

Music and the Benefit Performance in Eighteenth-Century Britain

In the early eighteenth century, the benefit performance became an essential component of commercial music-making in Britain. Benefits, adapted from the spoken theatre, provided a new model from which instrumentalists, singers, and composers could reap financial and professional rewards. Benefits could be given as theatre pieces, concerts, or opera performances for the benefit of individual performers, or in aid of specific organizations. The benefit changed Britain's musico-theatrical landscape during this time, and these special performances became a prototype for similar types of events in other European and American cities. Indeed, the charity benefit became a musical phenomenon in its own right, leading, for example, to the lasting success of Handel's *Messiah*. By examining benefits from a musical perspective – including performers, audiences, and institutions – the twelve chapters in this collection present the first study of the various ways in which music became associated with the benefit system in eighteenth-century Britain.

MATTHEW GARDNER holds a Junior Professorship in Musicology at the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen in association with the Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur Mainz. He has published widely on Handel and his English contemporaries, including *Handel and Maurice Greene's Circle at the Apollo Academy: The Music and Intellectual Contexts of Oratorios, Odes and Masques* (2008). In 2014 his edition of Handel's Wedding Anthems for the Hallische Händel-Ausgabe received the International Handel Research Prize.

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Edited by Matthew Gardner , Alison DeSimone

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This book was conceived during the 2014 meeting of the Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music in Salzburg, Austria. The process of compiling and editing this collection of essays has been long, and first and foremost our thanks are due to our authors for their contributions and their patience. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Selina Weiermann and Friederike Nottbrock, whose work behind the scenes as research assistants at Tübingen University was invaluable in the final stages of preparing the manuscript for submission. Additionally, we would like to thank Victoria Cooper, who as Senior Commissioning Editor for the Humanities at Cambridge University Press, advised and encouraged us in the early stages of this project. Her successor Kate Brett has guided us through the completion of the book; to her and all those at Cambridge University Press who facilitated its publication we also owe our thanks. Finally, we are grateful to our families, without whose support and understanding for evenings and weekends spent working, this book would have been considerably more difficult to complete.

*Alison DeSimone
Matthew Gardner*

Abbreviations

- BD* *A Biographical Dictionary of Actors, Actresses, Musicians, Dancers, Managers & Other Stage Personnel in London, 1660–1800*, P. Highfill, Jr., K. Burnim, and E. Langhans (eds.), 16 vols. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1973–)
- GMO* *Grove Music Online (Oxford Music Online)*, oxfordmusiconline.com
- HCD* *George Frideric Handel: Collected Documents*, D. Burrows, H. Coffey, J. Greenacombe, and A. Hicks (eds.), 5 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013–)
- LS I–V* *The London Stage, 1660–1800; A Calendar of Plays, Entertainments & Afterpieces, Together with Casts, Box-Receipts and Contemporary Comment. Compiled from the Playbills, Newspapers and Theatrical Diaries of the Period*, E. Avery, A. Scouten, et al. (eds.), V parts, 11 vols. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1960–68)
- LS II rev.* *The London Stage, 1660–1800: A New Version of Part 2, 1700–1729*, J. Millhous and R. D. Hume (eds.), www.personal.psu.edu/hb1/London%20Stage%202001/
- ODNB* *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Online*, D. Cannadine (ed.) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004–), oxforddnb.com

Library Sigla

- D-DI Dresden, Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek (SLUB)
- D-HRD Arnsberg-Herdringen, Jagdschloss Herdringen, Bibliotheca Fürstenbergiana
- D-Hs Hamburg, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Carl von Ossietzky, Musiksammlung
- GB-AB Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales
- GB-AY Aylesbury, Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies
- GB-BGul Bangor, Bangor University Library
- GB-Cfm Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum

GB-DRcro	Durham, Durham County Record Office
GB-En	Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland
GB-Ep	Edinburgh, Public Library
GB-Eu	Edinburgh, University Library
GB-GLr	Gloucester, Gloucestershire Archives
GB-HFr	Hertford, Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies
GB-LEwyas	Leeds, West Yorkshire Archive Service
GB-Lam	London, Royal Academy of Music
GB-Lbl	London, British Library
GB-Lfom	London, The Foundling Museum
GB-Lna	London, National Archives of the United Kingdom
GB-Lrcs	London, Royal College of Surgeons
GB-NH	Northampton, Northamptonshire Record Office
GB-NO	Nottingham, University of Nottingham Library
GB-NOr	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Archives
GB-Ob	Oxford, Bodleian Library
GB-SHEals	Sheffield, Sheffield Archives and Local Studies
GB-SHR	Shrewsbury, Shropshire Archives
GB-Ybi	York, University of York, Borthwick Institute for Archives
IRL-Dm	Dublin, Marsh's Library
IRL-Dmh	Dublin, Mercer's Hospital
IRL-Dna	Dublin, National Archives of Ireland
IRL-DrCb	Dublin, Representative Church Body, Library
IRLN-Bpro	Belfast, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
PL-Kj	Krakow, Jagiellonian Library
S-Uu	Uppsala, Universitetsbibliotek, Carolina Rediviva
US-Cn	Chicago, The Newberry Library
US-PRu	Princeton, Princeton University Library
US-SM	San Marino, Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery