

Warwick Lister
British Institute, Florence
14 October 2009

Giovanni Battista Viotti (1755-1824)

1755-1766. Fontanetto Po, near Turin.

1766-1779. Turin, under the patronage of the Prince della Cisterna; studies with Gaetano Pugnani; early career as a violinist in the orchestras of the royal chapel and the Teatro Regio.

1780-1782. European tour: Geneva, Berne, Dresden, Berlin, Warsaw, St Petersburg.

1782-1792. Paris: concert violinist (1782-1783), composer, teacher. Patronized by the queen, Marie Antoinette; artistic director of the Théâtre de Monsieur/ Feydeau opera house (1789-1792).

July 1792. Fled to England.

1793-1794. London: solo violinist in Hanover Square (Salomon's) concerts.

April and November-December 1794. Bath: solo violinist in concerts.

December 1794-July 1795. London: 'Acting Manager' of the King's Theatre.

February-May 1795. London: administrative director and solo violinist in the 'Opera' concerts, King's Theatre.

May 1795-November 1796. Withdrew from public appearances.

November 1796-July 1797. London: 'Leader of the Band and Director of the Orchestra' at the King's Theatre and for the 'Opera' concerts; solo violinist at the 'Opera' concerts.

November 1797-March 1798. As above.

March 1798-?1800. Exile in Schönfeld, near Hamburg. Withdrawal from public performance until 1813.

1813-1815 (3 seasons). London: Philharmonic Society: founding member, member of the board of directors, orchestra member and leader, and chamber music player.

November 1819-November 1821. Paris: Director of the Opéra and of the Théâtre Italien.

Works

29 concertos for violin and orchestra

2 sinfonie concertante for two violins and orchestra

about 18 string quartets

about 21 string trios

about 42 violin duets

about 20 sonatas and other pieces for violin and keyboard

6 sonatas for piano with violin accompaniment

a harp sonata with an ad lib violin accompaniment

10 or 12 unpublished vocal pieces

various arrangements of the above works

The Music of Giovanni Battista Viotti (1755-1824)
British Institute Library and Cultural Centre, 14 October 2009

Sonata no. 4, in E major, WV: 10, from Book 2 of *Sonates pour Violon et Basse* (c. 1789)
III: Andantino con variazione

Concerto no. 5, WI: 5 (1782), 2nd movement: Andantino (CD)

'Love thee dearest, love thee,' WVIIa: 3 (c. 1817), words by Thomas Moore

'Par Viotti. Marcia a Due Violini [da] concert[are] da un[o] Solo,' ms. (c. 1817)

String quartet in F major, WII: 13 (1817)
I: Moderato. Dolce e con espressione
III: Andante

Divertissement in A minor, WVa: 7 (1819)
I: Andante. Con grazia ed Espressione

('W' = from the thematic catalogue by Chappell White)

Warwick Lister, violin
James Gray, piano
Dean Janssens, tenor
Ensemble Ricercata
Warwick Lister, violin
Michael Stüve, violin
Alfredo Benedetti, viola
Roger Low, cello

Love thee, dearest, love thee!
Yes by yonder star I swear,
Which thro' tears, above thee,
Shines so sadly fair.
Tho' too oft dim with tears, like him,
Like him my truth will shine;
And love thee, dearest, love thee
Yes till death I'm thine.

Love thee, dearest, love thee!
No that star is not more true;
When my vows deceive thee,
He will wander too.
A cloud of night may veil his light,
And death shall darken mine,
But leave thee, dearest, leave thee!
No 'till death I'm thine.

Concerto no. 27, II, mm. 11-16.