CHURCH MUSIC AND MUSICIANS
IN LATE MEDIEVAL MALTA
Stanley Fiorini

The Maltese legends centred on the figure of Count Roger have it that the Count banished the Muslims from these islands and, among other achievements, reconstructed the cathedral and established in it canonries and benefices. It is well known that events did not quite happen that way. The process of re-Christianization was a slow one and the people long remained, in their large majority, Muslims; an Italo-Byzantine exiled in Malta for decades in the mid-twelfth century moans that his co-inhabitants were ‘sons of Agar the godless’; in 1175 Bishop Burchard describes the island as infested with Saraceni; and as late as 1241 it is patently clear from Abate Giliberto’s census that the population was in its great majority Muslim. Yet the administration entrenched by Roger I in 1127 was undoubtedly Latin. Besides government functionaries, soldiers, and merchants, the establishment also included the Church and particularly the Mdina cathedral. Admittedly, the earliest document relating to the cathedral building does not antedate 1299, but long before, the presence of an active church is in evidence. The see of Malta is already mentioned in 1156, Bishop Johannes of Malta, albeit absent from the island, is active in 1168, and Johannes Zafarana Maltensis Canonicus is documented in 1244. If the Maltese cathedral had its canons by 1244, then this is a sure sign that the Divine Office used to be sung then. In fact, a somewhat later reference to a Cantor of the Cathedral confirms this.

More than two centuries had to pass from these very early indications of musical activity at the cathedral for more solid evidence to come to light. This evidence comes in the form of receipts for payments to various individuals whose employment by the cathedral was necessitated by its liturgical services. Reference is made to the organists, the choir-masters, and the scripturi or copyists that produced the liturgical books. The object of this note is to present what evidence has been gleaned on this activity up to around 1540.

The cathedral appears to have employed a cleric, on short-term contracts, to teach cantus firmus, probably to be interpreted as plain chant, to its chapter and clergy, certainly from 1515 onwards. Originally these tended generally to be foreigners but by 1530, only Maltese are encountered. In 1515 Don Andriotta Scavuni was paid ten tari per month in haviri recto scola di canto fermo in decoracioni dicte

2 A. Pertusi, ‘Le isole Maltesi dall’Epoca Bizantina al Periodo Normanno e Svevo (Secc.VI-XIII) a Descrizioni di esse dal Sec.XII al Sec.XVI’, Byzantinische Forschungen 5 (1977) 289.
ecclesie cathedralis. In 1517 one encounters Mastro Canturi Don Nicola Catalano, in 1523 the Maltese Don Domenico Vella, and in 1527-28 Don Andrea de Federico nicknamed 'huayne' (little eye), also Maltese, who were all paid at the same rate; in 1533 Venerabili Misser Joan Aloysi Scagluni, cantiuri conducto ad insignari lo clero, was paid twice as much for six months. Thereafter, several references to work by the Maltese Padre Petro Callus of the Augustinians are encountered. He taught chant to six clerics for a whole year starting in July 1535. Callus must have made quite a bit of money giving private tuition in canto fermo to clerics who were willing to pay for individual attention. Thus, in November 1535, Callus bound himself by contract to teach cantus firmus to Don Antonio Vitali for a fee of 24 tari; lessons were to take place every day during sext and vespers at the master's convent; a similar contract was signed the following March in favour of Don Francesco Falca. Twelve years later, Callus was still active in this field. Between 1537 and 1539 Don Simuni Ferriolus is described as Mastro di scuola Jn choro dicte cathedralis per insignari li yaconj et altri che havisairo bispognu cantarj et diri tucto quello fachissi bisogn o in lo officio di dicta ecclesie. It is being suggested here that cantus firmus refers to plain or Gregorian chant, one of the accepted meanings in contemporary literature. Of interest also in this context is the somewhat later reference to canto Gregoriano e (canto) figurato which seminarians were expected to practise according to the rulings of the diocesan synod of 1590. It is clear that canto figurato is here used in opposition to canto Gregoriano. This is a clear allusion to polyphonic music. Going back to cathedral choir-masters, the last mentioned Ferriolu was for a long time in the 1530s also one of the organists at the cathedral. Evidence for the existence of an organist there, however, antedates this by several decades. The earliest reference found to date, in fact, goes back to 1494 when Venerabili Frati Joannes (de) Rapis occupied that position; he was paid an annual salary of 5 uncie. From 1515 onwards for the next thirty years or so, the scene became dominated by Don Lorenzo Caxaro, one time Vicarius Generalis of the diocese. In spite of his standing in the church and right from the start, his position as organist was challenged both from abroad as well as from within; the question of salaries appears to have been the issue. It was discussed in the town-council whether Caxaro, who was being paid 10 uncie annually, should be replaced either by the Sicilian Honorabili Mastro Petro Fauczuni, who was demanding 12 uncie, or by the Maltese deacon Ximuni Ferriolu, very much Caxaro's junior, who was prepared to accept only 5 uncie. Caxaro managed to hold on; he was further paid an extra uncia annually to pay the bellows-blower, who in 1514 is known to have been Cola dili Nasi nicknamed di Santu Pauolu. A second attempt to dislodge Caxaro was made by Petro Falsuni's faction in the town-council in 1522. Falsuni's expertise in dismantling and reconstructing the organ, which was then badly in need of repairs — menzo guasto — was again appealed to. It appears that the post was in fact given to Fauczuni but for some unstated reasons he could not take up the position, so that Caxaro in effect for a second time managed to remain enounced, only with a difference; Ferriolu made a second come-back for the post and this time managed to secure a joint position with Caxaro. The situation was formalized in 1524 when they were given an eight-year contract, whereby a total of eleven uncie was to be divided between them, 6 to the senior Caxaro and 5 to the junior Ferriolu, ‘obligati insoludim a sonari accordari et fari accordari lo organo di dicta ecclesiae'.}

