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'Vestito a ponti d'oro e a cento corde in seno': history, repertoire and playing techniques of the Italian salterio in the eighteenth century
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Propositions

- 1) The Italian salterio of the eighteenth century is, due to its construction and playing techniques, a distinct instrument that must be considered separately from both earlier and later psaltery or dulcimer instruments.
- 2) The Italian salterio is not an "exotic" instrument in its time, but was played much more frequently than previously thought. This becomes evident in numerous original compositions and original instruments, as well as being a regular part of musical education in schools of the nobility.
- 3) A unique feature of the salterio is that it is played with three different playing techniques in equal measure: Battuto with two hammers, pizzicato with the fingers and pizzicato with plectra. Therefore, it provides an enormous range of sound colors that enables the performer to react on the room, the size of the ensemble and the character of the music.
- 4) The Italian salterio was played primarily by members of the nobility and clergy, both women and men.
- 5) The instrumental landscape of eighteenth-century Italy was one of immense diversity, which is not (yet) reflected in current historically informed performance practice.
- 6) Composition was a matter of course for all musicians in the eighteenth century. Amateurs and professionals alike created their own personal, unique repertoire through it.
- 7) Virtuoso music performance was an important part of aristocratic self-representation. Instruments therefore advanced to social status symbols that manifested the political power of their owners.
- 8) In-depth research on historical performance practice and the practical implementation of the knowledge gained through it significantly expands the musical expression of today's interpretation.
- 9) The *Original Salzburger Mozartkugel* is made of marzipan, pistachios, hazelnut nougat and dark chocolate, created individually by hand and wrapped in silver paper.
- 10) The wealth of varieties of Belgian beer is a true revelation.