

The Cambridge Companion to Seventeenth-Century Opera

The Cambridge Companion to Seventeenth-Century Opera is a much-needed introduction to one of the most defining areas of Western music history - the birth of opera and its developments during the first century of its existence. From opera's Italian foundations to its growth through Europe and the Americas, the volume charts the changing landscape – on stage and beyond – which shaped the way opera was produced and received. With a range from opera's sixteenth-century antecedents to the threshold of the eighteenth century, this path-breaking book is broad enough to function as a comprehensive introduction, yet sufficiently detailed to offer valuable insights into most of early opera's many facets; it guides the reader towards authoritative written and musical sources appropriate for further study. It will be of interest to a wide audience, including undergraduate and graduate students in universities and equivalent institutions, and amateur and professional musicians.

JACQUELINE WAEBER is Associate Professor of Music at Duke University, North Carolina. As a musicologist, her research focuses on French musical culture, from the Baroque Era to early twentieth century. She is the editor of Musique et Geste en France de Lully à la Révolution (2009) and author of En musique dans le texte: Le mélodrame, de Rousseau à Schoenberg (2006).



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The Cambridge Companion to Seventeenth-Century Opera

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Contents

List of Music Examples [page xi]
List of Figures [xiii]
List of Tables [xv]
Notes on Contributors [xvii]
Preface [xxi]
Chronology [xxv]
List of Abbreviations [xxxi]

PART I THE ITALIAN FOUNDATIONS [1]

- 1 Opera Is Born: The Wedding of Music and Drama in Late Renaissance Florence [3] BARBARA RUSSANO HANNING
- 2 '...e poi le parole': Towards a History of the Libretto [22] TIM CARTER
- 3 Opera as Spectacle, Opera as Drama [39] MARGARET MURATA

PART II SOCIETY, INSTITUTIONS, AND PRODUCTION [65]

- 4 Opera for a Paying Public (Italy c. 1637–c. 1700) [67] BETH L. GLIXON
- 5 'Una bella voce, un bel trillo, ed un bel passaggio':Opera Singers in Seventeenth-Century Italy [89]COLLEEN REARDON
- 6 Opera, Gender, and Voice [108] CHRISTINE JEANNERET
- 7 Dance and Ballet [132] REBECCA HARRIS-WARRICK
- 8 Staging Opera in the Seventeenth Century [152] ROGER SAVAGE

ix



x Contents

PART III NATIONAL TRADITIONS (OUTSIDE ITALY) [175]

- 9 Opera in France c. 1640-c. 1710 [177] LAURA NAUDEIX
- 10 Song and Declamation in French Opera [202] JACQUELINE WAEBER
- 11 Opera in England [224]
 AMANDA EUBANKS WINKLER
- 12 The Development of Opera in the German Countries [248] MICHAEL MAUL
- 13 Opera in Spain and the Spanish Dominions in Italy and the Americas [274] LOUISE K. STEIN

Further Reading [303] Index [331]



Music Examples

- 1.1 Peri, *Le musiche di Jacopo Peri sopra L'Euridice*, recitative (Dafne), mm. 19–26 [page 14]
- 3.1 D. Mazzocchi, *La catena d'Adone*, Act II, sc. 2, *mezz'aria* (Falsirena), mm. 237–59 [49]
- 6.1 F. Caccini, *La liberazione di Ruggiero dal'isola d'Alcina*, 'Quanto per dolce' (Ruggiero), mm. 138–62; 223–37 [118]
- 10.1 Lully, Atys, Act I, sc. 3, mm. 142–90 [219]
- 11.1 Locke, The Tempest, 'Curtain Tune,' 68 [229]
- 11.2 Purcell, King Arthur, 'Hither this way' (Philidel), mm. 26-9 [236]
- 11.3 Purcell, *King Arthur*, 'Let Not a Moonborn Elf' (Grimbald), mm. 1–25 [237]





Figures

- 5.1 Libretto of Giuditta di Baviera (1702) [page 96]
- 7.1 Ballo for the Turks with dancing bears, in *Balletti d'invenzione nella* Finta Pazza di Giovanbattista Balbi (c. 1658) [136]
- 7.2 A choreography by Pécour in Beauchamps-Feuillet notation, in Michel Gaudrau, *Nouveau recüeil de dance de bal et celle de ballet* (s.d. [1715]), 91 [142]
- 7.3 A symmetrical grouping of six couples dancing with a soloist (s.d., c. 1700) by Jean Berain [143]
- 7.4 Scapino dancing, in Gregorio Lambranzi, *Neue und curieuse* theatralische Tantz-Schul (1716), Book I, plate 34 [148]
- 8.1 The battle scene from *La regina Sant'Orsola* (1624) by Alfonso Parigi (1625) [160]
- 8.2 Final scene from *Il Sant'Alessio* (1631) by François Collignon (1634) [161]
- 8.3 Scene from Venere gelosa (1643) by anon. artist (1644) [165]
- 8.4 Performance of *Alceste* at Versailles (1674) by Jean Le Pautre [167]
- 13.1 Portrait of Gaspar de Haro y Guzmán, Marquis del Carpio (c. 1683) by anon. artist [276]
- 13.2 Atlas carrying the terrestrial globe from *Andrómeda y Perseo* (c. 1653) by Luigi Baccio del Bianco [292]

xiii





Table

10.1 Distribution of *Récits* in Quinault and Lully's *Atys* (1698), Act I scene 3 [215]





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xvii



xviii List of Contributors

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List of Contributors

xix

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xx List of Contributors

broadcast for the BBC on the eighteenth-century opera houses at Drottningholm and Český Krumlov.

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Preface

In the middle of the twentieth century, Joseph Kerman had no major qualms about giving the headline 'The Dark Ages' to one of the chapters of his book, Opera and Drama. By this, he meant the period between Monteverdi and Gluck. Granted, the expression may have been chosen cum grano salis, and Kerman then seemed to moderate his claim, stressing that this period was also 'the great age of opera'. Song, music, stage design, the 'enormous' amount of libretti - all of these testified to 'unbelievable development and unbelievable activity'. During the Baroque era, the ink of their scores barely dried, operas were staged in an overwhelming cadence, be it on Italian theatres or elsewhere in Europe. This led to the rise of a 'star-system' dominated by the cults of the castrato and the prima donna. The era also saw the advent of operatic spectacularity through the use of extravagant machineries. But in the end, once an opera had lived through a few performances, it was then 'thrown away'. Here was, for Kerman, the crux of the problem. This dazzling operatic hyperproductivity was also its main stigma. However foundational these dark ages may have been, they had not yet entered opera into the hall of the canonic repertoire - that is, until Mozart appeared on stage.

Of course, we need to contextualize Kerman's tirade, originally published in 1956, then maintained in his revised edition of 1988. And we could reply that the 1950s were still the 'dark ages' for most operatic productions, especially for works that fell into the Baroque period before Mozart's *Idomeneo*. Only from the 1970s have we started to study the early fringes of the operatic repertoire through historically based recordings, and (more or less) historically based productions. Much has been done since the collaboration between Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Jean-Pierre Ponnelle in 1975 at the Zurich Opera House for the staging of Monteverdi's trilogy (*Orfeo, Il ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria*, and *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, as well as the staged madrigal *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*), or Jean-Marie Villégier's 1987 landmark production of Lully's *Atys*, with William Christie and the Arts Florissants, at the Opéra-Comique in Paris. These productions are now considered historical landmarks in the twentieth-century revival of Baroque opera. Also, the renewed scholarly impulse in

xxi



xxii Preface

opera studies, theatre studies, and cultural history during these recent decades has pursued these efforts. Today, no one would deny that this operatic repertoire has become much more visible and accessible be it on stage or through recorded media. As a result, there is now an enthusiastic audience, within or outside the scholarly sphere, for whom this *Companion* is intended.

Our volume is on 'seventeenth-century opera' rather than 'early opera' or 'Baroque opera', and this is not simply to address more explicitly its chronological boundaries. When it comes to art forms, 'early' often implies the notions of archaism, imperfection, or unachievement, and of experimentalism. These can fuel a problematic teleological connotation, when considering that the history of opera unfolds as a cyclical history of crises, during which the respective priorities of music and words needed to be readressed and readjusted. By the 1680s, Italian opera was rife for its first important critical moment, the Metastasian reform in the early eighteenth century, in the wake of the ideals promulgated by the Arcadian academy. But in parallel, the new genre of the tragédie en musique, France's belated answer to Italian opera, offered a treatment of music and text that in many ways stood much closer to the ideals of the Camerata Bardi in the 1600s than to its contemporary Italian counterpart. Thus, the history of opera should be better understood not so much as a linear development aiming towards a supposed operatic perfection but rather as a series of constant 'returns to' the ideal of an original model.

Our volume offers thirteen essays by distinguished scholars in the fields of seventeenth-century opera and theatre studies. Its intention is to provide the readers – be they interested members of the public, students, or scholars – with a series of thorough yet accessible texts scrutinising opera during the entire seventeenth century, a period that provided the foundational pillars for the development of this genre. The volume is also justified by the specialisation of scholarship and the major renewal of opera studies in these recent decades. Independently from the period chosen, the study of opera has also become increasingly reliant on interdisciplinarity. Much of the recent literature on seventeenth-century opera has involved ground-breaking research highlighting opera's relationships with literature, Classical antecedents, theatrical practices, rhetoric, patronage, political functions, gender issues, and other sociological contexts, and our volume draws on such a multiplicity of approaches.

The three chapters in Part I, 'The Italian Foundations', reflect on the origins of opera in the context of Florentine humanism, and how literary ideals and those of Classical literature led to a recreation of a modern



Preface xxiii

equivalent of ancient Greek theatre. Readers are also introduced to the musical characteristics and dramatic functions of the *recitar cantando*, *stile rappresentativo*, aria, and chorus, and their relation to poetry. The rise of opera-as-drama is discussed up to its Roman period and along its political dimension as a vehicle for displays of power as well as entertainment for its courtly and aristocratic audiences.

The five chapters of Part II, 'Society, Institutions, and Production', focus on various aspects related to operatic production, the development of stage scenery, and the incorporation of ballet. It also assesses opera as a socioeconomic institution, which started with the multiplication of opera houses for a paying public (from 1637 in Venice). Part II scrutinizes the increasing professionalisation of the operatic sphere and its impact on composers, librettists, and stage designers, and the strengthening of Venice as a main model for opera throughout Italy, but it also considers how other Italian centres differed from the Venetian model. Emphasis is given to the singers: the rise of the castrato, the primo uomo and prima donna, and the important yet problematic place occupied by female musicians – from composers to singers – and the social constraints they faced.

Part III, 'National Traditions (outside Italy)', addresses the cultivation of opera, by birth an Italian affair, and its expansion outside the limits of the Italian territories, reaching the rest of Europe and the Americas. Its geographical dissemination and assimilation was not always a smooth process: France, England, and Spain had already strong traditions of theatrical spectacles in which music was prominently featured. All these various strands formed different trajectories in which the primeval Italian model had to be reimagined along specific geographical and cultural traditions that had started to consolidate by the end of the seventeenth century. By then, the rise of the Neapolitan school, while preparing the ground for opera seria, also contributed to the dissemination of opera in Spain and the Spanish dominions in Italy and the Americas. In parallel, the German countries saw the rise of operatic centres in cities such as Leipzig and Hamburg; in England, the end of the seventeenth century culminated with the first Golden Age of English opera until Purcell's death in 1695. In France, the period between Lully's death in 1687 and the advent of opéracomique in the 1710s marked the culmination of the Lullian model before Rameau's first operas in the 1730s.

By generating idiosyncratic musical styles and techniques, these traditions also departed from the Italian norm, preparing the ground for national traditions that would lead in the next century to the Gluckian reform. In that respect, the present volume also invites a broader



xxiv Preface

understanding of the origins and development of seventeenth-century opera and its numerous legacies in the next century.

As anyone would expect, the chronological ambitus of our volume starts with opera's Italian origins, c. 1590s–1600s. It extends up to the 1710s, meaning that we do not include what would still be considered 'Baroque opera', that is, Handel's operas, Metastasio and the rise of *opera seria*, and opera in France following the death of Louis XIV. These topics are covered by the *Cambridge Companion to Eighteenth-Century Opera*, thus avoiding any excessive overlapping.

The music examples as well as the orthography of the libretti have all been modernised. Our chronology encompasses the major works mentioned in the volume and provides specific historical events for their contextualisation. The final bibliography is not redundant with the endnotes, and is mainly intended to guide the reader towards essential publications. However, most of the primary sources (scores, libretti, archival texts including manuscripts) are only mentioned in the chapters' endnotes.

I am most grateful to all the contributors of this volume, who embraced with so much dedication the task of writing for this *Companion* and who accepted the challenge of its long overdue genesis. I am indebted to Maximiliano Amici, who realized all the music examples and adapted them to modern notation; to Kirsten Rutschman, who translated Michael Maul's text; and to Laura Williams and Celia Abele, both of whom lightened my task of translating and revising the texts by the three French-speaking contributors of this volume.

Special thanks go to Christine Jeanneret, Laura Naudeix, and Colleen Reardon, who, at various stages of this volume's preparation, helped me and encouraged me to persevere with it, and to Tim Carter for always providing wise and erudite advice.

Notes

1 Joseph Kerman, *Opera as Drama* (New York: Knopf, 1956; rev. edn. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988), ch. 3, 39.



Chronology

1581	Galilei, Dialogo della musica antica e della moderna; Ballet comique de la Reine (Paris)
1589	Bargagli, La Pellegrina (Florence)
1597/8	Peri, <i>La Dafne</i> (Florence)
1600	Peri, L'Euridice (Florence); Caccini, Il rapimento di Cefalo
	(Florence); Cavalieri, La Rappresentazione di Anima, et di
	Corpo (Rome)
1600/1	Caccini, L'Euridice (print)
1601/2	Caccini, L'Euridice (Florence), Le Nuove musiche (print)
1607	Monteverdi, Orfeo (Mantua); F. Caccini, La Stiava (Pisa)
1608	Gagliano, La Dafne (Mantua); Monteverdi, L'Arianna, Il Ballo
	delle ingrate (Mantua)
1610	Guédron, Le Ballet de Monseigneur le duc de Vandosme ou Ballet
	d'Alcine (Paris)
1613	Lanier, Somerset Masque (London)
1614	Monteverdi (?), Orfeo (Salzburg); Caccini, Nuove musiche e
	nuova maniera di scriverle
1617	Guédron, Ballet de la délivrance de Renaud (Paris); Lanier,
	Lovers Made Men, The Vision of Delight (London); A 'Sing-
	Comedie' on the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola (Würzburg)
1619	Gagliano, Peri, Lo sposalizio di Medoro et Angelica (Florence);
	F. Caccini, La Fiera (Florence); Guédron, Grand Ballet du Roi
	sur l'aventure de Tancrède en la Forêt enchantée (Paris)
1620	Vitali, Aretusa (Rome); Delizie di Posillipo boscarecce e
	marittime (Naples)
1621	Schütz, Glückwünschung des Apollinis und der neun Musen
	(Dresden)
1622	F. Caccini and Gagliano, <i>Il martirio di Sant'Agata</i> (Florence)
1624	Monteverdi, <i>Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda</i> (Venice)
1624/5	Gagliano, La regina Sant'Orsola (Florence)
1625	F. Caccini, La liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina
	(Florence)
1626	Gagliano, La Giuditta (Venice); D. Mazzocchi, La catena
	d'Adone (Rome); Boësset, Grand Bal de la Douairière de
	Billebahaut (Paris)

