

L'ITALIANO DELLA ROMANZA DA SALOTTO

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ABSTRACT

While opera librettos and the lyrics of popular music are the object of a remarkable tradition of study, little attention has been paid to the language of the “romanza da salotto”, a specific genre of salon music widely appreciated throughout Europe in the late 19th and early 20th century, counting among its representatives composers such as Francesco Paolo Tosti, who enjoyed a long and successful career in England from 1870 to 1910. This study analyzes the texts of a number of compositions belonging to the genre, and represents a first attempt to outline the characteristics of the Italian language of the “romanza da salotto”, at various levels of linguistic analysis, showing its particularities even in comparison to the language of contemporary opera.