



European Platform for Artistic Research in Music -
EPARM 2022

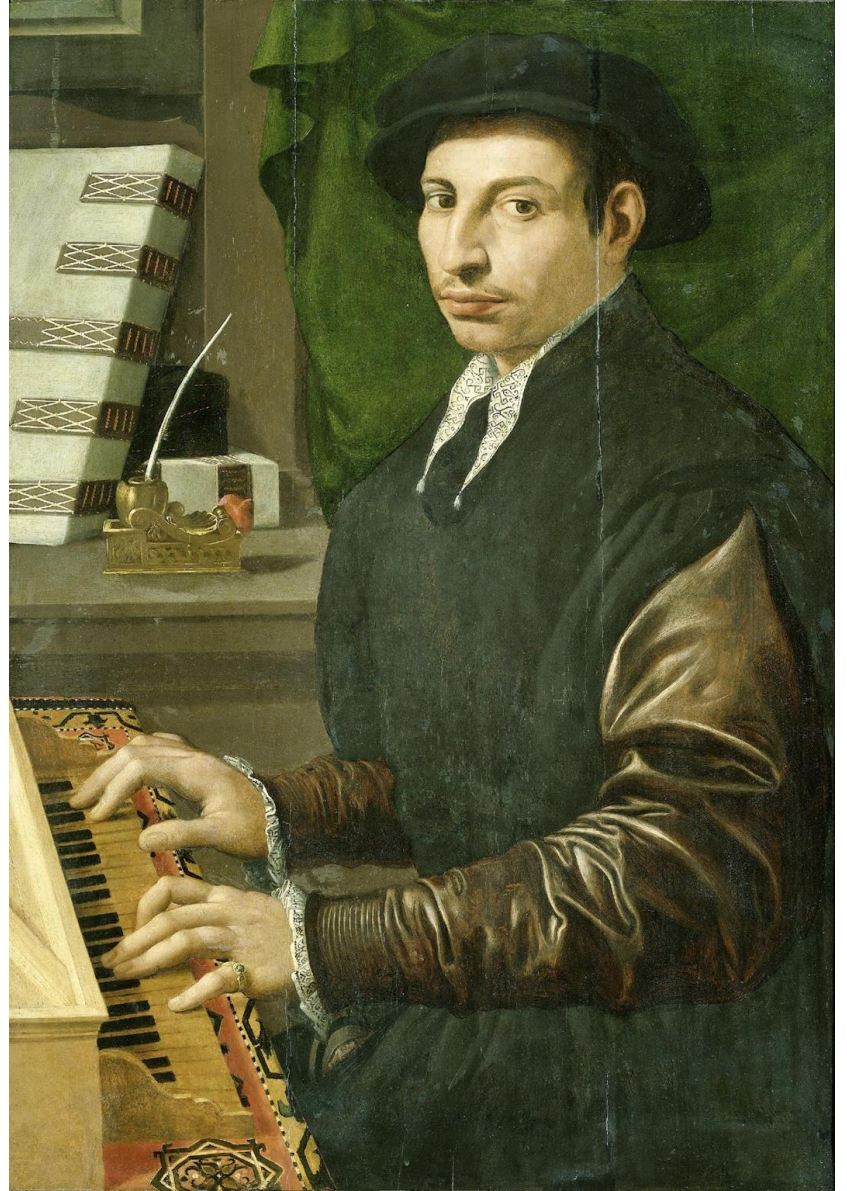
Learning from pictures

Keyboard performance practice in
Renaissance and Early Baroque paintings

Maria Luisa Baldassari
Conservatorio “G.B. Martini”, Bologna

Francesco Traballesi (ca. 1560), Man at the spinet

Renaissance ideals:
Composure
Grace



Lang Lang



- Position and dress of the Chinese pianist are an attempt to transfer the behavior of a rockstar in the realm of classical music and to increase its appeal for the young generation.





Treatises

Tomàs de Santa Maria, *Libro llamado Arte de tañer fantasia* (Valladolid 1565).

Girolamo Diruta, *Il Transilvano* (Venice 1593/1610).

Adriano Banchieri, *Conclusioni nel suono dell'organo*, (Bologna 1609).

Galeazzo Sabbatini, *Regola facile e breve per sonare sopra il basso continuo* (Venice 1628).

Giovanni Gentile d'Olevano *Porta musicale*, (ms. 2491 Rome, Bibl. Casanatense ca 1640)

Lorenzo Penna, *Li primi albori musicali* (Bologna 1672)

Tiziano Vecellio: “Concerto, or the three ages” ca 1508

Hand position “Santa Maria” style



- Low wrist
- Fingertips bent
- Three central fingers close
- thumb on the keyboard, slightly bent inside





Sofonisba Anguissola

Self-portrait, 1561

”Diruta” position

Hand and wrist at the same
height, fingers “rounded”

Female players were required to
show composure at the
keyboard, to avoid any
connection with the sensual
side of the music





Orazio Gentileschi S. Cecilia

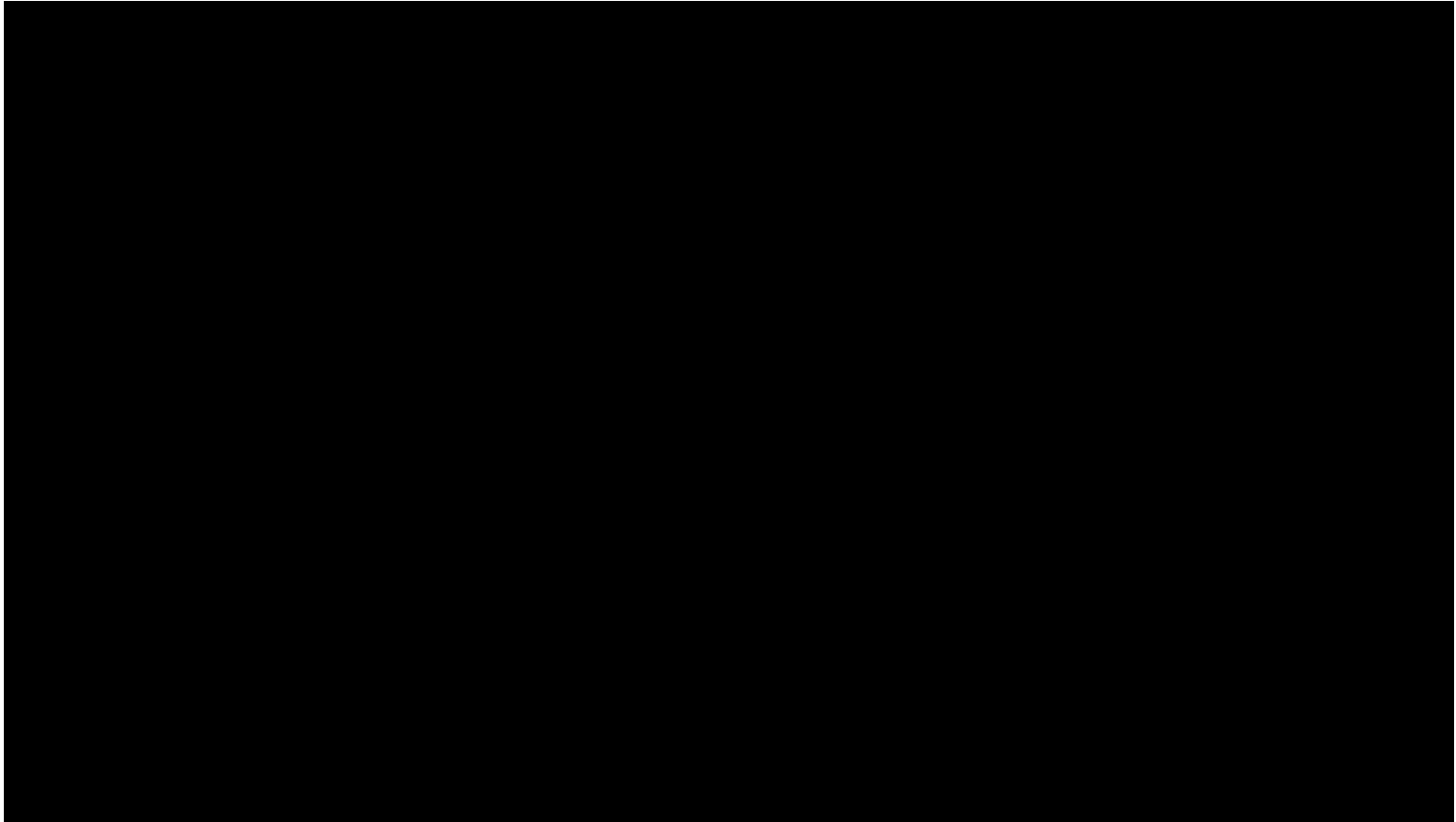
This position finds a confirmation in Lorenzo Penna's treatise:
high wrist
straight fingers
thumb off the keys



“Untrained hand” (positions) - Cleo



“Graduate level” - Michele





The music

Selection from keyboard intabulations

Antonio de Cabezon: *Duuviansela*

Giovanni Picchi: *Todesca*

Ercole Pasquini: *Ancor che col partire*

Ascanio Mayone: *Ancidetemi pur, dogliosi affanni*

Tiziano, hands





Anguissola, hands





Carlo Sellitto

S. Cecilia (1613)

Commissioned by the
musicians of the
Neapolitan Royal Chapel

- Hand guided by the arm
 - high wrist
 - vertical fingers
 - thumb out



Gentileschi, hands





Thank you!

