Hiller’s *Treatise on Vocal Performance and Ornamentation* was published in Germany in 1780 and is an important manual on vocal technique and performance in the eighteenth century. Hiller was a masterly educator and was active not only as a teacher but also as a critic, theorist, composer, conductor, and music director. Thus, his observations served not only to raise the standards of singing in Germany, based on the Italian model, but to present complicated material, particularly ornamentation, in a manner that his peers, the middle class, could emulate.

This present edition, translated with an introduction and extensive commentary by musicologist Suzanne J. Beicken, makes Hiller’s treatise available for the first time in English. With its emphasis on practical aspects of ornamentation, declamation, and style, it will be valuable to instrumentalists as well as singers and is a significant contribution to the understanding of performance practice in the eighteenth century.

Suzanne J. Beicken is Lecturer in historical musicology at the University of Maryland and is also a performer, concert manager, and music administrator. She is founder of the award-winning Maryland Boy Choir.
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Illustration on title page of Hiller’s *Anweisung zum musikalisch-ziertlichen Gesange* (Treatise on Vocal Performance and Ornamentation), published in Germany in 1780. Photograph by John Consoli
TREATISE ON VOCAL PERFORMANCE AND ORNAMENTATION
BY JOHANN ADAM HILLER

TRANSLATED AND EDITED BY
SUZANNE J. BEICKEN
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
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