

# From “Exhumation” to “Exigency”: Historical Perspectives on the Intention Behind Alessandro Parisotti's *Arie Antiche* and Its Reception in Vocal Pedagogy

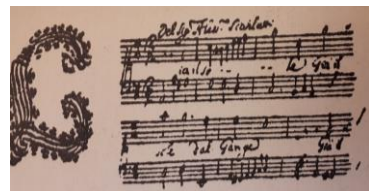


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“I collected the arias from old manuscripts and editions that were leaning forgottenly, and must admit that in this **exhumation** work there were lots of material offered to me” (Parisotti, 1885).



*Arie Antice* vol. 2 (1889), Parisotti's arrangements from a manuscript (Picture: El Atril- Partituras )

## Introduction

Alessandro Parisotti (1853-1913) was an Italian composer and musicologist who worked at the Academy of Santa Cecilia in Rome until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During this time, Italian musical life underwent reforms in conservatories and witnessed the emergence of the first musicological publications, influenced by the prevailing nationalism. These scholarly works were primarily focused on the revival of music from earlier eras, particularly the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Notably, also Parisotti's publication of three volumes of the Italian aria collection *Arie Antiche* (1885-1900) published by Ricordi Publishing House demonstrates his dedication to preserving and popularizing this musical heritage. While the collection was not originally intended for training novice singers, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it has found significant usage among students. Therefore, this project seeks to illuminate Parisotti's original intentions with the collection and analyze its reception within the context of 19<sup>th</sup>—and 20<sup>th</sup>-century vocal pedagogy by interpreting primary sources from this time frame.



ORDINE DEL VOLUME			
FASCICOLO PRIMO.			
Gian Giacomo Carissimi (1613 - 1686). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	1	1	1
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	2	2	2
Maria Antonia Casali (1706 - 1749). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	3	3	3
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	4	4	4
Giovanni Legrenzi (1617 - 1682). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	5	5	5
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	6	6	6
Giovanni Maria Bononcini (1642 - 1704). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	7	7	7
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	8	8	8
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	9	9	9
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	10	10	10
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	11	11	11
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	12	12	12
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	13	13	13
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	14	14	14
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	15	15	15
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	16	16	16
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	17	17	17
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	18	18	18
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	19	19	19
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	20	20	20
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	21	21	21
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	22	22	22
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	23	23	23
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	24	24	24
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	25	25	25
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	26	26	26
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	27	27	27
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	28	28	28
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	29	29	29
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	30	30	30
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	31	31	31
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	32	32	32
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	33	33	33
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	34	34	34
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	35	35	35
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	36	36	36
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	37	37	37
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	38	38	38
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	39	39	39
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	40	40	40
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	41	41	41
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	42	42	42
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	43	43	43
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	44	44	44
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	45	45	45
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	46	46	46
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	47	47	47
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	48	48	48
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	49	49	49
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	50	50	50
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	51	51	51
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	52	52	52
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	53	53	53
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	54	54	54
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	55	55	55
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	56	56	56
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	57	57	57
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	58	58	58
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	59	59	59
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	60	60	60
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	61	61	61
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	62	62	62
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	63	63	63
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	64	64	64
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	65	65	65
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	66	66	66
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	67	67	67
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	68	68	68
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	69	69	69
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	70	70	70
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	71	71	71
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	72	72	72
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	73	73	73
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	74	74	74
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	75	75	75
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	76	76	76
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	77	77	77
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	78	78	78
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	79	79	79
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	80	80	80
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	81	81	81
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	82	82	82
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	83	83	83
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	84	84	84
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	85	85	85
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	86	86	86
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	87	87	87
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	88	88	88
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	89	89	89
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	90	90	90
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	91	91	91
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	92	92	92
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	93	93	93
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	94	94	94
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	95	95	95
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	96	96	96
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	97	97	97
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	98	98	98
Alessandro Scarlatti (1685 - 1757). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	99	99	99
Antonio Caldara (1698 - 1736). Conci Ingegnati. . . . .	100	100	100

*Arie Antice* vol. 1 (1885), cover page and table of contents (Picture: Münchener DigitalisierungsZentrum (MDZ))

## Main Research Questions

The project aims to investigate two crucial aspects concerning the intention and reception behind *Arie Antiche*:

- 1) Given Parisotti's approach to baroque music and the trajectory of his career, what diverse intentions might he have had with *Arie Antiche*?
- 2) How might Parisotti's intention have been perceived at the turn of the century in the context of vocal pedagogy?

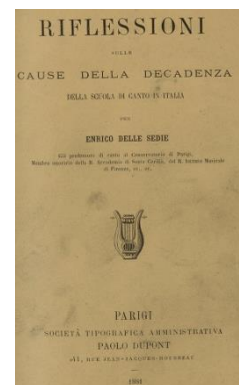
## Initial Research Outcome

An initial inquiry into Parisotti's professional trajectory, affiliations, and resources pertaining to the collection reveals that *Arie Antiche* was primarily intended for salon concerts and amateur singers. All three volumes were dedicated to the queen of Italy, Margherita di Savoia, who was also an amateur singer. Despite the potential insights derived from his association with the Academy of Santa Cecilia, where earlier foreign editions of Italian baroque arias had already been widely disseminated, Parisotti does not delve into the contextual and performance history of this repertoire in any part of the volumes. Instead, he endeavors to present the repertoire as a newly discovered treasure.

However, in this time frame the surge in interest in the music of early Italian masters coincided with the resurgence of early vocal pedagogy. This resurgence followed criticisms of the present singing style, particularly *verismo*, which led to the decline of the traditional *bel canto* that originated from 18<sup>th</sup>-century Italian music. Despite disparities between the expectations of vocal pedagogy and Parisotti's approaches to this repertoire, from the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century singing instructors have consistently incorporated his editions into the training of novice students.



Parisotti and his colleagues at the Academy of Santa Cecilia (Picture: photo archive of Bibliomediateca-Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia)



A treatise from the 1800s by singing teacher and honorary member of the Academy of Santa Cecilia, Enrico Delle Sedie (Picture: IMSLP)

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