as *Il vero modo di diminuir* by Girolamo Dalla Casa (Venice, 1584); *Mottetti, madrigali et canzoni francesi* by Giovanni Bassano (Venice, 1591), *Passaggi per potersi essercitare nel diminuire terminatamente con ogni sorte di istromenti* by Riccardo Rognoni (Venice, 1592), or *Alcune opere di diversi autori a diverse voci, passaggiate principalmente per la viola bastarda* (Venice, 1626).

The main teacher will be Paolo Pandolfo, renowned specialist and teacher at the Schola Cantorum in Basel, who will conduct a group of four violists accompanied by theorbo, organ and harpsichord, selected through an international **call for scholarships**. The seminar will take place at the Giorgio Cini Foundation, and all participants will be hosted at San Giorgio during five days of intense musical residency.

In addition to music lessons addressed to scholarship holders, the seminar will include a historical-musicological introduction and a final concert. Public and free of charge upon reservation, this concert will take place at the Auditorium "Lo Squero" on Saturday, November 5.

Call for applications of scholarships

The call is addressed to a young professional or semi-professional viola da gamba players, specialized in XVI and XVII century repertoires. In order to apply, please send an e-mail to the secretariat of the seminar: **musica.antica@cini.it** – with the following materials **by September 5, 2022**:

- a detailed CV;
- a copy of an ID document;
- a live video recording of two soloist music pieces belonging to the repertoire, sent as a link of a sharing platform (Google drive, Vimeo, YouTube). **Files sent by WeTransfer or similar transfer providers will not be accepted;**
- a declaration of full commitment to attend the Seminar for the indicated dates (2–6 November 2022), if selected;
- a declaration of agreement to perform a non-commercial, recorded public concert at the end of the seminar.

Scholarships

All selected musicians will be covered for: enrolment fee; accommodation in single rooms; partial board; and travel (in economy class). **Travels must be agreed with, and purchased by, the seminars' secretariat.**

The seminar can be accessed free of charge by listeners upon request (subject to approval) to the secretariat.

Please note that in the event of a worsening of the health situation the seminar may be subject to postponement or cancellation.

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