Beethoven and Rossini have always been more than a pair of famous composers. Even during their lifetimes, they were well on the way to becoming “Beethoven and Rossini” – a symbolic duo, who represented a contrast of philosophies fundamental to Western music. This contrast was to shape the composition, performance, reception, and historiography of music throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Invention of Beethoven and Rossini puts leading scholars of opera and instrumental music into dialog with each other, with the aim of unpicking the origins, consequences, and fallacies of the opposition between the two composers and what they came to represent. In fifteen chapters, contributors explore topics ranging from the concert lives of early-nineteenth-century capitals to the mythmaking of early cinema, and from the close analysis of individual works by Beethoven and Rossini to the cultural politics of nineteenth-century music histories.

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The Invention of Beethoven and Rossini

Historiography, Analysis, Criticism

Edited by NICHOLAS MATHEW
and
BENJAMIN WALTON
Contents

List of figures [page vii]
Notes on contributors [ix]
Acknowledgements [xii]
List of abbreviations [xiii]

Introduction: Pleasure in history [1]

NICHOLAS MATHEW AND BENJAMIN WALTON


1 Dahlhaus’s Beethoven-Rossini Stildualismus: lingering legacies of the text-event dichotomy [15]

JAMES HEPOKOSKI

2 Beethoven, Rossini – and others [49]

JAMES WEBSTER

3 Heilige Trias, Stildualismus, Beethoven: on the limits of nineteenth-century Germanic music historiography [66]

GUNDULA KREUZER

4 Rossini and Beethoven in the reception of Schubert [96]

SUZANNAH CLARK

PART II SENSES OF PLACE [121]

5 Two styles in 1830s London: “The form and order of a perspicuous unity” [123]

ROGER PARKER

6 Looking north: Carlo Soliva and the two styles south of the Alps [139]

MARTIN DEASY
Contents

7 “More German than Beethoven”: Rossini’s Zelmira and Italian style [159]
   Benjamin Walton

8 On being there in 1824 [178]
   Nicholas Mathew

PART III REHEARINGS [195]

9 Making overtures [197]
   Scott Burnham

10 Beethoven dances: Prometheus and his creatures in Vienna and Milan [210]
   Mary Ann Smart

11 Rossinian repetitions [236]
   Emanuele Senici

PART IV CROSSING MUSICAL CULTURES [263]

12 Very much of this world: Beethoven, Rossini, and the historiography of modernity [265]
   Julian Johnson

13 Schopenhauer and Rossinian universality: on the Italianate in Schopenhauer’s metaphysics of music [283]
   Yael Braunschweig

14 Elements of disorder: appealing Beethoven vs. Rossini [305]
   John Deathridge

15 Role reversal: Rossini and Beethoven in early biopics [333]
   Richard Will

List of works cited [355]
Index [381]
Figures

14.1 Title page of *Two Trios in Different Styles Composed by an Amateur in Amsterdam* published by [the fictitious] Jaque Vanderbouzzen (1792). © The British Library Board. All rights reserved. [page 308]

14.2 “German” musicians and their audience of attentive animals. Detail from the title page of *Two Trios in Different Styles*. © The British Library Board. All rights reserved. [309]

14.3 The German musical “sun” invented in London in 1792 by August Frederic Christopher Kollmann. Copper engraving first published in the *Allgemeine musikalische Zeitung*, October 30, 1799. By permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library. [310]


14.5 The funeral canopy and formal consecration ceremony in front of Santa Croce, Florence, immediately prior to the reburial of Rossini’s remains inside the church. Wood engraving, *Le Monde illustré*, May 28, 1887. Lebrecht Picture Library. [322]

14.6 Beethoven’s reburial on June 22, 1888, a day after the second exhumation of his remains. By permission of the Beethoven-Haus, Bonn. [323]

14.7 The original design of Beethoven’s gravestone, possibly by Ferdinand Schubert, as it was first published in 1829. © The British Library Board. All rights reserved. [325]

14.8 Rossini’s grave in Santa Croce, Florence. Reproduced under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation Licence. [326]


15.2 *Rossini*: wide-eyed Rossini (Nino Besozzi). [338]

15.3 *Rossini*: Rossini imagines the finale of *Guillaume Tell*. [339]
List of figures

15.4  Abel Gance, Un Grand Amour de Beethoven (1936): Thérèse (Annie Ducaux) tidies up Beethoven’s piano.  [344]
15.5  Un Grand Amour de Beethoven: Beethoven (Harry Baur) improvises the “Moonlight” Sonata.  [346]
15.6  Un Grand Amour de Beethoven: Juliette (Jany Holt) begs forgiveness.  [347]
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Abbreviations

AMZ: Allgemeine musikalische Zeitung.