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**References:**

2. Ibid. (26.vii.1517) 75. Contract in acts of Notary Pietro de Alemno (untraced) signed on 1st January. 3. Ibid. Mandati M2 (22.x.1523) 42.
4. Ibid. ff.274,405: 'Don Andrea de federico dicto huayne...Don Andrea auoyne.'
5. Ibid. Mandati M3 (22.viii.1533) 53.
8. Ibid. (7.xi.1536) 240v-241.
10. MCM ACM Miscellanea 36 (23.i.1494) 65,66 = Document I. 11. Ibid. (30.xii.1496) 51v-52 = Document III.
12. Ibid. (22.viii.1533) 53.
15. Ibid. (7.xi.1536) 240v-241.
16. MCM ACM Miscellanea 36 (23.i.1494) 65,66 = Document I. 17. Ibid. (30.xii.1496) 51v-52 = Document III.
18. Ibid. (22.viii.1533) 53.
20. Ibid. (22.viii.1533) 53.
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being remunerated in kind. 20 Soon after this de Rapis died and in April 1496, Don Lorenzo Vagnolo signed a contract with Bishop Valguarnera binding himself to play the cathedral organ as necessary for an annual salary of 6 uncie. 21 Just two months later, another contract was signed with Don Nicola de Virmiglia who appears to have replaced Vagnolo and whom he bound himself to teach; 22 perhaps Vagnolo’s performance turned out to be not of the highest calibre.

From 1515 onwards for the next thirty years or so, the scene became dominated by Don Lorenzo Caxaro, one time Vicarius Generalis of the diocese. 23 In spite of his standing in the church and right from the start, his position as organist was challenged both from abroad as well as from within; the question of salaries appears to have been the issue. It was discussed in the town-council whether Caxaro, who was being paid 10 uncie annually, should be replaced either by the Sicilian Honorabili Mastro Petro Fauczuni, who was demanding 12 uncie, or by the Maltese deacon Ximuni Ferriolu, very much Caxaro’s junior, who was prepared to accept only 5 uncie. 24 Caxaro managed to hold on; 25 he was further paid an extra uncia annually to pay the bellows-blower, 26 who in 1514 is known to have been Cola dili Nasi nicknamed di Santu Paulu. 27 A second attempt to dislodge Caxaro was made by Petro Falsuni’s faction in the town-council in 1522. 28 Falsuni’s expertise in dismantling and reconstructing the organ, which was then badly in need of repairs — menzo guasto — was again appealed to. It appears that the post was in fact given to Fauczuni but for some unstated reasons he could not take up the position, 29 so that Caxaro in effect for a second time managed to remain ensconced, only with a difference; Ferriolu made a second come-back for the post and this time managed to secure a joint position with Caxaro. 30 The situation was formalized in 1524 when they were given an eight-year contract, 31 whereby a total of eleven uncie was to be divided between them, 6 to the senior Caxaro and 5 to the junior Ferriolu, “obligati insolidum a sonari accordari et fari accordari lo organo dicla ecclesial. 32

