

Notes to WIMA's edition of *La Serva Padrona*

La Serva Padrona (The Maid-Mistress) was composed by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736) as an *intermezzo* for his opera seria *Il Prigioniero Superbo*. Its two parts (*intermezzo primo* and *intermezzo secondo*) were inserted between the three acts of *Il Prigioniero*, as “a little light relief for the audience that had to endure so much hatred and passion between the battlefields and the dungeons” of the opera (Helmut Reinold). *Il Prigioniero Superbo*, premiered in September 1733, was a failure. On the other hand, *La Serva Padrona* –eventually represented separately from the opera– was “received favorably in Italy and hysterically abroad” (Richard Crocker).

Pergolesi's *intermezzo* features the old bachelor Uberto and his maidservant Serpina. Although they are constantly at odd with each other, Serpina eventually persuades Uberto to marry her and becomes the home's mistress. Vespone, another servant of Uberto's, is a *muto* character but plays a crucial role in the plot. The score is simple but very effective. It is written for a string quartet where, most of the time, second violins double first violins, and violas double the bass one octave higher.



Frontispiece of the 1804-1805 Paris edition

The present edition at WIMA is based on a printing of *La Serva Padrona* by Auguste Le Duc, appeared in Paris in 1804 or 1805. It is presumably based on the first, extremely successful Parisian performance, in 1752. A public-domain version of this printing is available in pdf format at the digital music library of the University of North Texas, <http://digital.library.unt.edu>.

In the transcription, only some evident mistakes and typos have been corrected in the music, typically, regarding accidentals and a few obviously missing dynamical markings. Otherwise, the printed version of the music was left unchanged. On the other hand, the lyrics in the printing is sometimes unclear, and capitalization and punctuation are not self-consistent. Therefore, the lyrics in the transcription was adapted from a version of the *libretto* included in the booklet of a recorded CD version by Deutsche Harmonia Mundi (RD77184).

The transcription includes midi files for the arias and *duettos*, as well as separate scores for each instrumental part.

Damián H. Zanette
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