

# **The Basilean music collection of Lucas Sarasin (1730-1802): An early example of ‘bourgeois’ manuscript collecting revisited in a new digital format**

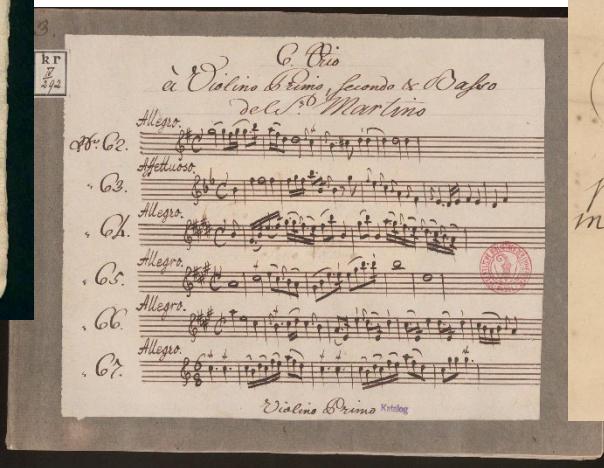
**Dr. Roland Pfeiffer**

**University Library Basel**

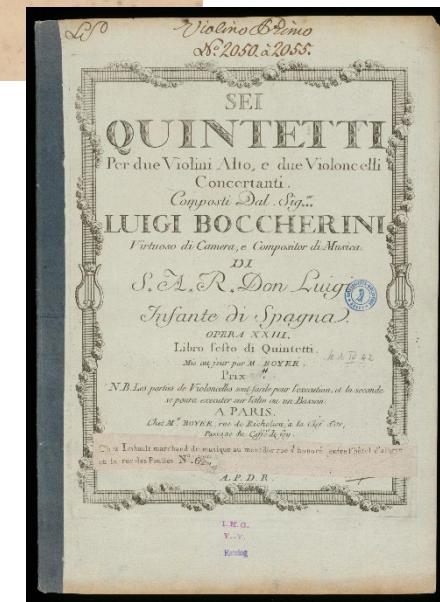
**Historical holdings – Digitization**

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# An impressive collection of music manuscripts and some printed music



Handwritten musical manuscript page with staves and text. It includes sections for 'Gabinetto', 'Gabinetto', 'Picca', and 'Derazconi'. Each section lists instrument parts: 2. Violino primo & secondo, 2. Corno primo & secondo, 2. Viole & Basso. Below each section is a short piece of music labeled 'Allegro.'



Originally three different parts merged together

- The collection of Lucas Sarasin (1730-1802), with thematic catalogue: manuscript copies of contemporary composers, typically given as parts only: symphonies, sonatas, arias/duets
- The collection of his son-in-law Peter Vischer (1751-1823): some printed music and didactic works
- Music collected, composed or arranged by the violinist Jacob Christoph Kachel (1728-1795): two anthologies of songs and arias and theoretical writings on music

# The palace built by Lucas Sarasin

The so-called «Blaues Haus» in Basel



Its backyard on the west side



# Lucas Sarasin's own thematic catalogue

*Quattro à Violini &c.*

2. Violino Primo, Secondo, Viola & Basso  
Dioschi

allegro.

Dioschi

allegro.

Galimberti

allegro.

Bernasconi

allegro.

Sarasin

allegro.

*Concerti p. flauto à Rec*

126.

1. S. Mahaut

1. Flauto à Rec  
2. Violino Primo & Secondo  
2. Viola, Basso

127.

1. S. Mahaut

1. Flauto à Rec  
2. Violino Primo & Secondo  
2. Viola & Basso

allegro.

allegro.

*Trio à Flauto Traversiere Prima, seconda & Basso*

140. *Murano*

Posteri.

141. *Veneto*

Spiritoso.

142. *P. Vene*

allegro.

143. *Martino*

affettuoso.

144. *G. Carrani*

andante.

128. *Q. M. J. de Bonilla*

1. Flauto  
2. Violino 1<sup>a</sup> & 2<sup>a</sup>  
1. Basso

129. *Q. M. J. de Bonilla*

1. Flauto  
2. Violino 1<sup>a</sup> & 2<sup>a</sup>  
1. Basso

130. *Q. M. J. de Bonilla*

1. Flauto  
1. Violino  
1. Cembalo  
1. Basso

131. *Q. Ignace Leyel* *Cadre 28.*

1. Flauto  
1. Violino  
1. Cembalo  
1. Basso

132. *Q. Ignace Leyel* *Cadre 28.*

1. Flauto  
1. Cello  
1. Alto  
1. Basso

# Index of thematic catalogue

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301

Arie Duetto

266. a 7. Campagnani Adagio. *Ma signor non tanuto fico*

267. a 6. Tomaso Paletta Andantino. *Torna la giao*

268. a 6. Carlo Monza Discanto *gratiosi*. *Se giorni tui felici*

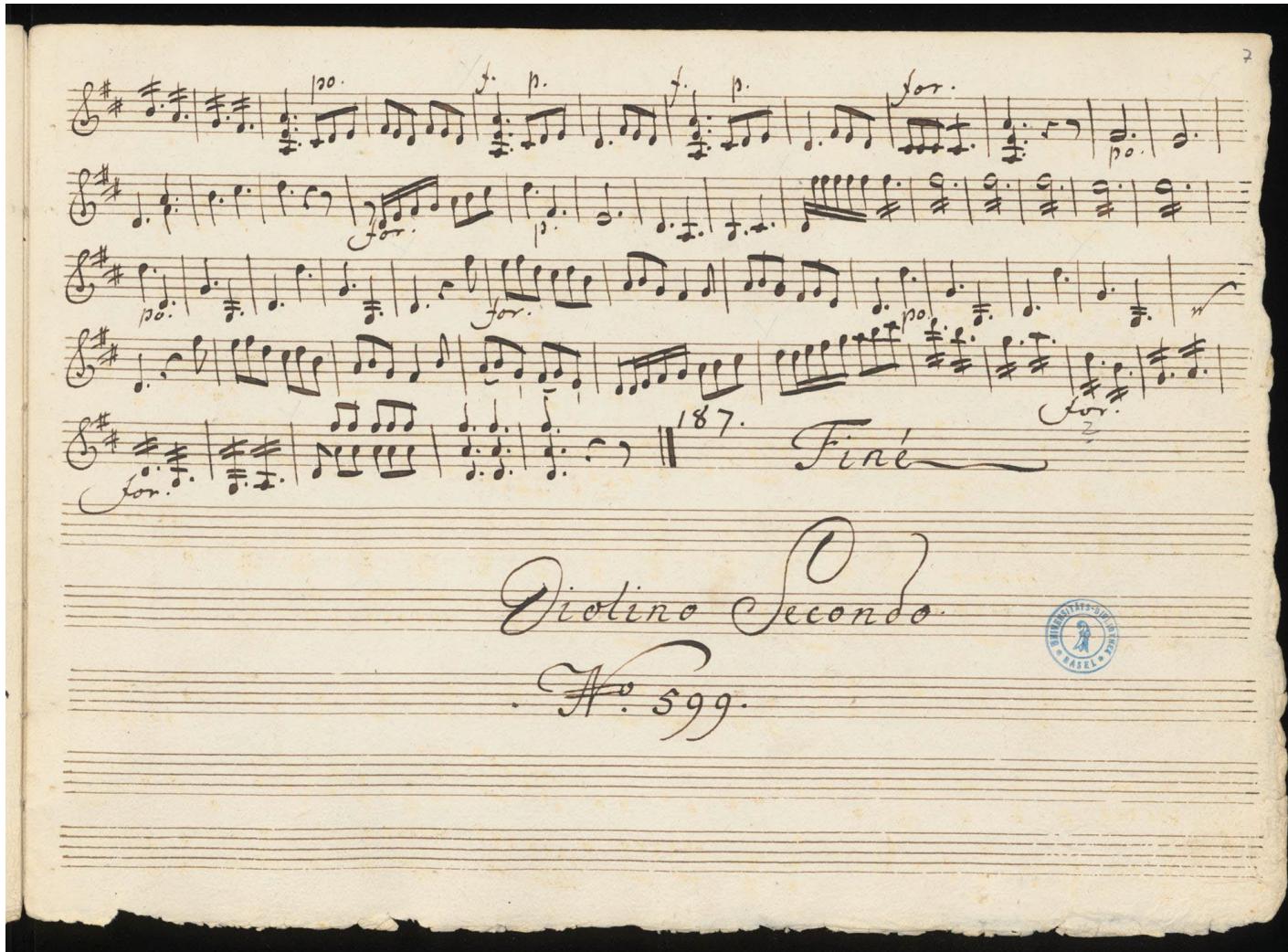
269. a 6. Gaetano Cappa Discanto *Andantino. Barche se le tu sei*