20 MCM ACM Miscellanea 36 (23.i.1494) 65,66 = Document I.
22 Ibid. (30.vi.1496) 51v-52 = Document III.
24 Caxaro is first encountered in November 1515 when he was being paid 10 uncie “per sonarj et farj sonarj lo organo di dicla ecclesial. 33
26 NLM Univ. 12 (3.i.1516) 134v.
27 ACM Mandati M1 (30.x.1516) 27v, (12.x.1517) 61, (7.xii.1518) 30,34; 1 (xii.1519) 85.
28 Ibid. (7.xii.1518) 30, (5.xii.1519) 87, (7.v.1521) 401.
29 Ibid. (27.x.1514) 61.
30 NLM Univ. 12 (26.i.1522 ab inc.-(1523)) 314v.
31 Ibid. (30.xii.1524) 375v.
32 ACM Mandati M1 (8.i.1522) 320, (11.i.1522) 316; Mandati M2 (22.i.1523) 34, (23.i.1523) 36, (2.vi.1523) 38.
33 NLM Univ. 12 (30.xii.1524) 375v.
34 ACM Mandati M2 (10.i.1534) 101, (1.i.1535) 8, (11.i.1535) 6, (10.i.1536) 383, (21.i.1536) 381, (15.i.1537) 96, (30.vi.1537) 258, (2.i.1538) 631, (28.iv.1538) 407, (1.v.1538) 403, Misc.x (12.iv.1539) 600; Mandati M2 (29.i.1538) 454, (6.v.1538) 446, (1.i.1539) 473, (29.i.1539) 471.
The much needed repairs to the organ referred to in 1522 were carried out, under Caxaro’s supervision, by a mastro organista brought over from Sicily for the purpose.33

The rivalry between Caxaro and Ferriolu is very much in evidence in 1532. Ferriolu’s appointment to a canony was taken as a pretext to dispense with his services, particularly since Caxaro simultaneously offered to start accepting only 10 uccie for his unaided services instead of the 11 previously paid to both organists jointly.34 The situation did not last long; within the year Ferriolu re-appears to Falsuni,41 including ones for work on the organ for an overall fee of 15 uccie to fix the instrument.35 The tussle went on. The following year Caxaro and Ferriolu reverted to the original6:5 ratio of payment, 36 but thereafter Ferriolu emerges as the sole victor. One can say that Ferriolu got removed by being promoted to choir-master in 1535, as discussed earlier, and not without a reason. In that year Caxaro appears as joint organist with his natural but illegitimate son Salvo;37 no doubt, Salvo was being groomed for the place all along, which explains why the good vicar general was holding on so desperately to the post.

But then the cathedral organ was silenced. In 1537 it again badly needed seeing to. This time it is clearly stated that Petro Fauczuni from Sicily, who had shown keen interest in being employed as organist twenty years earlier, was employed to effect the necessary repairs. Six uccie worth of tin were brought by Fauczuni himself from Palermo for the purpose,38 the money covered also the insurance. Other material, including copper wire (filu di ramu sive ferru) was obtained later.39 A contract was drawn up on 16 April 1538, whereby Falzuni bound himself to fix the instrument for an overall fee of 15 uccie.40 Several payments were made to Fauczuni,41 including ones for work on the ‘bancuni di contrabaxu et conducti dilo organi’, ‘per factura et conczatura dili registri’,42 ‘per fari la caxa sive bancuni dilo organi grandi’,43 as well as for ‘pelli per li organi’,44 which were skins used either to reinforce the bellows or to make the wind-chest air-proof. The terminology used suggests that a fairly large organ was then in use.

The example set by the cathedral was followed by other churches. The earliest recorded instance of installation of an organ outside the mother church, noticed to date, is that of Sant’A Maria Jesu at Rabat, which was purchased in 1548.45 The organist in the 1550s is known to have been none other than Mastro Petro Falusi; he died in Malta in February 1560.46 It is not unlikely, however, that the Augustinians for example, who provided teachers of music for the cathedral earlier on, also had their own organ. It is further known that in the 1620s the Dominicans at Rabat needed to replace the organ that had been wrecked during the corsair incursion of 1551,47 so that it is very likely that an organ had been installed there for some time before that year.

Besides musicians and teachers of music, the cathedral also employed a number of men, versed in letters, in the production of her liturgical books. The most prolific period in this respect, as well as the earliest encountered to date, is the decade 1527-1538. Liturgical books must have been in use all along,48 but after 1527 and in keeping with the general trend of renovation at the time,49 it appears that a whole new set of liturgical books was being commissioned then. Various names of copyists are recorded, including both local and foreign scriptori or scribes. Don Petro La Cruci, probably a Sicilian, was commissioned to copy various psalters

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34 MCM ACM Mandati M3 (14.iv.1532) 7.  
36 Ibid. (15.iv.1534) 143.  
37 Ibid. (16.i.i.1535) 361: ‘Donno Lorenzo Caxaro et so figlio Salvo obligati insolidum a sonari li organi et far harmoni li manchi’.  
38 Ibid. Mandati M4 (11.i.1536) 79, (15.x.1543) 204, (11.xii.1543) 266.  
39 See also G. Wettiger, ‘Quainbachinam among the clergy of Malta and Gozo ca.1420-1560’, Journal of the Faculty of Arts, 6(4) (1977) 171, where reference is made to the contract of employment of the Caxaro, father and son, as in the acts of Not. Brancan Caxaro (NAV R117/1 1619.4.1538).  
41 Ibid. Mandati M3 (5.v.1537) 456.  
42 Among the several payments to Faluzi (cf. Footnotes 41-44) there was made to this contract variously described as in the acts of Notary G. Buttigieg or in those of Notary Brancan Caxaro; unfortunately, it could not be traced in either.  
44 Ibid. Mandati M3 (30.xi.1538) 496 and Mandati M4 (5.1.1539) 25. See also Mandati M4 (7.i.1539) 237.  
46 Ibid. (11.vii.1538) 587.  
47 Archivio Provinciale O.F.M. Malta, Ms.1 65: ‘Doem li organi custauro une treinta in temepo guardia’ di malta 1548’. Access to this document has been kindly provided by Rev. Fr. George Aquilina O.F.M.  
48 Archivio Archiepiscopi Cathedrales Melitiae, Liber Baptizatorum, Confirmatorum, Matrimoniorum et Dei Defunctorum I (26.ii.1540) 779.  
49 M. Fasini, Id-Dinmieni fl-Rabat u fl-Birgu sa l-1620, (Malta, 1974) 45.  
50 Some biblical and liturgical texts of paramount historical interest and which must have been in use at the cathedral well before the period under discussion, are still extant and rightfully jealously guarded in the cathedral museum. Prominent among these is the Codex Evangeliorum Melitensis, a XII-century codex of the four gospels on parchment with miniatures and a very fine silver cover bearing an image of Saint Paul not unlike that on the famous relatable at the same museum. It is possibly identified with the ‘liber Sancti Pauli’, referred to in NLM.11 (20.vi.1473) 749r, on which solemn oaths used to be taken, as was certainly the practice in later centuries. This codex has been studied, in the context of the Codices Siciliani Normanni, by the German scholar Valentino Gozzano on which solemn oaths used to be taken, as was certainly the practice in later centuries. This codex has been studied, in the context of the Codices Siciliani Normanni, by the German scholar Valentino Gozzano.
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33 MCM ACM Mandati M3 (29.v.1538) 407: ‘per pagar Juro Reverendo (Don Lawrence Caxaro) la sua rata al Mastro Organista lo quali al presente conca di organi per loro portato serio de Sicilia per concarri di organi’. 
34 Ibid. (11.ii.1539) 587: ‘pagamento per fari lu posti per li organi e tanta cola ad opu di dicto organo’. 
35 MCM ACM Mandati M3 (14.v.1539) 7. 
36 Ibid. (18.v.1539) 79: ‘11 unci Donno Lawrence Caxaro et Donnu Ximunj Ferriolu insoliddum a omni usa la miati’. 
37 Ibid. (15.v.1534) 143. 
38 Ibid. (16.ii.1535) 301: ‘Donno Lorenzo Caxaro et so fijlo Salvo obligati insoliddum a sonari li organi et farj minari li mantichi’. 
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42 Ibid. Mandati M3 (30.xi.1538) 496 and Mandati M4 (5.ii.1539) 245. See also Mandati M4 (7.i.1539) 237 
43 Document V 
44 Ibid. Mandati M3 (25.x.1538) 511. 
46 Archivio Provinciale O.F.M. Malta, Ms.1 f.61: ‘I temi li organi custoro u nej trenta in tempore guar­diano (Bernardin) di melia 1549’. Access to this document has been kindly provided by Rev. Fr. George Aquilina O.F.M. 
47 Archivio Archi­prebiteri Cathedralis Melitiae, Liber Baptizatorum, Confirmatorum, Matrimoniorum et Defuntorum I (26.vi.1560) 779. 
48 M. Fsadni, Id-Dumnikani fir-Rabat u fil-Birgu sa l-1620, (Malta, 1974) 45. 
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50 The sources being utilised in this study are a particularly rich fount of information on activities at the cathedral at the time; a lot can be deduced particularly on artistic activity. This point will be elaborated in the critical study accompanying the full publication of this material.
in 1528, whereas one particular psalter was entrusted to Frati Joanni Xebiras of the Augustinians. It is hardly surprising to learn that Xebiras was an expert both at writing Latin inscriptions (he was commissioned to produce a marble plaque marking the adv:nt of L’Isle Adam in 1530), and at painting; he was employed to paint the dial of the cathedral clock in 1533. In 1535 Don Vittorio (de) Manueli was brought over from Trapani and worked here for more than two years, copying an antiphonario. It appears that he spent an initial period of three months in Malta in 1535; record of payment of rent in this connexion is extant, and so are his receipts for various payments. Two contracts were subsequently signed in 1535 and in 1537 in this regard. Thereafter, payment of two years' rent was effected on his behalf in 1537, and several other payments for his work, that is completed in August 1537, were also made that year. Other work was entrusted to local copyists, both members of the Order and Maltese; among the former one finds the French knight Fra Matheus Arsemo who, in 1536, copied a 'graduale' for the cathedral. Among work produced by Maltese copyists one finds various antiphonarii and a psalterium copied by Clerico Joannes Bartolo in 1537, and a graduale produced by Frati Joannes Antoni ManJuni of the Dominicans in 1538. It is recorded that the parchment skins were obtained by ManJuni through Magnifico Anfrano Camogi of Palermo; he was paid for the horse he had to hire between Licata and Palermo to fetch the skins. Camogi is mentioned on more than one occasion obtaining skins for this purpose. Several purchases of parchment skins are recorded during this period, some explicitly stated to have been produced locally; two payments were made to Frati Matheo dilo que marking the

