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**Venice Music Project:
Restoring Venice's Musical Masterpieces and
Sharing them with the World**

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to be in the first audience to hear an opera by Antonio Vivaldi or one of his contemporary colleagues?

In its second decade as the leading nonprofit association in Italy for musical research, restoration, and performance, Venice Music Project's mission is to elevate the restoration of Venice's lost musical heritage to the level enjoyed by music's sister arts, painting and sculpture. Since 2013, VMP has been rediscovering and restoring music that had been hidden away or lost, sometimes for over 250 years, then performing these Venetian musical treasures in concert halls for the first time in modern history. With each cantata, with each motet, and with our current project – an entire opera – VMP restores a little bit of Venice's rich musical heritage, helping to reestablish Venice's reputation as a center of European Baroque musical excellence and innovation.

Music is Venice, and Venice is music. Their stories intertwine and are told in the melodies of passing time. Thanks to the invaluable archaeological and interpretative work of Venice Music Project, it is now possible to hear lost musical treasures during our Venice-based concert season in the incomparable setting of the Scuola Grande dei Carmini, immersing ourselves in the world of Vivaldi and Casanova. At any concert, we frequently perform this glorious music for the first time in over 250 years, in a historic space similar to the ones it was written for. In some cases, recordings are made and in one case, described below, a documentary film was made so that VMP's discoveries can be shared with music lovers around the world, not only those fortunate enough to travel to Venice.

Restoration projects successfully completed to date include:

2019 Nicolò Jommelli (1714-1774) **Requiem** for string orchestra, choir, and 4 soloists. Performance of modern transcription by Venice Music Project of the most-frequently used Requiem mass setting prior to Mozart.

2020 Giovanni Bononcini (1670-1747) **Astianatte**, lost opera. Performance of modern transcription by Venice Music Project of the surviving arias from a manuscript preserved in Cambridge, UK.

2021 “Neglected Treasures of Venetian Baroque Music”. Along with other manuscripts written for the orphans at the Ospedaletto, an aria by Pasquale Anfossi (1727 – 1797), discovered in a fresco at the Sala della Musica of the Ospedaletto in Venice, was restored. VMP performed the aria in 2021 at the Scuola Grande dei Carmini and the article <https://theconversation.com/music-painted-on-the-wall-of-a-venetian-orphanage-will-be-heard-again-nearly-250-years-later-211995> quickly went viral, prompting interviews by the BBC and the Australian ABC.

2021 Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783) **Salve Regina** in G Major, motet in four movements for soprano and string orchestra. Performance of modern transcription by Venice Music Project

2022 Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783) **L’Armonica**, cantata for soprano, glass harmonica and string orchestra. Performance of modern transcription by Venice Music Project in occasion of the Venice Glass Week 2023.

2022 Carlo Arrigoni (1697-1744) **Flora, misera Flora**, cantata for soprano, solo violin, and basso continuo. Performance of modern transcription by Venice Music Project.

2023 Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783) **La Deposizione dalla Santa Croce**, oratorio for orchestra, chorus, and 5 soloists. Transcription and first performances in modern day over Easter of Venice Music Project’s 2023 Concert Season.

2023 Antonio Sacchini (1730-1786) two **Ave Regina Coelorum**, motets in various movements for soprano and string orchestra. Performance of modern transcriptions by Venice Music Project.

2023 Antonio Caldara (1670-1735) six Motets-duets for voices of soprano, alto, tenor and bass in different combinations, and basso continuo. Thanks to a contribution by Regione Veneto, Venice Music Project transcribed, for the first time according to modern philology criteria, the whole Manuscript 17 preserved at the Biblioteca e Archivio delle Istituzioni di Ricovero e di Educazione IRE of Venice.

2024 Giovanni Porta (1675 - 1755) and Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783), contemporaries of Vivaldi: 2 motets. Discovered in the Montagu Music Collection at Boughton House, UK. The trailer of the documentary recounting this discovery is currently available [here](#).

2024 Kaspar Förster the Young (1616?-1673) **Ferma, rigida Parca**, cantata for solo voice and basso continuo. This cantata is signed under a misspelled name on RISM, and the manuscript is badly damaged; while the missing bars are impossible to be reconstructed due to lost lyrics, Venice Music Project transcribed and performed the cantata for the first time in modern day.

2024 Alessandro Stradella (1643-1682) / Giovanni Legrenzi (1626-1690) “Bella, non piangere,” aria for soprano and basso continuo. First performance in modern day from modern transcription by Venice Music Project.

2025 Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757): opera. Written for 4 sopranos and 2 contraltos, **Tetide in Sciro** tells the story of Achilles's mother, Thetis (Tetide), disguising Achilles as a woman in her desperate attempt to avoid his destined death in the Trojan War. This, our latest project, is underway with a projected performance date in 2026.

Guided by an all-female team, Venice Music Project is unique in several ways: founded by an accomplished and acclaimed singer, Liesl Odenweller, who continues to perform and research music manuscripts, the organization has always focused on both vocal and instrumental music from the height of the Venetian Baroque period. Soprano Caterina Chiarcos, also a soloist, is responsible for the transcriptions of music into a modern and performable version. The musicians also perform with other renowned Baroque ensembles, including Venice Baroque Orchestra and il Pomo d'Oro. Dr. Marica Tacconi, professor of Musicology at Penn State University, is a valuable asset to the research side. Dr. Marcia Radosevich, the chairman of the US board, adds invaluable business expertise.