

The Complete Sacred Music of Nicolò Isouard
(1773 – 1818) and Maltese Sacred Music for The
Order of Malta in the Late Eighteenth Century.

By

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To Whom it May Concern

This is to certify that the thesis and music editions presented by me for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy comprises only my original work except where due acknowledgment is made in the text to all other material used.

Signature:

Name in Full:

Date:

Abstract.

Nicolò Isouard (1773-1818) is considered Malta's national composer. After studies in France and Naples, he returned to his homeland, where from 1794 to 1798 he was an aspiring composer, and employee of the Order of Malta. In 1994 a collection of thirty-three autographs of hitherto unknown sacred music by Isouard appeared at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, and I recognised the importance of these manuscripts. My intentions are to provide a précis on the Order, as the sovereign entity ruling Malta at the time, and the sacred music composed for them in their great Conventual Church in Valletta – now St John's Co-Cathedral. The thesis will provide the background to Isouard's early career and a complete edition and commentary of all of his sacred music, including additional works found during the research process, and a catalogue of his stage works.

Dedication.

Without any reservation and with great admiration, I dedicate this thesis and set of editions to my two supervisors, Rev Professor Gerald O'Collins SJ AC, and Professor John Griffiths (Oficial de la Orden de Isabel la Católica), and to the treasured custodian of Malta's musical heritage, Dun Gwann Azzopardi, as well as to that special group of Maltese scholars, historians, musicians and custodians of the musical and artistic heritage of Malta and the Order of Malta, whose dedication, achievement and friendship I respect so much.

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Then some very special friends. To Professor Ed Byrne AO, Vice Chancellor and President of Monash University, Melbourne, and the interlibrary staff of the Sir Louis Mattheson Library at Monash University and the Baillieu Library, The University of Melbourne.

Rev Fr Bill Uren SJ AO, the Rector, Sean Burke, the Provost, and the staff and SCR at Newman College, The University of Melbourne. The assistance and facilities of Newman College toward this thesis and the editions were crucial.

Finally but definitely not least, my thanks to my mentor, the Hon Sir James Gobbo AC CVO, for suggesting that I undertake this degree, one that would bring me into closer working contact with some eminent theologians, and to Allan and Maria Myers AO, without whose support and encouragement this project would have proven impossible to undertake.

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Influences and Comparisons

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Music Editions.

1. A CD of the Complete Edition of Sacred Works by Nicolò Isouard.
2. A CD of World Premiere Performances of Six of the Sacred Works in the Edition, conducted by Richard Divall.
3. A DVD of the same Works in a Concert, given in St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta on 2 December 2011, filmed by Malta Television – conducted by Richard Divall.
4. A CD of performances of works by Michel' Angelo Vella, Tommaso Prota, Girolamo Abos, and Francesco Azopardi, conducted by Richard Divall. Melbourne July 11, 2013.

Abbreviations.

Manuscript Sources.

AAM	Archivum Archiepiscopale Melitensis
ACM	Archivum Cathedralis Melitensis
ACosp	Archivum Cospicua
ACEM	Archivum Curiae Episcopalis Melitensis
AIM	Archivum Inquisitionis Melitensis
AOM	Archivum Ordinis Sancti Johannis, Melitae
AOMR	Archivum Ordinis Sancti Johannis, Rome
ASV	Archivum Secretum Vaticanum
BAV	Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
CEM	Curia Episcopalis Melitensis
FBN	Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
FPO	Bibliothèque, Archives et Musée de L'Opéra de Paris
NLM	National Library of Malta
PA	Parish Archives
STJG	St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London

AC	Acta Curiae
AO	Acta Originalia
AV	Apostolic Visit
DC	Dusina Report. Copy C at AAM
DV	Dusina Report. Copy at ASV
BG	Giuliana dei Benefici di Gozo
LB	Liber Baptizatorum
LD	Liber Defunctorum
LM	Liber Mortuorum
LMatr.	Liber Matrimoniorum
Mandati	ACM, Mandati
V	Pastoral Visit

Bibliography.

AM	<i>Archivum Melitense</i>
AS Mal	<i>Archivio Storico di Malta</i>
Ed. /ed.	Editor/Editors
JFA	<i>Journal of the Faculty of Arts</i> , University of Malta
MH	<i>Melita Historica</i>
MS I	<i>Melita Sacra</i> . Vol. I written by Mons Vincent Borg
MS II	<i>Melita Sacra</i> , Vol II written by Mons Vincent Borg
n.s.	new series
n.d.	Year of publication unknown
n.p.	No publisher known.
n.pag.	No pagination