XXV



xxvi	Chronology	
	1627	Piccinini and Monanni, <i>La selva sin amor</i> (Madrid); Schütz, <i>Dafne</i> (Torgau)
	1628	Gagliano, La Flora (Florence)
	1630	Monteverdi, <i>Proserpina rapita</i> (Venice)
	c. 1630	Publication of Il Corago
	1631 or 1632	Landi, Sant'Alessio (Rome)
	1633	M. Rossi, Erminia sul Giordano (Rome)
	1636	Sances, Ermiona (Padua)
	1637	Opening of the Teatro San Cassiano (Venice) with Manelli, <i>Andromeda</i> ; Marazzoli and V. Mazzocchi, <i>L'Egisto, ovvero, Chi soffre speri</i> (Rome)
	1638	Manelli, La maga fulminata (Venice)
	1638/9	Cavalli, <i>Le nozze di Teti e di Peleo</i> (Venice); Schütz, <i>Orpheus und Eurydice</i> (Dresden)
	1639	Opening of the Teatro SS. Giovanni e Paolo (Venice); Ferrari, <i>Armida</i> (Venice); Manelli, <i>La Delia</i> (Venice); Marazzoli and V. Mazzocchi, <i>L'Egisto</i> , <i>ovvero</i> , <i>Chi soffre speri</i> (Rome, revised production)
	1640	First opera production at the Teatro S. Moisè (Venice); Doni, Trattato della musica scenica; Monteverdi, Il ritorno d'Ulisse (Venice); Cavalli, Gli amori d'Apollo e di Dafne (Venice)
	1641	Inauguration of the Teatro Novissimo with Sacrati, <i>La finta</i> pazza (Venice); Monteverdi, <i>Le nozze d'Enea e Lavinia</i> (Venice)
	1642	Cavalli, <i>La virtù de' strali d'Amore</i> (Venice); Sacrati, <i>Bellerofonte</i> (Venice); L. Rossi, <i>Il palazzo incantato</i> (Rome)
	1643	Monteverdi, <i>L'incoronazione di Poppea</i> (Venice); Sacrati, <i>Venere gelosa</i> (Venice)
	1644	Cavalli, L'Ormindo (Venice); Staden, Geistliche Waldgedicht oder Freudenspiel, genant Seelewig (Nuremberg)
	1645	Sacrati, <i>La finta pazza</i> (Paris, Petit-Bourbon); Rovetta, <i>Ercole in Lidia</i> (Venice)
	1646	Marazzoli and V. Mazzocchi, L'Egisto, ovvero, Chi soffre speri (Paris)
	1647	Grasseschi, Datira (Siena); L. Rossi, Orfeo (Paris)
	1648	Opening of the Teatro SS. Apostoli (Venice)
	1649	Cavalli, Giasone (Venice)
	1650	D'Assoucy, Andromède (Paris)
	1651	Opening of the Teatro S. Apollinare (Venice); Cavalli, <i>Calisto</i> (Venice); Cesti, <i>Alessandro vincitor di se stesso</i> (Venice)
	1652	Cavalli, La Veremonda, l'amazzone di Aragona (Naples)
	1653	Cavalli, La Veremonda, l'amazzone di Aragona (Venice); Cambefort, Lambert et al., Ballet Royal de la Nuit (Paris); Hidalgo (attributed), Fortunas de Andrómeda y Perseo (Madrid); Locke, Cupid and Death; Provenzale/Cavalli, Il Ciro (Venice)



Chronology xxvii

Opening of the theatre San Bartolomeo (Naples); Caproli, Le nozze di Peleo e di Theti (Les Noces de Pélée et de Thétis, Paris);
Cambefort, Les Charmes de Félicie, tirés de la Diane de
Montemayor (Paris); Flecknoe, Ariadne Deserted by Theseus and
Found and Courted by Bacchus (London); Staden, Geistliche Waldgedicht oder Freudenspiel, genant Seelewig (Wolfenbüttel)
Cavalli, <i>Erismena</i> and <i>Xerse</i> (Venice); Cesti, <i>L'Argia</i> (Innsbruck)
Opening of the Teatro S. Samuele (Venice); Lawes, Locke et al.,
The Siege of Rhodes (London); Cesti, Orontea (Innsbruck);
Hidalgo, Pico y Canente (Madrid)
Ziani, Le Fortune di Rodope e Damira (Venice); Cavalli,
Artemisia (Venice); Cesti, La Dori (Innsbruck)
Cavalli, <i>Hipermestra</i> (Florence)
Volpe, La Costanza di Rosmonda (Venice)
Aureli, <i>L'Antigona delusa da Alceste</i> (Venice); Hidalgo, <i>La</i>
púrpura de la rosa (Madrid); Cavalli, Xerse, with additional
entrées by Lully (Paris)
Opening of the Teatro S. Salvatore (Venice); Hidalgo, <i>Celos aun</i>
del aire matan (Madrid); J. Melani, Ercole in Tebe (Florence)
Cavalli, Ercole amante (Paris); Bontempi, Il Paride (Dresden)
Opening of the Drury Lane Theatre (London); Sebastiani, Pastorello musicale or the Verliebte Schäffer-Spiel (Königsberg)
Cavalli, Scipione affricano (Venice); Locke, Macbeth (London);
Banister, The Indian Queen (London)
Cavalli, Mutio Scevola (Venice)
Cesti, Il Tito (Venice)
Inauguration of the Komödienhaus am Taschenberg (Dresden)
with Ziani's Il Teseo
J. Melani, <i>Il Girello</i> (Rome); Cesti, <i>Il Pomo d'oro</i> (Vienna)
Foundation of the Académie d'Opéra (Paris; renamed in 1671
Académie Royale de Musique); Cesti, Argia (Siena); Lully, Ballet
de Flore
Molière and Lully, Les Amants magnifiques (Saint-Germain-en-
Laye); Molière and Lully, <i>Le Bourgeois gentilhomme</i> (Chambord,
then Paris)
Opening of the Dorset Garden Theatre (London); Ziani,
Heraclio (Venice); Cambert, Pomone (Paris)
Sartorio, Orfeo (Venice); Pasquini, La sincerità con la sincerità,
overo Il Tirinto (Ariccia); Cesti, Dori and Il Tito (Siena);
J. Melani, <i>Il Girello</i> (Siena); Bontempi and Peranda,
Musicalisches Schauspiel von der Dafne (Dresden)
Lully, Cadmus et Hermione, Les Fêtes de l'Amour et de Bacchus
(Paris): Bontempi, Jupiter und Io (Dresden)



