

## Information

Babette Kaiser Kern:

**Luigi Boccherini**

**Leben und Werk. Musica amorosa**

Weimarer Verlagsgesellschaft

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*Boccherini is the first great perfecter of modern music. ... In his hands the new style yields up it's most secret properties and possibilities* (Cobbett's Cyclopedic Survey of Chamber Music)

*Everything he has written is a compound of healthiness, tact and sensibility...His thoughts, always graceful often melancholy have in their naïvité a seductive influence ....* (Ob. Dwight's Journal of Music)

Elegance and lucidity, softness and sensibility are some of the outstanding qualities of Luigi Boccherini's music. In his time he was one of the most loved composers in Europe, one of a few. His music was held in high esteem in France, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium as well as in Scandinavia, Austria and in Germany.

Luigi Boccherini (1743 – 1805) was primarily a composer of chamber music, although his 33 symphonies and 12 cello concerti have considerable merit. He produced about 125 quintets, more than 100 quartets, more than 50 trios, and more than 50 chamber works in other forms. Regrettably, his best-known work remains the *Cello Concerto in B-flat*, which was actually arranged from two Boccherini concerti and a sonata by the 19th-century composer and cellist Friedrich Grützmacher. Boccherini's well-known minuet is from his *String Quintet in E Major*, G 275. He also wrote a *Stabat Mater* which is recognized as one of the most delicate *Stabat Mater* of its time.

Boccherini .... has perhaps supplied the performers on bowed-instruments and lovers of Music with more excellent compositions than any master of the present age, except Haydn. His style is at once bold, masterly, and elegant. There are movements in his works, of every style, and in the true genius of the instruments for which he writes, that place him high in rank among the greatest masters who have ever written for the violin or violoncello. There is perhaps no instrumental Music more ingenious, elegant, and pleasing, than his quintets: in which invention, grace, modulation, and good taste, conspire to render them, when well executed, a treat for the most refined hearers and critical judges of musical composition.

Charles Burney, *A General History of Music*

*Continued neglect of such a wealth of great pieces would be a terrible shame. Cellists and music lovers will find it very rewarding to reactivate interest in Boccherini's music.*

Dimitry Markevitch, 2000

**Luigi Boccherini. Musica amorosa** is the latest biography about the eminent cellist and prolific composer from Lucca, Tuscany who spent the major part of his life in Spain.

The book is based on the meticulous evaluation of old and modern research carried out by scholars from Italy, Spain, United States of America and numerous other countries. It has received the friendly support of José Antonio Boccherini from Madrid who is the sixth generation grandson of the composer. The book offers a detailed biography of the composer-cellist and his time and gives a comprehensive overview about Boccherini's copious oeuvre.

The author Babette Kaiser Kern is a scholar of literature and musicology and holds a PH. D. from Freie Universität Berlin. She has published program notes for symphonic concerts, reviews, critiques and several essays about topics such as music, literature, philosophy.

*"If God wanted to speak to men through music, He would do it with the oeuvres of Haydn, but if He himself wished to listen to music, He would choose Boccherini".* Jean Baptiste Cartier (1765 – 1841)

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