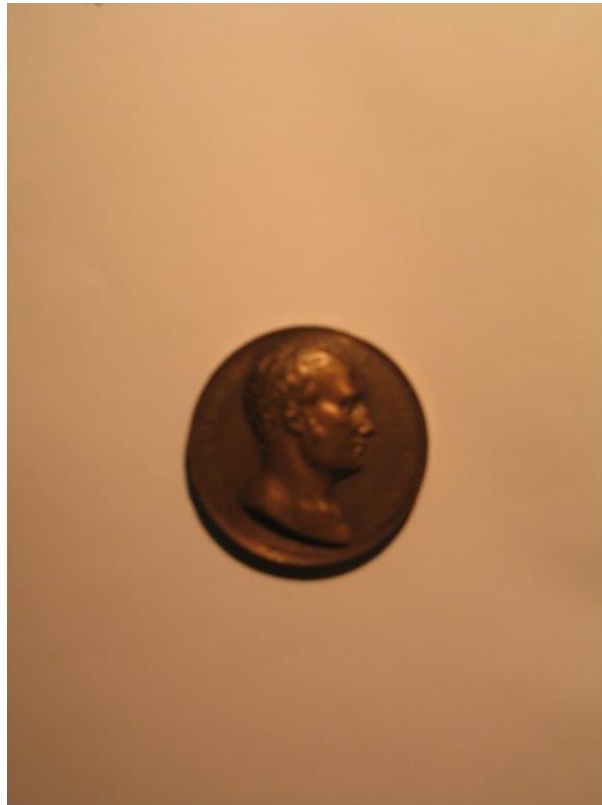
Musical terms.

A	Alto, contralto
ant.	Antiphon
archi	strings
B	Bass
Bc	basso continuo
cant.	canticle
canz.	canzonetta
cb	contrabasso
cemb.	cembalo
cl	clarinetto
conc.	concertato
cor	corno
fag	fagotto
fl	flauto
madr.	madrigal
mot.	motet
MS/ms	manuscript
ob	oboe
obl.	obligato
off.	offertory
org	organ
Ps.	psalm
resp.	responsory
rip.	ripieno
S	soprano/canto
seq.	sequence
T	tenor
tr	tromba
vln	violin
vla	viola
vc	violoncello
vlta	violetta

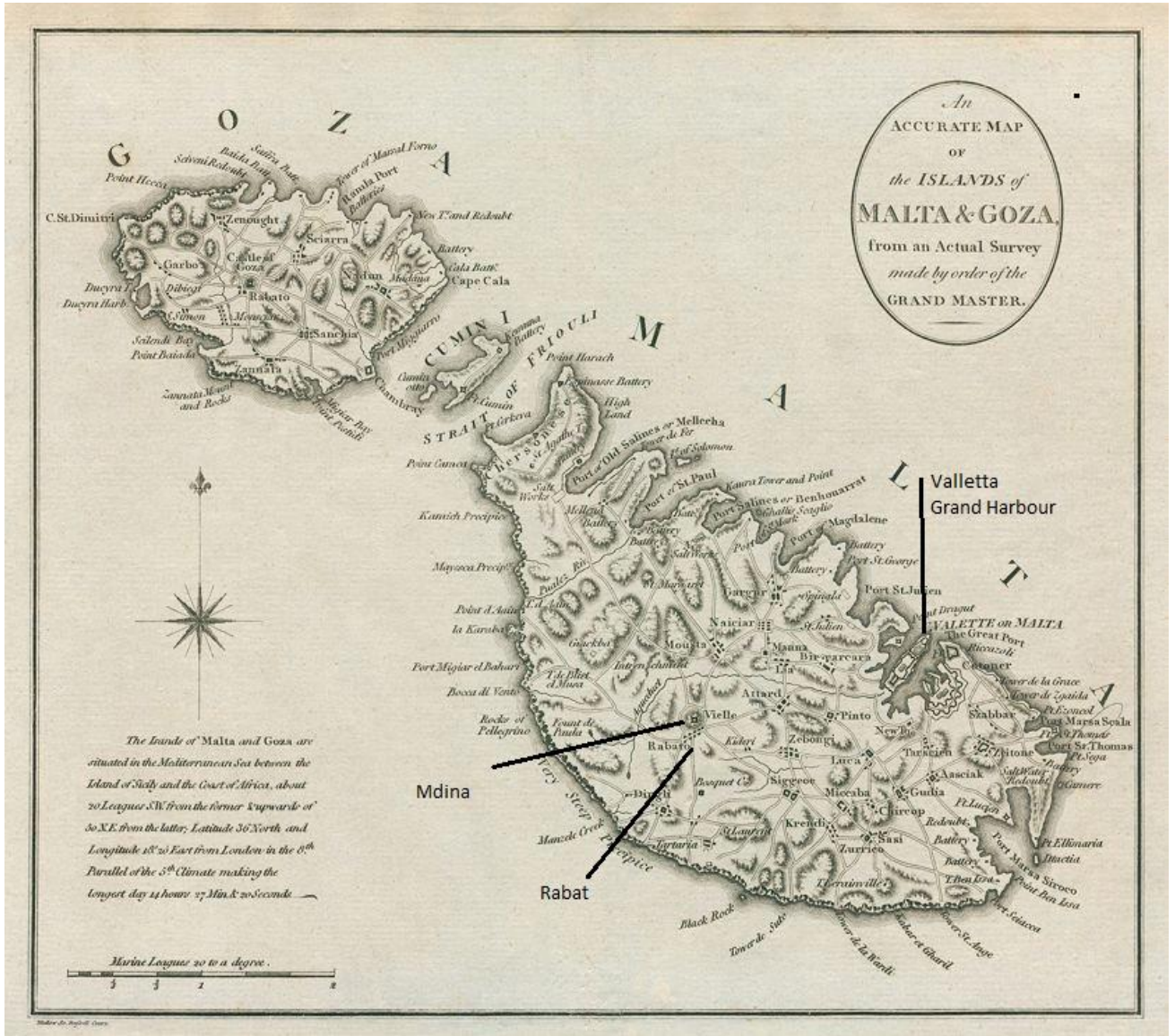
Illustrations and Maps.



