How did revolutionary America appear to European audiences through their opera glasses? The operas studied in this volume are populated by gun-toting and slave-holding Quakers, handsome Native Americans, female middle-class political leaders, rebellious British soldiers, and generous businessmen. Most of them display an unprecedented configuration of social and gender roles, which led leading composers of the time, including Mozart, Haydn, Anfossi, Piccinni, and Paisiello, to introduce far-reaching innovations in the musical and dramatic fabric of Italian opera. Polzonetti presents a fresh perspective on the European cultural reception of American social and political identity. Through detailed but accessible analysis of music examples, including previously unpublished musical sources, the book documents and explains important transformations of opera at the time of Mozart’s masterpieces, and their long-term consequences. Shedding new light on both familiar and less-familiar operatic works, from Piccini to Puccini, the study represents groundbreaking research in music, cultural, and political history.

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Italian Opera in the Age of the American Revolution

Pierpaolo Polzonetti
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

During the entire time I have been working on this project colleagues, friends, scholars of various disciplines on both sides of the Atlantic, and my students have contributed in many ways to the ideas informing this book. They have done so with healthy skepticism, contagious enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity, even hysterical laughter, but never with indifference. It is their energy that kept me going. I started this project moved by personal interest. I continued it as something also fed by the interest that many people I encountered have kindly expressed. I end it with the awareness that many of their questions remain unanswered. If this book is to succeed in fueling the intellectual curiosity that inspired it, its readers will raise even more and different questions. I would have to write a separate chapter, and probably the longest in this volume, in order to give credit to all the individuals who have contributed, directly or indirectly, to this book.

I would like to thank some of the institutions and organizers that created an ideal arena for the exchange of ideas, in particular the American Musicological Society, The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, and the Society for Eighteenth-Century Music. At their annual or biannual meetings I have been offered the opportunity to share my work in progress with the most knowledgeable scholars in my academic field. Other important occasions to exchange ideas were the conferences and symposia on themes and composers that play a relevant role in this book. Many thanks to the organizers of these events, who also edited my work in progress for publication in the conference proceedings: Alessandro Di Profio, Paologiovanni Maione, and Francesco Cotticelli, and especially Louise Stein, who supported this project wholeheartedly and organized one of the most intellectually stimulating symposia I have ever attended, the Andrew Mellon conference “American Opera – Opera in America” (University of
Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2006). I am equally grateful to Caryl Clark, for organizing a symposium on Haydn’s Il mondo della luna at the University of Toronto and especially for being a wonderful host and the musicologist who influenced most my approach to this opera. No less important have been the exchanges with scholars during invited lectures. Some colleagues on these occasions spent extra time discussing my work during and after my visit and at the dinner table, reminding me of the joys of gastromusicology: first of all Stefano Castelvecchi of Cambridge University, who shared with me his extensive knowledge of eighteenth-century opera, and whose fundamental contributions inform many aspects of this book; Roberta Montemorra Marvin of the University of Iowa’s Opera Studies Group, where I also had the good fortune to meet Robert Ketterer, whose expertise on the reflections of classical history and mythology in Italian opera proved to be helpful; John Walter Hill of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where I tested the very early stages of my research on Montezuma operas; and finally Francesca Brittan for giving me the opportunity to test my argument in the Epilogue of this book with faculty and students of Case Western Reserve University.

