

Performing Operas for Mozart

The Italian opera company in Prague managed by Pasquale Bondini and Domenico Guardasoni played a central role in promoting Mozart's operas during the final years of his life. Using a wide range of primary sources which include the superb collections of eighteenth-century opera posters and concert programmes in Leipzig and the *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*, an almanac of Italian singers and dancers, this study examines the annual schedules, recruitment networks, casting policies and repertoire selections of this important company. Woodfield shows how Italian-language performances of *Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte* and *La clemenza di Tito* flourished along the well-known cultural axis linking Prague in Bohemia to Dresden and Leipzig in Saxony. The important part played by concert performances of operatic arias in the early reception of Mozart's works is also discussed, and new information is presented about the reception of Josepha Duschek and Mozart in Leipzig.

IAN WOODFIELD is Professor of Historical Musicology at Queen's University Belfast, where he teaches courses in notation, musical instruments and early repertoire. His books include *Music of the Raj* (2000), *Opera and Drama* (2002) and *Mozart's Così fan tutte: A Compositional History* (2008), which received the Mozart Society of America's second Marjorie Weston Emerson Award.

Performing Operas for Mozart: Impresarios, Singers and Troupes

IAN WOODFIELD



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-107-01429-9 — Performing Operas for Mozart: Impresarios, Singers and Troupes

Ian Woodfield

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107014299

© Ian Woodfield 2012

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2012

First paperback edition 2016

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Woodfield, Ian.

Performing operas for Mozart : impresarios, singers and troupes.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-01429-9 (hardback)

1. Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 1756–1791. Operas. 2. Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 1756–1791. – Performances. 3. Impresarios. 4. Bondini, Pasquale, ca. 1737–1789. 5. Guardasoni, Domenico, ca. 1731–1806. 6. Opera – Production and direction – Germany – Leipzig – 18th century. 7. Opera – Production and direction – Czech Republic – Prague – 18th century. I. Title.

ML410.M9W756 2011

792.5094–dc23 2011040523

ISBN 978-1-107-01429-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-316-63242-0 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-107-01429-9 — Performing Operas for Mozart: Impresarios, Singers and Troupes

Ian Woodfield

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

To

Dr Hans Ernst Weidinger

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page [ix]
<i>List of figures</i>	[xi]
<i>List of tables</i>	[xii]
<i>List of musical examples</i>	[xiv]
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	[xv]
Introduction	[1]
1 Pasquale Bondini	[7]
2 <i>Die Entführung aus dem Serail</i>	[25]
3 The Italian troupe in Prague	[32]
4 The Prague <i>Figaro</i>	[55]
5 The genesis of <i>Don Giovanni</i>	[65]
6 The première of <i>Don Giovanni</i>	[85]
7 The casting of <i>Don Giovanni</i>	[99]
8 The Leipzig <i>Don Giovanni</i>	[112]
9 The 1788 Prague <i>Don Giovanni</i>	[128]
10 Mozart’s music in Leipzig	[131]
11 Josepha Duschek’s academy (22 April 1788)	[136]
12 Mozart’s academy (12 May 1789)	[148]
13 Guardasoni in Warsaw	[164]
14 The première of <i>La clemenza di Tito</i>	[170]
15 The Leipzig reception of the Da Ponte operas (1792–1794)	[178]

16 Guardasoni diversifies [189]
 Conclusion [217]
Appendices [220]
Bibliography [260]
Index [267]

Illustrations

- 1 The programme for a concert given by Maria Fidanza and Felice Ponziani (12 August 1782). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Benefiz- und Extra-Concerte von 1779 bis 1792 page [66]
- 2 The programme (page 1) for a concert given by Madame Buccarelli (28 August 1783). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Benefiz- und Extra-Concerte von 1779 bis 1792 [68]
- 3 The programme (page 1) for a concert given by Francesco Caravoglia (11 September 1783). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Benefiz- und Extra-Concerte von 1779 bis 1792 [69]
- 4 The poster for a performance of Schuster's *Lo spirito di contraddizione* (18 April 1786) Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Theaterzettel Karton 1 [71]
- 5 The poster for a performance of Sarti's *Fra i due litiganti* (13 May 1786). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Theaterzettel Karton 1 [72]
- 6 The poster for a performance of Gazzaniga's *Il serraglio di Osmano* (26 July 1786). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Theaterzettel Karton 1 [76]
- 7 The programme (page 1) for a concert given by Josepha Duschek (22 April 1788). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Programmezettel Gewandhaus 1782–9 (paper folder) [139]
- 8 The programme (page 2) for a concert given by Josepha Duschek (22 April 1788). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Programmezettel Gewandhaus 1782–9 (paper folder) [140]
- 9 The programme (page 1) for a concert given by Carl Franz (4 February 1788). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Gewandhauskarton 2 [151]
- 10 The programme (page 1) for a concert given by Springer and David (3 January 1788). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Gewandhauskarton 2 [152]