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Document I

Authorization of salary payment to Frati Joannes de Rapis and three receipts.

MCM ACM Misc.36 (23.1.1494) 65,66.

f.65 xxiiij Januarij XII:° Jndictionis m\00ccclxxiiijiiij Nuy don michellj faucurj vigiari generali di lo Reverendissimo Signjur episopu di la citatj di Malta Juffre de aguane Joannes de Nava nardu calava et paulu vaccaru iurati civitatis predicte comandamo a vuj honorabili perj caruana yconimo et procuraturj di la ecclesia catedralj sancti pauli ky di li fratj Joannj rapj organista salariato per sonarj anno incomenczandu di lo primo Jornu presentis mensis Januarij perfina alo prin-

somewhat later contract for the copying of a liturgical book is particularly interesting insofar as it is explicitly stated that the text was according to the Gallican Rite. This rite, which was in use also in Sicily, was banned from the Maltese diocese by Duzina in 1575.

The binding of the books was also done locally by the two De Cachi priests - Don Antonello, and Don Leonardo. In one other instance a layman, Antonellu Lazu, is mentioned as doing this work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Grateful thanks to Rev. Can. John Azzopardi, Curator of the Cathedral Museum, for his generous and valuable assistance, and to Dr. Hugo Agius Muscat for stimulating conversations on the subject.

Since the writing up of this note, Can. J. Azzopardi kindly brought to my attention the work 'La Cappella Musicale della Cattedrale e i suoi Rapporti con la Sicilia', Musica Sacra in Sicilia tra Rinascimento e Barocco (1985) 47-67, which surveys the musical activities at the cathedral to present times. The two papers can be viewed as complementary to each other.

A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS

Document I
somewhat later contract for the copying of a liturgical book is particularly interesting insofar as it is explicitly stated that the text was according to the Gallican Rite. This rite, which was in use also in Sicily, was banned from the Maltese diocese by Duzina in 1575.

The binding of the books was also done locally by the two De Cachi priests – Don Antonello, and Don Leonardo. In one other instance a layman, Antonellu Lazu, is mentioned as doing this work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Grateful thanks to Rev. Can. John Azzopardi, Curator of the Cathedral Museum, for his generous and valuable assistance, and to Dr. Hugo Agius Muscat for stimulating conversations on the subject.

Since the writing up of this note, Can. J. Azzopardi kindly brought to my attention his work ‘La Cappella Musicale della Cattedrale e i suoi Rapporti con la Sicilia’, Musica Sacra in Sicilia tra Rinascimento e Barocco (1985) 47-67, which surveys the musical activities at the cathedral to present times. The two papers can be viewed as complementary to each other.

A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS

Authorization of salary payment to Frati Joannes de Rapis and three receipts.

MCM ACM Misc.36 (23.1.1494) 65,66.

f.65 xxiiiJ9 Januarij XIIIJ9 Jndictionis mOocccclxxiiiij Nuy don michelj fauzuny vigiari generali di lo Reverendissimo Signurj episcope di la citatj di Malta Juffre de aguane Joannes de Nava nardu calava et paulu vaccaru iurati civitatis predicte comandamo a vuj honorabili perj caruana yconimo et procuraturj di la ecclesia catedralj sancti pauli nardu calava et paulu vaccaru iuratj civitatis predicte.

Authorization of salary payment to Frati Joannes de Rapis and three receipts.

CHURCH MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

Document I

MCM ACM Misc.36 (23.1.1494) 65,66.
cipiu di ginnaro proxime sequenti li qualj dinarj chi darriti di terczu in terczo more solito richipendu da ipsu solito more apoca de recepto et a cautela vj ficimo farj lu presentj comandamentu di nostrj proprij manu subscriptu et confirmatu.

+ Nos Donnus michael de falsono vicarius generalis confirmamus
+ (vacat)
+ Ego goffridus de sguanes Juratus confirmo
+ Ego leonardus calava Juratus confirmo
+ Eu paulu vaccaru Joratu confirmu
+ Ego Johannes de N ava Juratus confirmo.

xxvj0 Januarij Eu fratrj Johannj derapia confessu havirj richiputu di paulu zurkj pro partj et nomine di Misser Perj caruana uncej ij et unaltra unceja per manu di Misser raynerj calava et tarj x di notarj paulu lu qualj mj donau xiiij pulinj di fruxunj et cussj su contentu di lu primu terczu ky mi divia la ecclesia di Santu Paulu per lu meu salariu unci(arum) x anno quilibet Et perky satiafij accusi faczu la presentj manu propria.

xii0 marcij
Eu fratrj Johannj de rapis confessu havirj richiputu per manu di lu nobili misser perj caruana comu procuraturj di la matrij ecclesia uncej ij et tarenj x et unceza una per manu di fratrj Johannj Antonj pro partj di lu supradictu misser perj li qualj uncej ij et tarenj x su di lu secundu terczu di lu meu salariu di sonarj li organj a Santu Paulu arraxunj di uncej x pro annu et perky sta cussi la veritatj faczu la presentj manu propria.

f.65v (vacat)

f.66 xxiiij0 septembris XIII0 Indictionis
Eu fratrj Johannj de rapis confessu havirj richiputu di paulu zurkj pro partj et nomine di Misser Perj caruana uncej ij et tarenj x et unaltra unceja per manu di Misser raynerj calava et tarj x di notarj paulu lu qualj mj donau xiiij pulinj di fruxunj et cussj su contentu di lu primu terczu ky mi divia la ecclesia di Santu Paulu per lu meu salariu unci(arum) x anno quilibet Et perky satiafij accusi faczu la presentj manu propria.

Document II

Notarial deed for salary payment to Don Laurenczo de Vagnolo


f.48 d.c. xviiij0 eiusdem Salarium

Document III

Notarial deed appointing Don Nicola de Virmiglia as cathedral organist, stipulating the salary and, inter alia the condition to instruct the cleric de Vagnolo in organ playing.


f.51v Locacio Organiste

Pro ecclesia cathed- rali melite contra Valguarnara Episcopus melitanus et Magnifici Domini Donnum Nicolaum Juratj civitatis et Jnsole melite videlicet Magnificus de Virmiglia Antonius Gact desguanes Nobilis laurencius de falsono et nobilis manfridus de cazaro tamquam yconomus cathedralis ecclesie melitane con­duxerunt Venerabilem donnum Nicolaum de virmiglia presentem et se locantem etc. ad sonandum organa dicte cathedralis ecclesie anno uno continuo et completo incipiendo a crastina die primo madij per uncias aurij decem ponderis generalis solvendas detercio Jntercio Jta et pro tymolium erat solvij quondam fratrj Johannj de Rapis predecessorj organista eiusdem donij nicolai cum condccione quod dictus donus nicolai teneatur seque promisit et se obligavit quod eodem salario docere et instruere prefatum donnum clericum laurenci diu sonandum ad sonandum or­tig a organa durante dicto anno et cum reservatione quod si venerit frater antonj de Castro Johanne dictu pericunj ad litteras eiusdem Reverendissimi domini Episcopi Jam sibi transmissas quod eo casu dictus donus nicolai debeat se f.52 abstinere a dicta locacione et cedere Jpsam conducionem dicto fratri/Antonio et pro donno laurencio Testamur quod nobis Notario et testibus Jnfrascriptis de vagnolo contra convocatis et serio presentibus Jn presencia Reverendissimi Ecclesiam cathed- ralis melite palatium sive residencie melite Jbidemque existentibus Magnificis Juratij eiusdem civitatis melite videlicet Magnifico Johanne de la habica Magnifico Antonio gact desguanez Egredio laurencio de falczono Reverendissimus dominus Episcopus Jps et Magnifici domini Jurati Jpsei constituerunt Jn salariu et pro salario donnj laurencij de vagnolo ad opus sonanj organa cathedralis ecclesia melitane Juxta solitum tempus ad racionem de uncis sex ponderis generalis et pecunie usalalia Regnej Sicilie pro quodij singulo anno declarantes quod Jam Jncepit serve ad principio mensia marej primo preterito presente dicto donno laurencio et acceptante ac se obligante serve ad racionem predictam ad beneplacitum dictorum dominorum Episcopi et Juratorum et acipere salariu de tercio Jn tercium ut est solitum. Unde etc. Testes Egregius Andreas de falczono Magister michael de ferriolo et paulus zurky.
cipiu di ginnaro proxime sequenti li qualj dinarj chi darriti di terczu in terczo more solito richipendu da ipsu solito more apoca de recepto et a cautela vj ficimo farj lu presentj comandamentu di nostrj proprij manu subscriptu et confirmatu.
+ Nos Donnus michael de falsono vicarius generalis confirmamus
+ (vacat)
+ Ego goffridus de sguanes Juratus confirmo
+ Ego leonardus calava Juratus confirmo
+ Eu paulu vaccaru Joratu confirmu
+ Ego Johannes de N ava Juratus confirmo.
xxvj 0 Januarij Eu fratrj Johannj derapia confesseravij richiputu di paulu zurfj pro partj et nomine di Misser Perj caruana unczj i et unaltra uncsa per manu di Misser raynerj caruana et tarj x di notarj paulu lu qualj mj donau xiiij pulinj di fruxunj et cassj su contentu di lu primu terczu ky mi divia la ecclesia di Santu Paulu per lu meu salariu uncarum) x anno qualibet Et perky satisfiatj accussi faczu la presentj manu propria.