My hosting institutions have played a major role in shaping my research and supporting it morally, intellectually, and financially. First of all, I should like to mention my alma mater, Cornell University. Jim Webster, who supervised the dissertation from which this book originated, spilled rivers of ink over my drafts and coached me to be both audacious and rigorous. During those years I greatly benefited from both the encouragement and criticism of David Rosen, Becky Harris-Warrick, Neal Zaslaw, and Annette Richards, as well as many colleagues and friends, especially Joseph Phibbs, Emanuele Senici, Alessandra Campana, and Gary Moulsdale. The early stages of this project have been supported by a travel research fund from the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies at Cornell, which enabled me to travel and collect primary sources in Italy. Lenore Corall, one of the most extraordinary music librarians who ever lived, worked miracles to help me locate and find many of those sources. My search for libretti and scores continued after I moved to the University of North
Carolina, Greensboro, where I could count on another wonderful librarian, Sarah Dorsey, and on many other extremely supportive colleagues. Thanks to the Kohler Grant and other research grants by this university, I was able to continue my research in Europe. The University of Notre Dame has been equally supportive by providing funds for my undergraduate research assistant Connor J. Nowalk, who helped to typeset the music examples with great dedication. Additional research funds have been readily provided by the Institute for Scholarship in Liberal Arts (ISLA) and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies. For their support and professionalism I am grateful to Augustin Fuentes and Ken Garcia from ISLA, and Anthony Monta and James McAdams from the Nanovic Institute. The Nanovic has also hosted a vibrant interdisciplinary discussion group on the theme of “War and Revolution.” Two-thirds of the chapters of this book have been read, edited, and commented upon by colleagues who participated in this group, testing, among other things, the accessibility and chances of survival of my research outside its native environment of musicology. For this I am grateful to Julia Douthwaite, Anita McChesney, Tom Kselman, Lesley Walker, Alex Martin, Joseph Buttigieg, Tobias Boes, and Robert Fishman. Among my colleagues in the Program of Liberal Studies I would like to thank Steve Fallon and Henry Weinfield for editorial suggestions, Mike Crowe for sharing his expertise on eighteenth-century perception of extraterrestrial life, and Phil Sloan for sharing his wisdom on the new-world dispute and especially on Buffon’s ideas about American natural history. I am also thankful to Ethan Heimo for a few sharp remarks on Haydn’s music. My warmest thanks go to two friends and neighbors, who also happen to be world-renowned scholars: my next door neighbor, the philosopher Vittorio Hösle, read and discussed with me some of my drafts and irradiated some of those pages with his critical acumen. My other neighbor is Susan Youens. I often bugged her while she was tending her glorious garden, and many times she offered me a taste of both her wine and her inspiring views on musicology.

If this project required a good amount of traveling, equally important has been the time spent studying the collected material. The first
grant that allowed me to do so was the Alvin H. Johnson AMS 50 dissertation fellowship granted by the American Musicological Society. More recently the most substantial financial support came from two American federal agencies: thanks to the National Endowment for the Humanities I was able to advance the project beyond the dissertation level and thanks to the American Council of Learned Societies I was able to turn it into a book.

When I could not travel and I still needed information from distant libraries, I had to rely on competent and generous librarians and scholars. I thank Kenneth Kinslow of the Hesburgh Library of Notre Dame for his kindness and efficiency in helping with complicated interlibrary loans and acquisitions of digital reproductions. A special thank you goes to Balázs Mikusi from the department of Music of the National Széchényi Library, who not only guided me through the Eszterháza music collection while I was in Budapest, but continued to double check sources for me thereafter, showing a tremendous amount of competence and patience. I am also grateful to Mariella Sala of the Biblioteca del Conservatorio “Luca Marenzio” of Brescia, as well as to Annarita Colturato, Lawrence M. Earp, Francesco Izzo, Giovanni Polin, Lucia Marchi, Robert Kendrick, Franco Piperno, Takashi Yamada, Stefano Mengozzi, and Mary Ann Parker. I am grateful to two opera conductors, Eric Hull and Alan Curtis, for being kind enough to share with me their thoughts, information, and music. Pierluigi Petrobelli will always have my gratitude for being both a true maestro and a friend and I thank him for his kind hospitality in Venice, where I also had the good fortune of meeting and exchanging a few ideas with Reinhard Strohm and Francesco Fanna on Vivaldi’s Motezuma. Mary Hunter, Ralph Locke, and Elaine Sisman have not only been essential references for their inspiring and reliable scholarship, but have also shared enough interest in the subject of this book to renew my energy and passion at points when I needed my batteries recharged. Dorothea Link, John Rice, and especially Bruce Brown shared what they knew (which is a lot) and at times even information and material they collected with unparalleled generosity. Thanks also to Dean Sutcliffe for his invaluable
editorial feedback on the version of chapter seven that I published in *Eighteenth-Century Music*, which I present here with some changes and with permission. I also thank Krista Winter for granting permission, on behalf of G. Henle Verlag, to publish here all the musical examples from their critical edition of Haydn’s *Il mondo della luna*. All the previously published parts of this book have been heavily revised and all the musical examples in this volume have been re-engraved and readapted to show only the necessary parts, as indicated in the captions. For this reason I take full responsibility for the accuracy of all the music and text reproduced in this book. I would like to thank the Newberry Library of Chicago for providing a photographic reproduction of and permission for the illustration of the etching in Nolant de Fatouville, *Arlequin dans la lune*, and John F. Anderies, Head of Special Collections of Haverford College, Pennsylvania, for sharing with me his expertise on Quaker iconography and especially for helping me to identify the cover illustration.

I am grateful to the late Wendy Allanbrook for reading the first draft of the entire manuscript and for encouraging its publication; to Art Groos and Ellen Lockhart for reading the last draft and offering a treasure of editorial suggestions. I thank the two anonymous readers who peer-reviewed the manuscript for finding a difficult balance between being rigorous in their criticism and encouraging in their appreciation of my work. I am very grateful to Vicki Cooper of Cambridge University Press, who believed in this project from the beginning and to Becky Jones who reminded me that it was about time for an ending. During the final editorial stages I had the privilege to work with Sara Peacock, with whom I exchanged not only lists of addenda and errata/corrigenda, but also ideas. I thank her for helping me to improve the form of the book, but also for showing interest in its content.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to Anthony DelDonna for always being there when I needed him, checking sources in Naples and Washington dc, fixing examples, helping to understand and translate excerpts from libretti in Neapolitan language, discussing all sorts of problems and doubts. My wife Lena Rose has heard and read enough
about Quakers and other singing American characters to prove her love to be great. During the most intense last weeks of work on this project, my mother came to stay with us, keeping me well fed, my wife happy and my two-year-old daughter busy. While I type these last words I can hear them joking and laughing in an odd mixture of Italian and English, which reminds me that transatlantic encounters can be rewarding and funny too. Here is a fragment of their conversation that I find relevant to the subject of this book:

LENA: facciamo il bagno o un tea party?
NANDA: cos’è tea party?
LENA: facciamo un tè.
STELLA: amo tè party.
NANDA: Ah! Tè party! Bellissimo: con i biscotti... 

To these three women I dedicate this book.
### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Library/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-Wn</td>
<td>Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Musiksammlung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-Bc</td>
<td>Brussels, Conservatoire Royal, Bibliothèque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-B</td>
<td>Berlin, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preussischer Kulturbesitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-Bsa</td>
<td>Berlin, Sing-Akademie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-Dl</td>
<td>Dresden, Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitäts-Bibliothek, Musikabteilung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-Wa</td>
<td>Wolfenbüttel, Niedersächsisches Staatsarchiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Mp</td>
<td>Madrid, Biblioteca del Palacio Real</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-Pc</td>
<td>France, Paris, Conservatoire, in Bibliothèque Nationale de France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-Bn</td>
<td>Budapest, Országos Széchényi Könyvtár (National Library)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-BRc</td>
<td>Brescia, Biblioteca del Conservatorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-Gl</td>
<td>Genova, Biblioteca del Conservatorio, former Liceo Musicale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-Nc</td>
<td>Naples, biblioteca del Conservatorio San Pietro a Majella</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-Tf</td>
<td>Turin, Accademia Filarmonica Archivio</td>
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