- 11 The programme for a concert given by Springer, David and Dworschak (14 June 1789). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: MS Catalogue of Concert Programmes [154]
- 12 The poster for a concert given by Josepha Duschek (21 November 1796). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Benefiz- und Extra Concerte von 1793 bis 1797 [204]
- 13 Announcement of a performance of Mozart's Requiem by Carl Jonne (13 April [1800]). Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Leipzig: Gewandhauskarton 25 (folder Carl Jonne) [213]

Figures

- 1 The provision of theatre and opera in Leipzig (1777–95) *page* [21]
- 2 Overview of Bondini's interests (1778–90) [23]
- 3 The Bondini, Saporiti and Guardasoni families during the 1780s [42]
- 4 The dominant recruitment network for the Bondini–Guardasoni Company (1786–8) [52]

Tables

- 1 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Leipzig (spring and summer 1785) page [18]
- 2 The Leipzig summer season (1783) [37]
- 3 The balance of male and female roles in Leipzig Italian opera posters up to 1787 [47]
- 4 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Prague (spring and autumn 1785) [49]
- 5 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Leipzig (summer 1786) [57]
- 6 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Prague (autumn 1786 to Carnival 1787) [59]
- 7 A hypothetical reconstruction of the cast of the Prague *Figaro* (1786) [60]
- 8 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Leipzig (Easter 1787) and Prague (autumn 1787 to Carnival 1788) [80]
- 9 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Eszterháza (1789 and 1790) [83]
- 10 The autumn schedule of the Dresden theatrical troupe (1789–93) [89]
- 11 A reconstruction of the theatre schedule in Prague around the time of the *Don Giovanni* première [91]
- 12 The cast list of *Don Giovanni* published by Nissen (1828) from Stiepanek's preface (1825) [100]
- 13 Two possible sequences in the casting of the roles of Donna Elvira and Zerlina [103]
- 14 Premières in Guardasoni's 1788 Leipzig season as announced in the *Leipziger Zeitungen* [113]
- 15 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Leipzig (summer 1788) and Prague (autumn 1788 to Carnival 1789) [114]
- 16 The Leipzig poster for the performance of *Don Giovanni* (15 June 1788) [116]
- 17 Major changes in the Warsaw *Don Giovanni* libretto of 1789 [118]
- 18 Concert performances of substitute arias in *Don Giovanni* in Leipzig (November 1788) [119]
- 19 The editing of Prosperi Crespì's substitute aria 'Infelice in tal momento' [120]

- 20 The Leipzig opera orchestra (summer 1786) [124]
- 21 The Prague poster for a performance of *Don Giovanni* (23 September 1788) [129]
- 22 Leipzig concert performances of music from *Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* (autumn 1788 to spring 1789) [134]
- 23 The programme for a concert given by Johann Wilhelm Hässler (19 May 1788) [158]
- 24 The programme for a concert given in Leipzig (10 May 1789) [160]
- 25 The programme for Mozart's subscription concert in Leipzig (12 May 1789) [161]
- 26 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Warsaw (1789 to Carnival 1790) [165]
- 27 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Warsaw (autumn 1790 and Carnival 1791) [168]
- 28 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Warsaw (Lent and spring 1791) [169]
- 29 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Prague (autumn 1791) [172]
- 30 The programme for a concert given by Josepha Duschek (26 April 1791) [173]
- 31 *Indice de' teatrali spettacoli*: Leipzig (summer 1792) [180]
- 32 Italian opera in Prague (November and December 1794) [188]
- 33 Italian opera in German translation presented by Joseph Seconda (autumn 1790 to spring 1791) [193]
- 34 The season of opera with *commedia dell'arte* pantomime (1797) [196]
- 35 The programme for a concert given by Josepha Duschek (21 November 1796) [205]
- 36 Arias in the Czech National Library (MSS M II/11 and 12) [208]
- 37 *Concert spirituel* given by Christian Gottfried Thomas (26 April 1789) [211]

Musical examples

- 1 A comparison between an autograph revision to the climax of 'Or che il ciel' (K.374) and passages in 'Mi tradi' (K.540c) *page* [145]

Abbreviations

<i>AmZ</i>	<i>Allgemeine musikalische Zeitung</i>
<i>HV</i>	<i>Hudební Věda</i>
<i>ITS</i>	<i>Indice de' teatrali spettacoli</i>
<i>JAMS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Musicological Society</i>
<i>JRMA</i>	<i>Journal of the Royal Musical Association</i>
<i>LI</i>	<i>Leipziger Intelligenz-blatt</i>
<i>LZ</i>	<i>Leipziger Zeitungen</i>
<i>MISM</i>	<i>Mitteilungen der Internationalen Stiftung Mozarteum</i>
<i>MJ</i>	<i>Mozart-Jahrbuch</i>
<i>M&L</i>	<i>Music & Letters</i>
<i>MM</i>	<i>Miscellanea Musicologica</i>
<i>MMR</i>	<i>Monthly Musical Record</i>
<i>MS</i>	<i>Mozart Studien</i>
<i>NMA</i>	<i>Neue Mozart Ausgabe</i>
<i>OQ</i>	<i>Opera Quarterly</i>
<i>ZfM</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Musikwissenschaft</i>