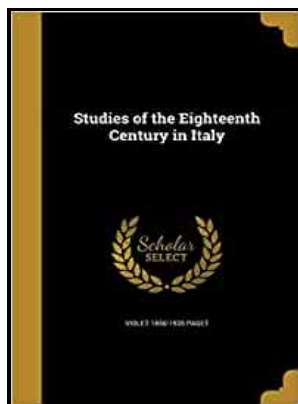


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The only French writer of the day who really understood Italian music was Rousseau, and, because he did, he understood also that his fellow-countrymen would never understand it.

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XXVIU Preface It is upon the character of this musical phrase that depends the character of the piece, sonata, symphony, aria, call it whatever you like, just as it is on the character of the essential architectural elements, such as round arch or ogee, that depends the character of round arched or ogival buildings.

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The Italians had, early in the century, got acquainted with a few English writers — Milton, Pope, and especially Addison — whom not only Barette but Gasparo Gozzi largely imitated, Richardson's novels had also reached Italy, and even suggested plots to Goldoni ; but on the whole there was but little intellectual communication between the two countries until after the year 1750. The evening sunlight, rosy and golden, is gilding the red brick belfry of Sw Giacomo Maggiore, the grass of the quiet little cloister court, the brown fittings of the cosy library of the Bolognese music school.

Studies of the Eighteenth Century in Italy by Vernon Lee

There he was, continually poring over books, though no lover of literature ; continually examining works of art, though no artist, clambering on to the pedestals of statues and into the holes of excavations. The form has attained to perfection, the spirit to maturity ; it has all the richness and strength of human nature ; it is no longer timid and lowly, it is grand and divine ; men, according to Goethe's expression, form the picture of the Divinity after their own highest model, as He had formed them in His own resemblance ; art is no longer a symbol, it is a form, a thought, a feeling which acts independently and directly. Then there are little musical farces performed in the open air, in suburbs or villages, and to them rush all the listless villa inhabitants, and laugh at the droUness of the music or the inexhaustible witticisms of ' See Frignoni's eight enormous volumes.

Context of 18th

The villas are never without literary guests ; some of them, like the splendid Villa Albergati, near Bologna, contain large theatres ; and even in comparatively poor country houses there are enthusiasts, like Count Giacomo Gozzi, who make their children act when scarcely more than babies.

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