xxviii	Chronology	
	1674	Draghi, Il ratto delle Sabine and Il fuoco eterno custodito dalle Vestali (Vienna); Lully, Alceste (Paris); Cavalli, Erismena (?) (London); Locke, The Tempest (London); Perrault, Critique de l'opéra, ou Examen de la tragédie intitulée Alceste
	1675	Legrenzi, Eteocle e Polinice (Venice); Lully, Thésée (Saint-Germain-en-Laye); Locke, Psyche (London)
	1676	Sartorio, <i>Giulio Cesare in Egitto</i> (Venice); Lully, <i>Atys</i> (Saint-Germain-en-Laye)
	1677	Opening of the Teatro S. Angelo (Venice); Legrenzi, <i>Totila</i> (Venice); Agostini, <i>L'Adalinda</i> (Siena); Lully, <i>Isis</i> (Saint-Germain-en-Laye)
	1678	Opening of the Teatro S. Giovanni Grisostomo (Venice); establishment of the Theatre am Gänsemarkt (Hamburg); Theile, Adam und Eva (Der erschaffene, gefallene und aufgerichtete Mensch), Orontes (Hamburg); Lully, Psyché (Paris)
	1679	Lully, Bellérophon (Paris); Scarlatti, Gli equivoci nel sembiante (Rome)
	1680	Creation of the Comédie-Française (Paris); Scarlatti, <i>L'honestà</i> negli amori (Rome); Lully, <i>Proserpine</i> (Saint-Germain-en-Laye); Strungk, <i>Alceste</i> and <i>Die liebreiche, durch Tugend und Schönheit erhöhte Esther</i> (Hamburg)
	1681	Lully, Le Triomphe de l'Amour (Saint-Germain-en-Laye); Lorenzani, Nicandro et Fileno (Fontainebleau); Steffani, Marco Aurelio (Munich)
	1682	Lully, Persée (Paris)
	1683	Legrenzi, <i>Il Giustino</i> (Venice); Scarlatti, <i>L'Aldimiro</i> , o vero Favor per favore and La Psiche, o vero Amore innamorato (Naples); Lully, <i>Phaëton</i> (Versailles)
	c. 1683	Blow, Venus and Adonis (London)
	1684	Lully, Amadis (Paris)
	1685	Lully, <i>Roland</i> (Versailles) and <i>Le Temple de la Paix</i> (Fontainebleau); Grabu, <i>Albion and Albanius</i> (London); Steffani, <i>Solone, Audacia e rispetto</i> (Munich)
	1686	Lully, Armide (Paris); Lully, Acis et Galatée (Anet); Lully, Cadmus (London); Franck, Cara Mustapha (Hamburg); Franck, Die drey Töchter Cecrops (Ansbach/Hamburg); Steffani, Servio Tullio (Munich)
	1687	Lully, Achille et Polyxène (Paris); Steffani, Alarico il Baltha (Munich)
	1688	Charpentier, <i>David et Jonathas</i> (Paris); Lorenzani, <i>Orontée</i> (Chantilly); Steffani, <i>Niobe, regina di Tebe</i> (Munich)
	1689	Purcell, Dido and Aeneas (London); Collasse, Thétis et Pélée (Paris); Krieger, Die ausgesöhnte Eifersucht oder Cephalus und