270. a 8. Gio? D'Adda Larghetto *Se ti e Caro clamar mio*

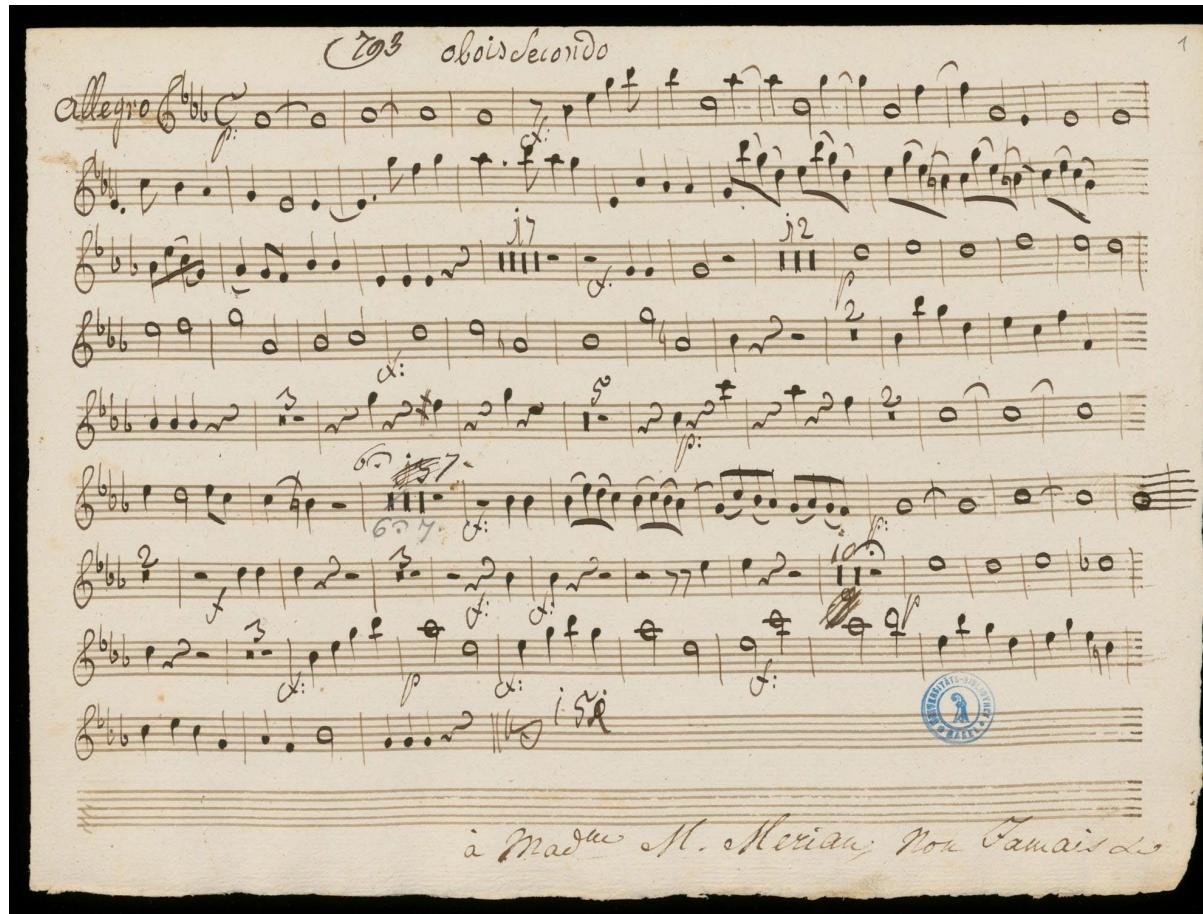
# «Register und folio geschwind zu suchen»