xix 0 marci
Eu fratrj Johannj de rapis confessu havirj richiputu per manu di lu nobili misser perj caruana comu procuratus di la matjr ecclesia unczj i et tarenj x et uncsa una per manu di fratrj Johannj Antonj pro partj di lu supradictu misser perj li qualj uncj i et tarenj x su di lu secundu terczu di lu meu salariu di sonarj li organj a Santu Paulu arraxunj di unczj x pro annu et perky sta cassi la veritatj faczu la presentj manu propria.

Document II

Notarial deed for salary payment to Don Laurenczo de Vagnolo

f.48 d.c. xviiiij° eiusdem Salarium

Document III

Notarial deed appointing Don Nicola de Virmiglia as cathedral organist, stipulating the salary and, inter alia the condition to instruct the cleric de Vagnolo in organ playing.

f.51v Eodem Locacio Organiste

Pro ecclesia cathedr- rali melite contra Testamur quod Reverendissimus dominus don Jaymus de Valguarnera Episcopus melitanus et Magnifici Domini Donnum Nicolaum Juratj civitatis et Jnsole melite et Magnificus Domini de Virmigla Antonius Gact desguanes Nobilis laurencius de falsono et nobilis manfridus de caxaro tamquam yconomus cathedralis ecclesie melitane con­
duxerunt Venerabilem donn urn nicolaum de virmigla presentem et se locantem etc. ad sonandum organa dicte cathedralis ecclesie anno uno continuo et completo incipienti a crastina die primo madj per uncsa aurj decem ponderis generalis solvendas detecio Jntercio Jta et prout solitum erat solvij quondam fratrj Johannj de Rapis predecessorj organista eiusdem donij nicolai cum condicione quod dictus donnus nicolaus teneatur seque promisit et se obligavit quod eodem salariu docere et instruere prefatum donnum clericum laurencium de falsono et sonarj di ecclesia cathedrali melita, ait cum reservatione quod si venerit frater antonj de Castro Johannj dictu pericunj ad licteras eiusdem Reverendissimj dominj Episcopi jam sibi tranmissas quod eo casu dictus donnus nicolaus debeat se abstinere a dicta locacione et cedere Jpsam condicione dicto fratri/Antonio et
recipere salarium solutum pro rata temporis servitii pro-mictentes dicti contrahentes etc. ad invicem promiserunt omnia habere etc., Obligantes dicti conducentes bona et redditus dicte ecclesie cathedralis dictus vero locator personam suam obligando etc., Unde etc. Testes Nobilis paulus de vaccaro nobilis orlandus de burdino Egregius Notarius paulus de bunello et alij etc.

Document IV
Notarial contract whereby Frati Petru Callus of the Augustinians binds himself to teach cantus firmus to Don Antonio Vitali for a fee of 24 tareni.

NAV Not. Brandan Caxaro R175/1 (15.xi.1535) 187.

Eodem
Testamur quod presens coram nobis Venerabilis Frater Petrus Callus ordinis heremitarum sancti Augustini civitatis meliveti sponte promisit convenit et se similiter obligavit venerabili donno Antonio vitali presenti etc. ipsum donnum Antonium instruere et docere cantum firmum ad omnem examinacionem interrogacionem et responsonem Jntonarj et cantarj li gr.... et cognoscere omnes tonos cantus quo supra donnus Antonius tenetur quotidie accedere ad conventum dicti ordinis Jn hora de mesno giorno et vesperj ad habendam lectionem dicti cantus pro qua causa dictus donnus Antonius promisit solvere dicto de callus stipulanti etc. tarenos xxijij et quibus alias habuisset(? ) dictus de callus a dicto donno Antonio presente etc. tarenos sex Ratos(?) etc. aij tarenos xij promisit solvere Jn festo pascatis resurrectionis dominice primo venturo Reliquios tarenos duodecim cum fieraet(?) doctus bene cognoscere cantum Jntonare sine aliqua excepcion etc. Que omnia etc.

