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Donizetti's solo songs: a preliminary catalogue, «Donizetti Studies», 4, 2024, pp. 75-145.

Abstract

This article presents a preliminary catalogue of Donizetti's solo songs. During the last hundred and more years, various lists of such songs have appeared. The only comprehensive attempt to collect the available Donizetti sources for this repertoire was made by Luigi Inzaghi in his "Catalogo generale delle opere", published in 1983; but the difficulties involved in consulting Inzaghi, together with its frequent unreliability and lacunae, have always been evident. After an introductory section that discusses the various taxonomical difficulties the repertoire offers, the catalogue is structured using Inzaghi's numbering system and, to clarify further the decisions made, lists all Inzaghi numbers that have been excluded, briefly giving the reason for the exclusion. At the end of the catalogue are listed the songs not included in Inzaghi (with an adapted numbering system from IN001 to IN026). For each song considered part of the new corpus, information is included on: 1. the poet and, if rare, any independent sources of the poetic text; 2. the autograph, with a description of any annotations it might possess; 3. the primary source (if not the autograph), with a brief description; 4. an indication of further sources, if they are of particular value and interest; 5. any further explanatory information.