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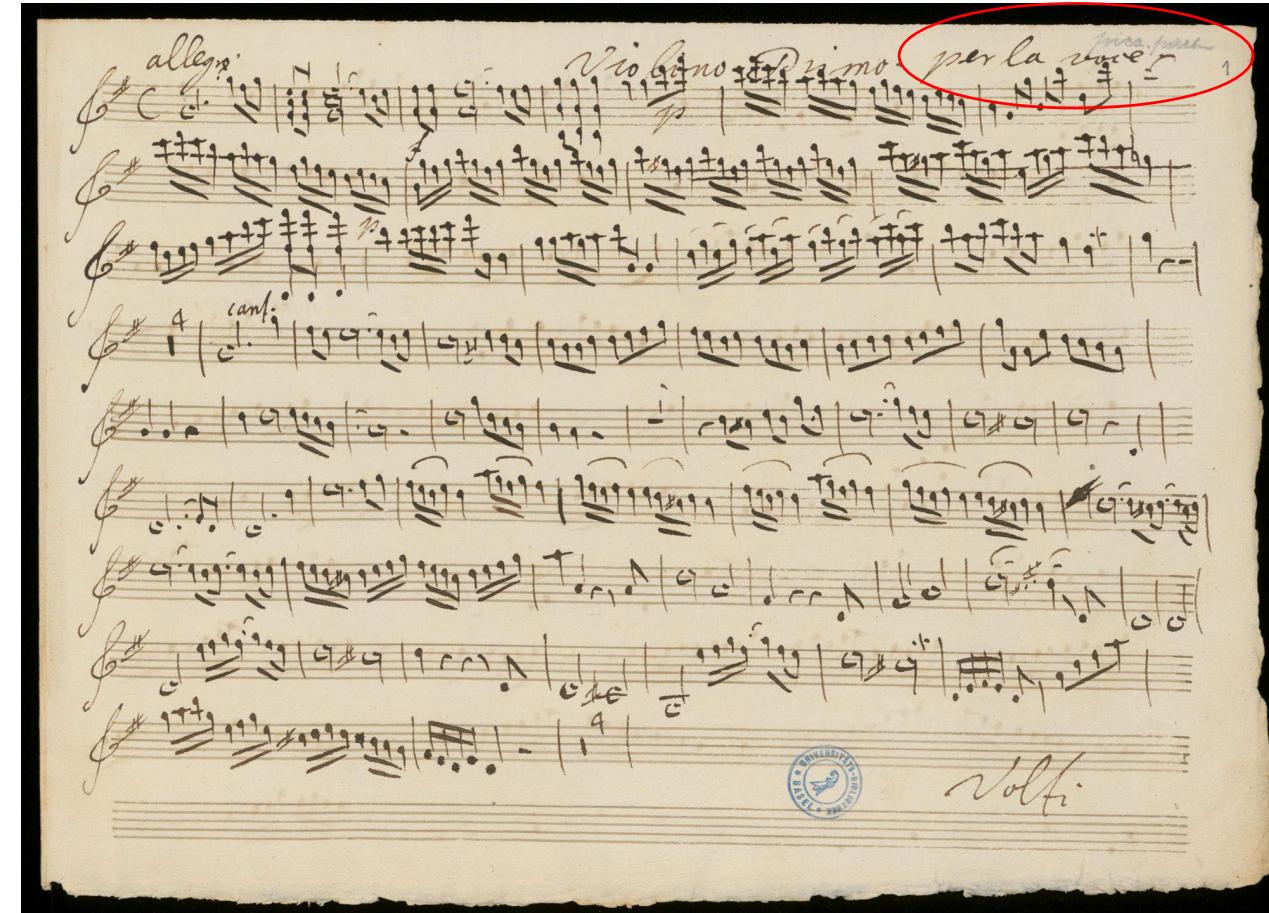
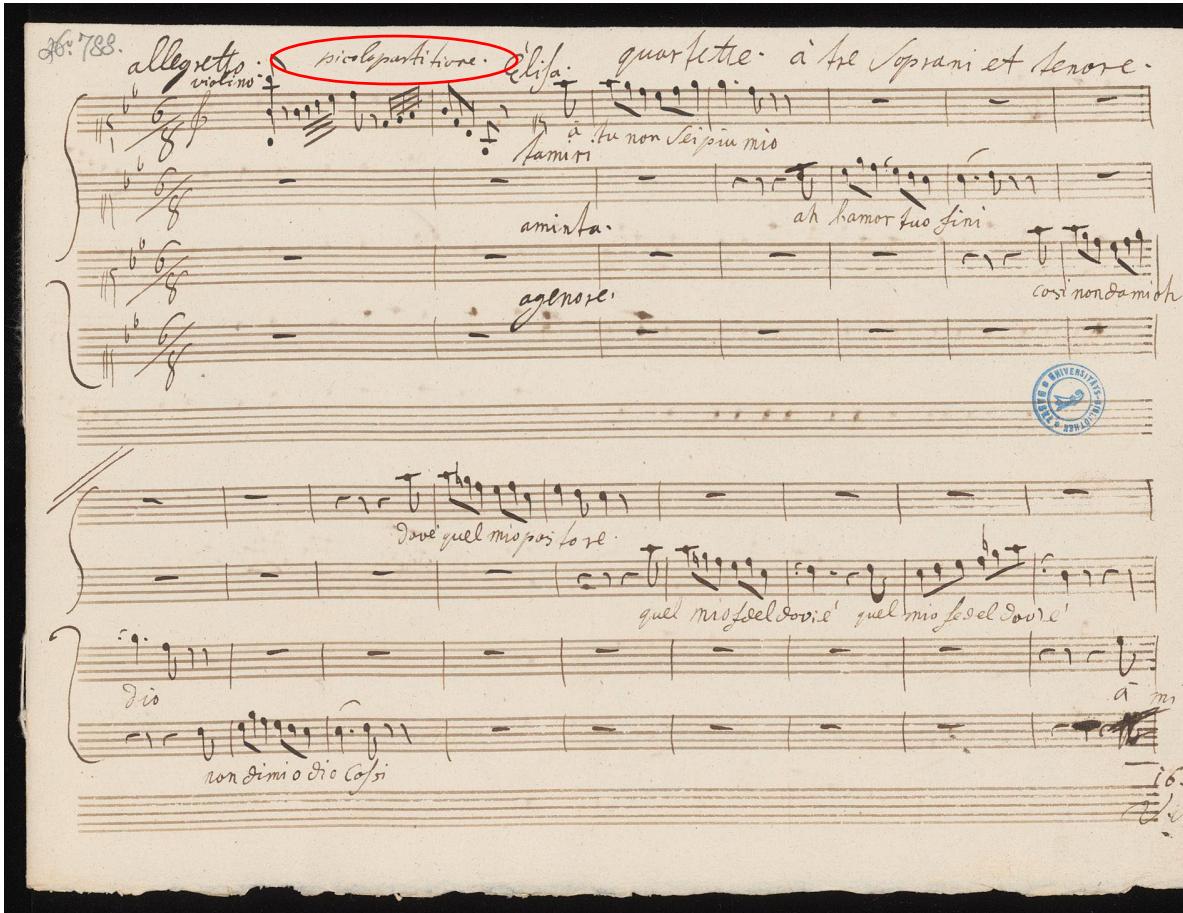
Almost every single part contains the catalogue number



Copies in some rare cases refer to a specific musician



# A short score is often called «Piccolo Partizione»



# Musical life in Basel during the 18<sup>th</sup> century

The seal of the Collegium musicum in a  
contract from 1774:

Violin and Oboe with circumscription  
«COLL : MUSI : BASILIEENSIS : 1708»

From:  
<https://www.sinfonieorchesterbasel.ch/de/orchester/orchesterchronik/1708-bis-1875.html>



The Augustinergasse where the seat of the  
*Collegium musicum* was situated (around 1748)



Emanuel Wolleb wrote in his satire  
*Die Reise nach dem Concerte*

«Ich bin recht böse über die Ungezogenheit unserer Leuten. Es ist wahr, nicht der sechste Theil kommt der Musik zu Gefallen. Die Weibsbilder erscheinen, sich sehen zu lassen; die Mannsbilder, sie zu sehen.»

