



Giuseppe Tartini (8 April 1692 – 26 February 1770), the son of Antonio from Florence and Catterina (née Zangrando) from Piran, was baptised in Piran on 8 April 1692. His father was an influential citizen, in 1699 named as patron of the neighbouring Minorite monastery. The close contacts of Giuseppe Tartini with this order are therefore not surprising. Giuseppe first attended school in Koper (1704–08), and it is believed that he also learnt the basics of violin playing either there (at that time Antonio Tarsia, the foremost local composer, was still organist at Koper Cathedral) or in Piran. Tartini left to continue his education at the University of Padua, one of the most important musical centres of the Minorite order in the eighteenth century.

His father intended him for church, but the fiery young man, sent by his family to Padua at sixteen, rather chose a secular life. At eighteen he married without a paternal assent and was consequently forced to escape from Padua. He hid in the Minorite monastery in Assisi, where he focused on music and violin. Due to his virtuosity on violin he rose from complete anonymity to the very top of the European music elite in the following years. Tartini eventually settled down in Padua, where – except for a three-year stay in Prague – he continued to work as violinist, teacher, composer and musical theorist until his death in 1770. He is buried in Padua.

Giuseppe Tartini has left a deep imprint on the European music culture. He was especially renowned as an inventive virtuoso on his instrument and a pedagogue. His school was revered as “the school of nations” as beside Italian students he had pupils from France, Germany, Dalmatia, etc. He wrote close to 400 compositions for violin, prevailingly concertos and sonatas.

The great violinist never forgot his native Piran and his family. He regularly corresponded with his brother and especially his nephew, bequeathing him his worldly possessions. This is why Piran can boast today with a rich legacy of Tartini's manuscripts, letters and theoretical treatises, kept in the Provincial Archives of Koper – Piran Section, one of his violins and several personal items now on display at the memorial room in his birth house that is managed by the Maritime Museum "Sergej Mašera" of Piran. Tartini's musical works, however, remained in the hands of his pupils and employers and are now kept in the archives of the Paduan Basilica.