



Cantar Distanti

Call for applications with scholarships, Fondazione Giorgio Cini

Early-Music Seminars Egida Sartori e Laura Alvini

Director: Pedro Memelsdorff

Master classes: Marco Mencoboni

Venice, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, 19-23 October 2020

Applications are due by: 1 July 2020

The order you have to follow is this: only the voice who starts singing first has to stand next to the organ. The other voices must stay far from the organ, separated from each other, unseen in the church, in the manner of many choirs. This being said, no one is forbidden to sing these concerts with all the singers near the organ; but it makes a much more beautiful effect if they stay away.

The spatial positioning of voices explained by Ignazio Donati in the “Dichiaratione del cantar lontano”, introductory to his *Sacri Concentus unis, binis, ternis, quaternis...* (Venice: Giacomo Vincenti, 1612), reveals a special attention to the relationship between music-making and architecture. His singers, disposed in different locations of a church – namely, all but one *far from the organ* and *separated from each other*, hidden behind architectural structures or decorations – take advantage of the acoustic effect of amplification due to the scattering of sound sources, as well as the theatrical effect of mystery. Thus, a small group of solo voices inexplicably sounds like a multitude of “many choirs”. Donati's device was not new: previous models could be found, ranging from interaction in medieval hockets and the imitative techniques of Renaissance counterpoint to the Venetian or Roman polychoral style. But the pursuit of a “more beautiful effect” indicates a new application in the service of the Baroque rhetoric.

From 19 to 23 October 2020, the Foundation Giorgio Cini, in collaboration with the Concordance, Irma Merk, and L. + Th. La Roche foundations, will devote an Early Music Seminar to the practice advised by Donati: a selected group of young singers, coached by Marco Mencoboni, the most renowned specialist in the field, will experiment and practice the technique, or rather the *art* of arranging musicians of late Renaissance or early baroque polyphony in the architectural spaces of the period. Musics by Ignazio Donati and Claudio Monteverdi will be performed in the church and the former refectory of San Giorgio Maggiore, profiting from the extraordinary effects of the Palladian acoustics. In so doing, the Early Music Seminars will pay tribute to Ignazio Donati, but also respond to a historical moment in which, ironically, singers, instrumentalists, and audience are forced to adapt their own behaviour to the social distancing required by the health emergency caused by the coronavirus. That same distance will here work as a catalyst for a new musical and rhetorical amplification – a metaphor, we hope, of the immortal desire for community.



Call for applications

The call is addressed to young professional or semi-professional vocal quartets and quintets, specialized in 16th-17th century music.

To apply, please send an e-mail to the secretariat of the Seminars (musica.antica@cini.it) with the following materials **by July 1st, 2020**:

- a detailed CV of the ensemble and the individual members;
- a copy of an ID document for each member;
- a link to a live video recording of two 16th-17th century music pieces (**N.B.**: the video recording must present each and everyone of the musicians wishing to attend the Seminar: it is not allowed to send substitutes);
- a declaration of the full commitment of each musician to attend the Seminar for the indicated dates (19-23 October 2020), if selected;
- a declaration of agreement from each musician to perform a non-commercial, recorded public concert at the end of the Seminar.

Scholarships

All members of the selected ensemble will be covered for: enrolment fee, accommodation in single rooms, partial board, and travel (in economy class. **Travel must be agreed with, and purchased by, the Seminars' secretariat**).

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



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