«I am angry about the bad behaviour of our people. Not even a sixth of them comes for pleasure of the music. The women appear in order to be seen; the men, to observe them.»

Emanuel Burckhardt-Sarasin: «ein liebhaber concert»  
(a concert of the *Collegium Musicum*, 1790)



# The scores from Sarasin's collection – and those from the *Collegium musicum*

kr IV 163 [Sarasin]



kr II 36 [Collegium musicum]



# Lucas Sarasin's role in the Collegium's board

- First mentioned as a member of board on 3 December 1763
- First mentioned as «Scriba» on 26 December 1764

Samstags den 3. Decr 1763.  
Jan Græsmer Thorsen forward  
Jan Jørgen Bøttner  
Jan August Olafsen  
Jan P. Knudsen fiff  
Jan d. M. 1763 Dated  
Jan Græsmer forward  
Jan Lucas Sarasin  
Olausf. Poulsen sive

Wittboks Udstedt 26. Decr 1764.  
H. Græsmer forward  
John Frederik Cottens  
" Gottlieb Thorvald  
" Edward Sarasin scribd  
Almoe Skou Commandant Grevencuy han Enig Falder

# Lucas Sarasin's role in the Collegium's board

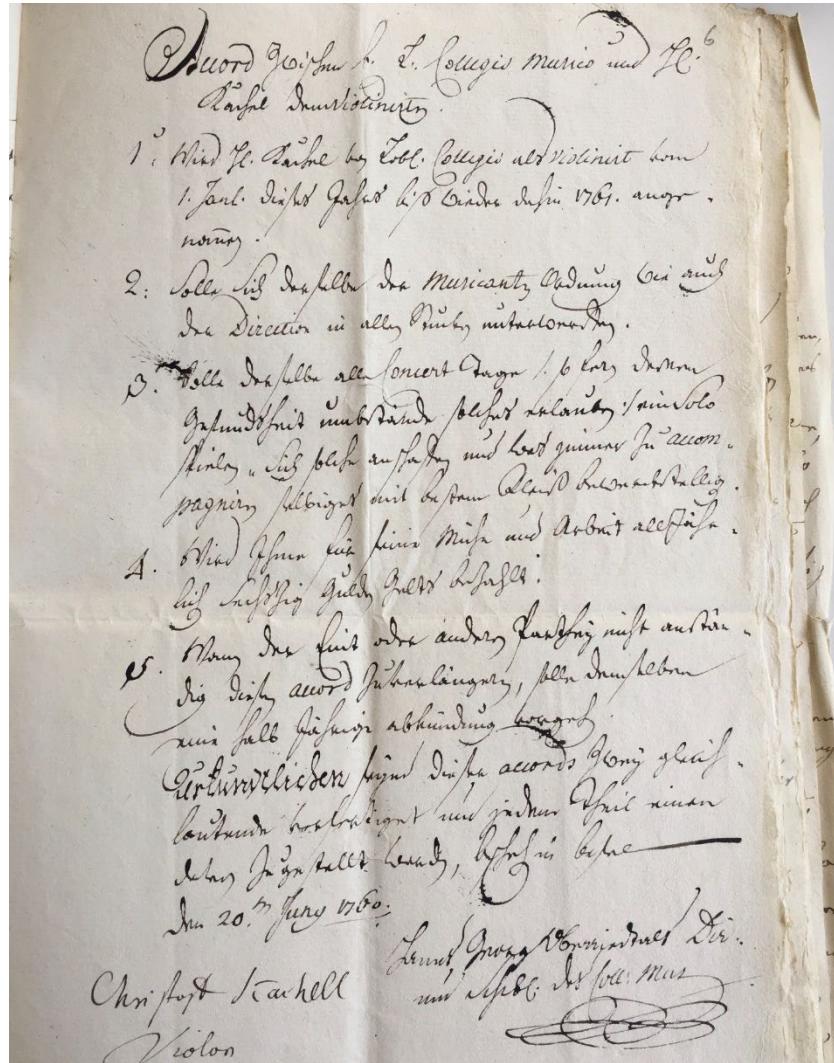
- First mentioned as «Praeses» on 16 January 1768

Bon Samstag 16 Janv. 1768. 43  
H. Praeses Sarasin  
H. Dr. Schmidlin Pro. Ordinarius  
Prof. Ennfeld Socin  
Felix Bottius

- Mentioned as “Saeckelmeister” on 22 January 1774

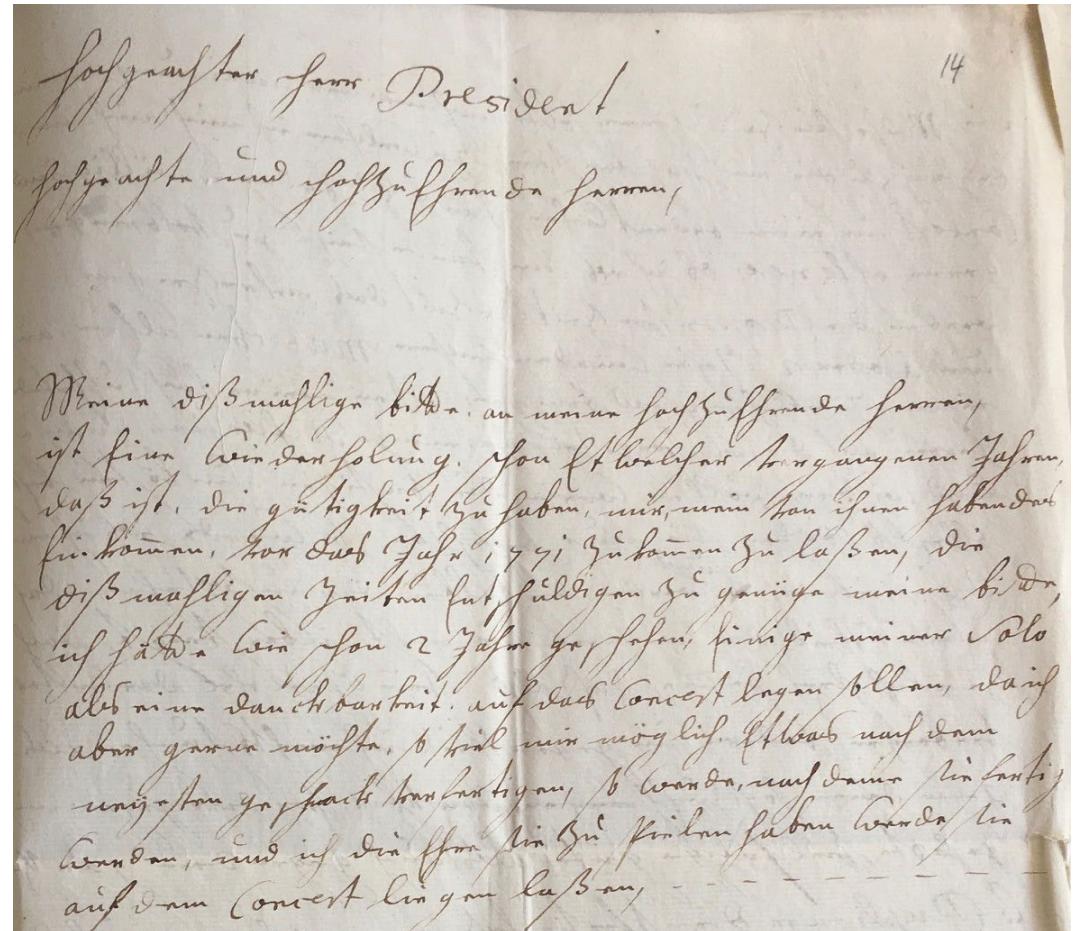
Donstag 22 Januar 1774  
H. Praeses Achilles Weis  
H. Dr. J. G. Krauf. Socin  
" Samuel & Job. Rybino  
" Job. Rud. Yordan.  
" Prakt. Magister Lucas Sarasin