Et Jta Juraverunt testes Reverendus donnus lucas bartalu vicarius quo supra confirmo + paulu dili nasi Juratu confirmu + Michelj falsunj Juratu confirmu + salvo cumbo Jurato Confirmo + leonardus Calava Juratus confirmo

die viij februarij XIJIª Jndictionis 1538
Eu mastro Joannj calleya massaro dila catedralj ecclesia sanctj pauli per la presentj confesso havirj reciputo de vuj nobili andria manduca olim yconomo et procuraturj di dicta catedralj ecclesia tarj vintj sey grana dechj dilj qualj piglaj partj per Jornj otto ho servito in dicta ecclesia et lo resto pagaj adveresj partij ad opo di dicta catedralj ecclesia come contenj ut supra per cautela vostra et per non sapirj scrivirj a cautela vostra vj fichj farj la presentj per mano di alberto muscato dioc tr.xxvij gr.x
recipere salarium solitum pro rata temporis servitii pro-mictentes dicti contrahentes etc. ad invicem promiserunt omnia habere etc., Obligantes dicti conducentes bona et redditus dicte ecclesie cathedrales dictus vero locator personam suam obligando etc., Unde etc. Testes Nobilis paulus de vaccaro nobilis orlandus de burdino Egregius Notarius paulus de bunello et alij etc.

Document IV

Notarial contract whereby Frati Petru Callus of the Augustinians binds himself to teach cantus firmus to Don Antonio Vitali for a fee of 24 tareni.

Eodem

Testamur quod presens coram nobis Venerabilis Frater Petrus Callus ordinis heremitarum sancti Augustini civitatis meliveti sponte promisit convenit et se similiter obligavit venerabili donno Antonio vitali presenti etc. ipsum donnum Antonium instruere et docere cantum firmum ad omnem examinacionem interrogationem et resonsonem Jntonarj et cantarj li gr..... et cognoscere omnes tonos cantus quo supra donnus Antonius tenetur quotidie accedere ad conventum dicti ordinis Jn hora de menso giorno et vesperj ad habendam lectionem dicti cantus pro qua causa dictus donnus Antonius promisit solvere dicto de callus stipulanti etc. tarenos xxiiij et quibus alias habuisset(?) dictus de callus a dicto donno Antonio presente etc. tarenos sex Ratos(?) etc. alios tarenos sex promisit solvere Jn festo pascatis resurrectionis dominice primo venturo Reliquos tarenos duodecim cum fieret(?) doctus bene cognoscere cantum Jntonare sine aliqua excepcione etc. Que omnia etc.

Et Jta Juraverunt testes Reverendus donnus lucas bartalo vicarius quo supra confirmo
+ paulu dili nisi Juratu confirmu
+ Michelj falsunj Juratu confirmu
+ salvo cumbo Jurato Confirmo
+ leonardus Calava Juratus confirmo

CHURCH MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

et assignarj a mastro Joannj comu massaro de dicta ecclesia tarj vintj sey grana dechj ponderia dichimo tr.xxvj gr. x ponderia et su per Jornj octu de dicto mastro Joannj che adJutao alo dicto mastro petru de farj lu contrabaxo delo organj et asitarj et lavurarj li formj et posarilj et per farj li scalj nij et conczarj lu travo dilo crucifixo et per sectj Jornatj a francisco duaj che mjavus lu organj et per chova per dicto organj et scalj et per chiva per dicto organj et per ligna per farj focu per soldarj li cannolj dilo organj et a mastro vicenso bruges per uno canatanco et a vostra cautela vj havemo facto farj lo presentj comandamento de nostri proprij mano subscripto et confirmato luqualj chipiritj cum apoca de recepto more solito unde etc.
+ Ego donnus lucas bartalus vicarius quo supra confirmo
+ paulu dili nisi Juratu confirmu
+ Michelj falsunj Juratu confirmu
+ salvo cumbo Jurato Confirmo
+ leonardus Calava Juratus confirmo

MCM ACM Mandati M4 (7.ii.1539) 237.

Die vijº februarij XIXº Jndictionis 1538

Eu mastro Joannj calleya massaro dila catedralj ecclesia sanctj pauli per la presentj confesso havirj reciputo de vuj nobili andria manduca olim yconomo et procuraturj di dicta catedralj ecclesia tarj vintj sey grana dechj dilj qualj piglaj partj per Jornj otto ho servito in dicta ecclesia et lo resto pagaj advererj partij ad opo di dicta catedralj ecclesia come contenj ut supra per cautela vostra et per non sapirj scrivirj a cautela vostra vj fichj farj la presentj per mano di alberto muscato dico tr.xxvj gr.x