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„*The family tree. Innovation and inspiration in Giovanni Sollima’s cello output in the context of the achievements of some Italian composers of the Baroque and Classical periods*”

Summary

Giovanni Sollima is a contemporary Italian cellist-composer. His output includes mostly cello pieces that he composes for himself, often on the basis of improvisation. In his works one can clearly hear the influence of minimal music and sonoristics. Sollima’s musical inspirations include Early Music, ethnic music of the Mediterranean basin and also of the Far East. Combining all these elements Giovanni Sollima has managed to create his own, interesting style that is on the border between classical and popular music. His cello output includes 49 works which are very demanding for a performer from the technical point of view. The innovative performing elements present in Sollima’s output and described in this doctoral dissertation are not necessarily elements that the composer applied for the first time in the history of music. On the other hand, however, they are so unusual that the author considered them worth analysing.

The thesis consists of three parts. In the historical part the author wants to bring closer the cello history with particular consideration of its Italian roots. At the same time, the author examines the development of the cello technique and describes some Italian composers that inspired Giovanni Sollima in his musical research. The second part of the dissertation focuses on artistic personality of the composer and on the main characteristics of his output. In the third part the author analyses selected Sollima’s works and also innovative performing elements present in his cello pieces. The addendum contains complete list of Sollima’s cello works and of his discography. The work of art accompanying the thesis contains 7 pieces of different character and number of performers.

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