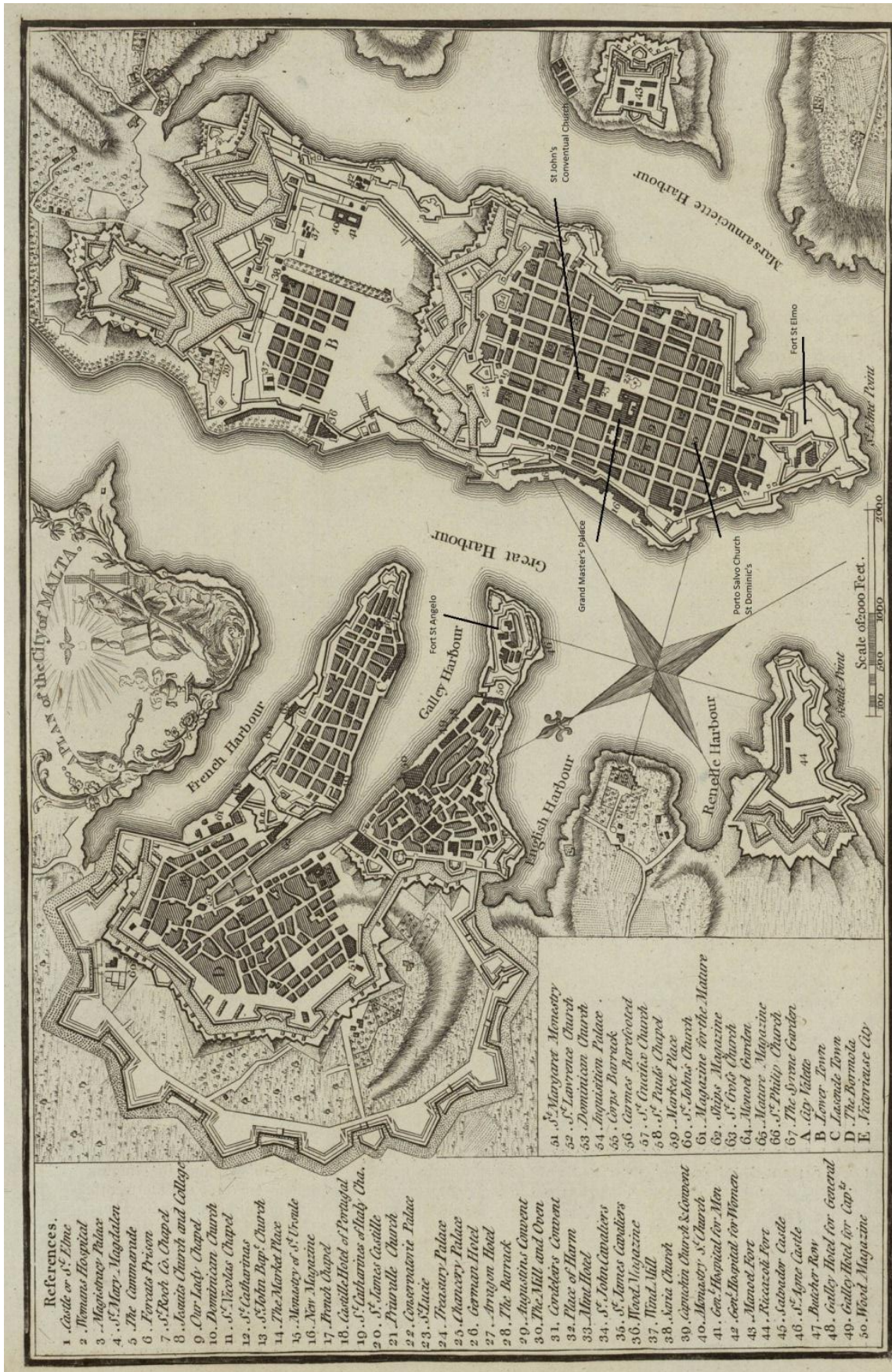
1. Nicolò Isouard (1773 – 1818).
Lithograph by Charles Motte 1785 – 1836.



**2. Nicolò Isouard – Medal 1824.
By the French medallist Adrien Hippolyte Veyrat 1803 – 1883.**



3. The Islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino.



4. Map of Valletta and the Two Cities of Birgu/Cospicua and Senglea.