Violin is said to be one of the most popular instruments. Nowadays you hear fiddlers in country music and Joshua Bell “romanticizing” any piece of violin repertoire he can find. Yes, violin students might be studying Bach, Corelli, and Vivaldi, but the violin was already popular by the time they were composing violin music (18th century). This performance presentation will showcase a performance of Biagio Marini’s *Variata per Il Violino* from his experimental string work, Op. 8 (1629). In the *Variata*, Marini shows performers and listeners all the awesome things that the violin can do. He found himself writing for a completely new instrument. Marini recognized that the violin could be played at a variety of tempos; could play more than one note at a time; and could play high and low notes. This *Variata per Il Violin* is almost an advertisement for the violin and why musicians should play violin in the early 16th century. In this performance, the violin will be accompanied by a cello. The conversation between the cello and violin is an important component of the work. The presentation will begin with a short introduction of this music and its style, and I will present additional research to supplement the performance of selected sections of the *Variata*. This rarely heard *Variata* is truly a mixed tape of Marini’s musical violin ideas. Come and see if Marini can sell the violin’s popularity to you.