# The violinist Jacob Christoph Kachel made his Accord with the Collegium on 20 Juny 1760



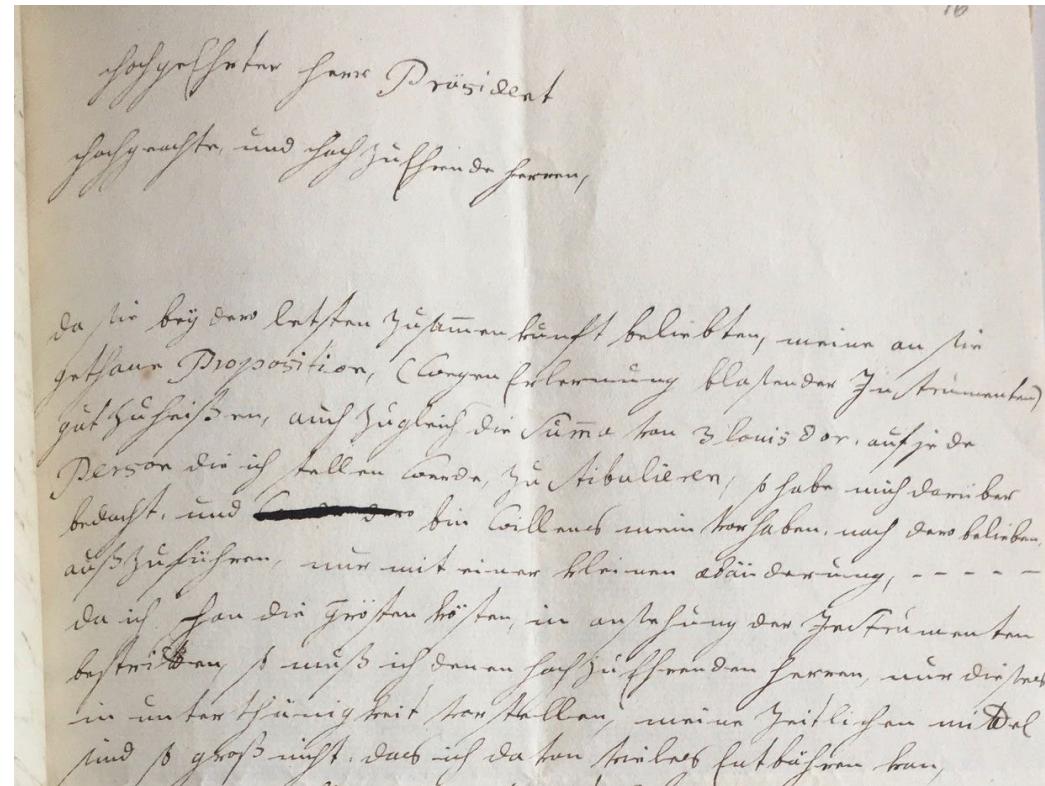
# Kachel on 26 January 1771 sends to the Collegium a reminder to pay his services

Hochgeachter Herr President  
hochgeachte und hochzuEhrende  
Herren,  
Meine dißmahlige Bitte, an meine  
hochzuEhrende Herren,  
ist Eine wiederholung. schon Etwelcher  
vergangenen Jahren,  
daß ist, die gütigkeit zu haben, mir, mein  
von ihnen habendes  
Einkommen, vor das Jahr 1771  
zukommen zu lassen, die  
dißmahlichen Zeigen Entschuldigen zu  
genüge meine bi[?]e, [...]



# 25 April 1771: Discussion about investing more in the education of wind musicians

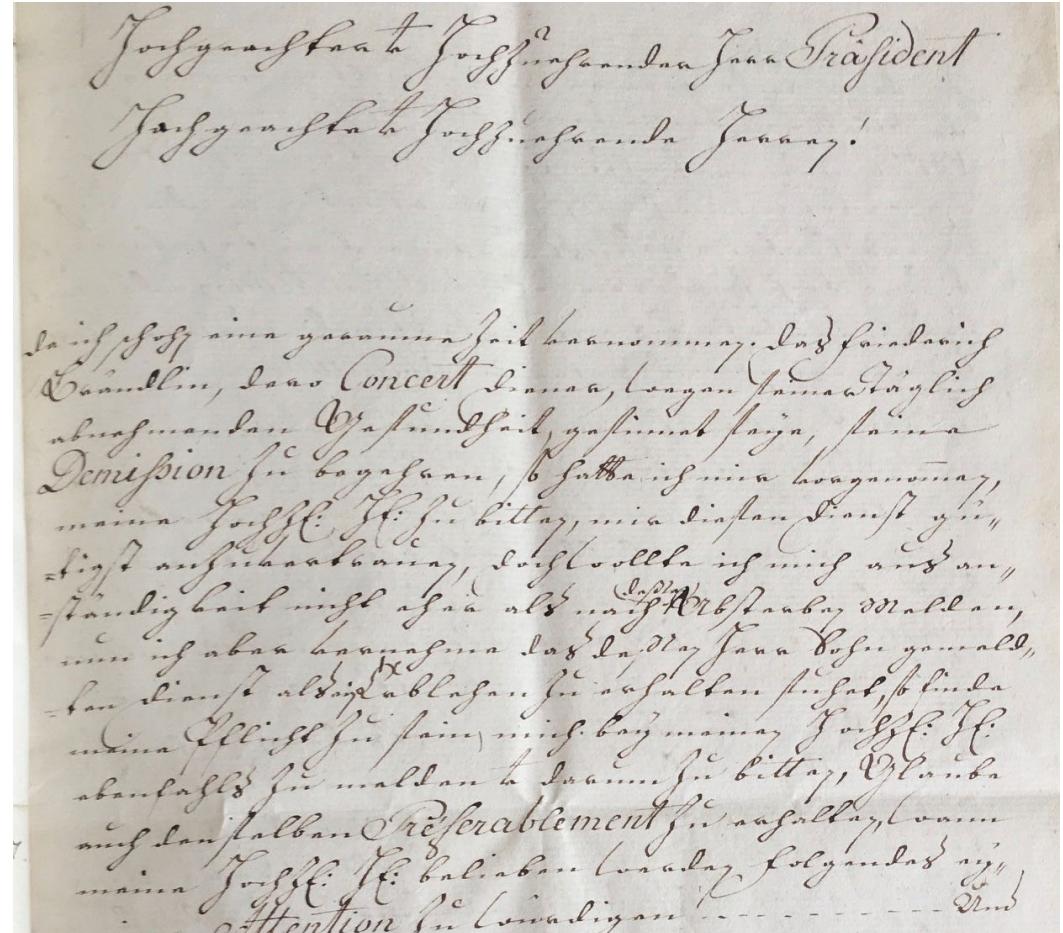
Hochgeehrter Herr Präsident  
hochgeachte, und hochzuEhrende  
Herren,  
da sie bey dero letsten zusammenkunft  
beliebten, meine an sie gethane  
Proposition, (wegen Erlernung  
blasender Instrumenten)  
gutzuheißen, auch zugleich die summa  
von 3 louis d or, auf jede Person die ich  
stellen werde, zu stibulieren [sic], so  
habe mich darüber und bin willens mein  
Vorhaben, nach dero belieben,  
außzuführen, [...]



# 14 December 1774: Kachel's application to the vacant position of the *Concert diener*

Hochgeachter und Hochzuehrender Herr Präsident  
Hochgeachte und Hochzuehrende Herren!

da ich schohn eine geraume Zeit vernommen, das  
Friederich  
Brändlin, dero Concert diener, wegen seiner täglich  
abnehmenden Gesundheit, gesinnet seye, seine  
Demission zu begehrn, so hatte ich mir  
vorgenommen,  
meine hochz[e]e[hrenden] H[erren] zu bitten, mir  
diesen Dienst gü-  
tigst anzuvertrauen, doch wollte ich mich aus an-  
ständigkeit nicht eher als nach deßen Absterben  
melden, [...]



# Well-known and less-known composers in the collection

## Well-known composers

- Johann Christian Bach (sinfonia, notturni and arias)
- Florian Leopold Gassmann (mainly chamber music and arias)
- F. J. Haydn (chamber music)
- P. A. Guglielmi (arias from operas)
- André-Ernest Modeste Grétry (quite only arias, duets)
- F.-J. Gossec (some few symphonies)

## Less-known composers

- Franz Beck (half a dozen of symphonies)
- Anton Filz (half a dozen of each symphonies and trios)
- Jean-Baptiste Davaux (quartets)
- Giovanni Ferrandini (quartets)
- Fernando Galimberti (symphonies)
- Melchiorre Chiesa (symphonies)
- Giacomo Conti (trios)
- Joseph Bologne de Saint-George : Simphonia Concertante
- Etienne-Bernard-Joseph Barrière (3 symphonies)

The collection accessible via hyperlink: <https://www.e-manuscripta.ch/bau/nav/content/2536892?lang=en>

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**Collections**

All Collections 102 Titles

Sort by: Title Show: 10 Order: ascending More Results: 1 - 10

**6 Trio à Violino I, II & Basso**  
[Stimmen]  
Sammartini, Giovanni Battista [1700-1775]  
[S.I.], [zwischen 1700 und 1775]  
Universitätsbibliothek Basel, kr IV 292

**6. Trio**  
Gassmann, Florian Leopold [1729-1774]  
[S.I.], [zwischen 1760 und 1802]  
Universitätsbibliothek Basel, UBH kr IV 112

**Aria & Duetto à 10 (in Discante)**  
Ari de l'Operette de La nouvelle Rosière de Salency : "J'ay tout perdu! mon Amant et la Rose"  
Grétry, André-Ernest-Modeste [1741-1813] ; Pezay, Alexandre Frédéric Jacques de Masson de [1741-1777]

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**Bibliographic Metadata**

Title Six Quartetts for Two Violins, Tenor and Violoncello : Op. 29 / by Felice Giardini

Description Stimmen: Violine I (violino primo) ; Violine II (violino secondo) ; Viola (viola) ; Violoncello (violoncello/basso)

Author, Contributors Giardini, Felice [1716-1796] G W

Place and Date of Creation London : Longman & Broderip, [1790?]

Physical Description 4 Stimmen (48 Bl.) : Druck ; 33,5 x 24,5 cm + 1 handschrift. Umschlag

Providing Institution Universitätsbibliothek Basel, UBH kr IV 119 "

Persistent Link <https://doi.org/10.7891/e-manuscripta-124916>

Superstructure Sammlung Lucas Sarasin, Peter Vischer und Jacob Christoph Kachel / Komponisten G

All Digitised Items of this Inventory [Sammlung Lucas Sarasin, Peter Vischer und Jacob Christoph Kachel](#)

**Links**

Entire Document as PDF [Six Quartetts for Two Violins Tenor and Violoncello \[31.98 mb\]](#)

Still work in progress ...!

# How the collection came to make part of Basel's University Library

- In 1902, the descendants of Vischer's family, Emilie and Carl Vischer-von-der-Mühl, gave the collections to the local group of the International Music Society, with the obligation that these will be kept (as a deposit) at the University Library.
- In June 1923, the heirs wrote a letter to the legal successor of the local group, the new Swiss Music Society, stating that the music collections should forever be preserved at the University Library.
- Many thanks for your attention!