



LEONARDO LEO
IL FIGLIUOL PRODIGO

**Sacred solo cantatas and
instrumental works**

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Salve Regina in c

Toccata for harpsichord solo in c

Il figliuol prodigo

Lezione del giovedì santo

Salve Regina in F

ensemble &cetera

Ulrike Hofbauer, soprano

Peter Barczy, violin

Eva Borhi, violin

Matthieu Camilleri, viola

Bernadette Köbele, violoncello

Julian Behr, lute

Markus Hünninger, harpsichord and organ

Leonardo Leo, born in Naples in 1694, studied under Nicola Fago and probably also under Alessandro Scarlatti. He made a name for himself with oratorios and comic operas -- the latter in Neapolitan dialect -- as well as sacred music for the Mass. He taught at two conservatories in Naples in addition to his positions as maestro di capella of the church of Santa Maria dei Turchini and in the royal chapel.

The conflicting loyalties of Neapolitan audiences (some preferring Leo, others his rival Durante) cultivated the flexibility of his style: his inventive melodies, often inspired by Neapolitan folk tunes, are artfully woven counterpoint, punctuated with dramatic harmonies and virtuosic turns of phrase.