Chronology xxix

	Procris (Weissenfels); Pallavicino and Strungk, Antiope
	(Dresden); Steffani, Henrico Leone (Hanover)
1690	Foundation of the Accademia dell'Arcadia (Rome); Purcell,
	Dioclesian (London)
1691	Purcell, King Arthur (London); Conradi, Die schöne und getreue
	Ariadne (Hamburg); Steffani, Orlando generoso (Hanover)
1692	Conradi, Die Verstöhrung Jerusalem (Hamburg); Kusser,
	Ariadne (Braunschweig); Purcell, The Fairy-Queen (London)
1693	Noris, Nerone fatto Cesare (Venice); Charpentier, Médée (Paris);
	Desmarets, Didon (Paris); Strungk, Alceste (Leipzig)
1694	Scarlatti, Pirro e Demetrio (Naples); Jacquet de La Guerre,
	Céphale et Procris (Paris); Kusser, Erindo (Hamburg)
1695	Scarlatti, Pirro e Demetrio (Siena); Collasse, Les Saisons (Paris);
	Desmarets, Les Amours de Momus (Paris)
1697	Scarlatti, La caduta de' Decemviri (Naples); Campra, L'Europe
	galante (Paris); Destouches, Issé (Fontainebleau); Keiser, Adonis
	(Hamburg)
1698	Eccles, Rinaldo and Armida (London); Navas, Destinos vencen
	finezas (Madrid)
1699	Campra, Le Carnaval de Venise (Paris); Strungk, Agrippina
	(Leipzig)
1700 ?	Kusser, Adonis (Stuttgart)
1701	Hidalgo, Torrejón y Velasco, La púrpura de la rosa (Lima);
	Keiser, Störtebecker (Hamburg); Ballet de Narva (Stockholm)
1702	Raguenet, Parallèle des Italiens et des Français en ce qui regarde
	la musique et les opéras
1703	Albinoni, Griselda (Florence); Destouches, Le Carnaval et la
	Folie (Fontainebleau); Keiser, Claudius (Hamburg)
1704	Le Cerf de la Viéville, Comparaison de la musique italienne et de
	la musique française
1706	Marais, Alcyone (Paris)
1709	Steffani, Tassilone (Düsseldorf)
1710	Campra, Les Fêtes vénitiennes (Paris); Mattheson, Boris
	Goudenow (Hamburg)
1728	Hidalgo, Celos aun del aire matan (Mexico)





Abbreviations

Books

MGG1 Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart. Allgemeine

Enzyklopädie der Musik

MGG2 Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart. Allgemeine

Enzyklopädie der Musik, 2nd rev. edn

Journals

COJ Cambridge Opera Journal

EM Early Music

EMH Early Music History

JAMS Journal of the American Musicological Society

JM Journal of Musicology

JRMA Journal of the Royal Musical Association
JSCM Journal of Seventeenth-Century Music

ML Music & Letters
MQ Musical Quarterly
MT Musical Times

PRMA Proceedings of the Royal Musical Association

RIM Rivista Italiana di Musicologia

RM Revista de Musicología

SM Studi Musicali

Library Sigla

E-Mn Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional GB-Cu Cambridge, University Library

GB-Lbl London, British Library

GB-Lna London, The National Archives

I-Bc Bologna, Museo Internazionale e Biblioteca della Musica di

Bologna

I-Bu Bologna, Biblioteca UniversitariaI-Mb Milan, Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense

xxxi



xxxii List of Abbreviations

I-Nn Naples, Biblioteca Nazionale Vittorio Emanuele III

I-PESo Pesaro, Biblioteca Oliveriana I-Vas Venezia, Archivio di Stato

V-CVbav Città del Vaticano, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana