Music in the Georgian Novel

Music was an essential aspect of life in eighteenth-century Britain and plays a crucial role in the literary strategies of Georgian novels. This book is the first to investigate the literary representation of music in these works. It explores the structural, dramatic and metaphorical roles of music in novels by authors ranging from Richardson to Austen. Pierre Dubois reveals the meaning of “musical scenes” by framing them within contemporary cultural issues, such as the critique of Italian opera or the theoretical shift from mimesis to the alleged autonomy and mystery of music. Focusing upon both eighteenth-century theories of music and the way specific musical instruments were perceived in the collective imagination, Dubois suggests new interpretative perspectives for a whole range of novels of the Georgian era. This book will be of interest to a wide readership interested not only in literature, but also in music and cultural history at large.

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PIERRE DUBOIS
For C. B.
Contents

List of illustrations  page [ix]
Acknowledgments   [x]

Introduction        [1]


1  Prelude: Italian opera and English oratorio   [13]
2  The English Orpheus          [28]
3  Damnable pleasures          [46]
4  The natural voice and the ideal of purity    [50]
5  Malodorous soundscapes and musical incenses     [61]

PART II  SENTIMENT AND SENSIBILITY    [77]

6  The perimeter of the sentimental mode    [79]
7  The crisis of language   [87]
8  The impression of harmony   [94]
9  The salutary remanence of discords   [99]
10  The inexpressible mystery of music    [112]
11  The music of feeling    [121]
12  Pastoral music   [132]

PART III  SWEET MUSIC AND THE SUBLIME    [145]

13  Theory of the musical sublime   [147]
14  The musical sublime and ideological control   [153]
15  Ann Radcliffe’s feminine sublime     [161]

PART IV  MUSIC AS A VEHICLE FOR FEMALE IDENTITY    [195]

16  The musical and novelistic perimeters of feminine sensibility   [197]
17 Intimations of musical gendering: Anne Hughes, Caroline [202]
18 Instruments of a new sensibility [210]
19 Sensibility and affectation: Jane West, Maria Edgeworth, Elizabeth Inchbald and Sydney Owenson [230]
20 Variations on a feminine theme: Frances Burney’s musical heroines [247]
21 Jane Austen: music, woman and the middle way [273]

Conclusion [297]

Notes [304]
Bibliography [339]
Index [359]
Illustrations


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