Libera Me



José Maurício Nunes Garcia (1767-1830) composed at least 237 sacred and secular works and was the son of a Black woman and Brazilian lieutenant. He helped to found the Brotherhood of St. Cecelia and was ordained a priest in 1792. Garcia was the *mestre de capela* of the Rio de Janeiro Cathedral for twenty-eight years, was famous for his keyboard improvisations, and was considered to be the most prominent Brazilian composer of his time.