

## **La congregazione italiana di Praga and its place in Prague musical life during the 16th and 17th centuries**

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The paper aims to introduce the Prague Italian Congregation and its work in the 16th and 17th centuries, to evaluate its direct and indirect contribution to Prague's musical life and to look into the musical privacy of its selected members. Prague Italian Congregation was founded by Italian settlers in Prague already in 1573. With the influx of Italian craftsmen and merchants, attracted by the imperial court after 1583, the importance of the congregation increased considerably. The magnet, however, was not only the imperial court, but also suitable conditions for settling in a tolerant environment of mostly non-Catholic Prague. The Congregation provided the necessary background for the Prague Italian minority (Catholic religion), numbering 300-400 at the turn of the century, and it was followed by other key institutions (chapel, hospital, school, cemetery). Of course, music was often involved in the lively life of the congregation. Among the immigrants, most often coming from the northern parts of Italy, were also musicians, dancers and other artists. In addition to professional craftsmen and artists, there were also those who came to Prague for whom art was an integral part of their business or clerical everyday life. These were often the leaders of the congregation, such as Giovanni Antonio Losio († 1682) or Giovanni Pietro Pedroni (1622-1708), both multiple rectors of the congregation. At the end of the paper our attention will be focused on the musical significance of both mentioned.