

Johann Christian Bach

Operas and Dramatic Works

Artace Sign. Gaetano Guadagni
Mandane Signa Maddalena Barigi
Astasetse Sign. Carlo Nicolini
Artabano Sign. Pietro de Mezzo
Semira Signa Teresa Mazzoli
Megabise Sign. Antonio Gelli
Artasetse

Atto primo.

Di Giov. Bach
In Torino 1761

The Operas of Johann Christian Bach: An Introduction

Edited by Jason B. Grant

ISBN 978-1-938325-51-9 (2023; xiii, 160 pp.) \$30

Contents:

Johann Christian Bach: A Life in Opera, by John A. Rice

Artaserse, by Margaret R. Butler

Catone in Utica and *Alessandro nell'Indie*, by Lucio Tufano

Orione and *Zanaida*, by Michael Burden

Adriano in Siria, by John A. Rice

Carattaco, by Stephen Roe

Temistocle and *Lucio Silla*, by Paul Corneilson

La clemenza di Scipione, by Karl Böhmer

Amadis de Gaule, by Beverly Wilcox

This volume collects essays by leading scholars from the USA, Germany, Italy, and the UK on J.C. Bach's eleven full-length operas. Beginning with a historical overview of Bach's career as an opera composer, the individual essays are then organized chronologically by opera: *Artaserse*, written for Turin (1761); the two operas for Naples, *Catone in Utica* (1761) and *Alessandro nell'Indie* (1762); then *Orione* and *Zanaida* (both 1763), *Adriano in Siria* (1765), and *Carattaco* (1767), all four of which were written for London over three seasons; *Temistocle* (1772) and *Lucio Silla* (1775) for Mannheim; one more opera for London, *La clemenza di Scipione* (1778); and finally Bach's sole French opera, *Amadis de Gaule* (1779), written for Paris. The essays serve a dual purpose: first, to provide stand-alone studies of Bach's operas to promote admiration and understanding of those works; and secondly, to serve as introductions to the critical editions in *Johann Christian Bach: Operas and Dramatic Works*.

A stylized, handwritten signature of J.C. Bach in black ink, featuring a large, flowing 'J' and a decorative flourish at the end.

Illustration on front page: autograph score of *Artaserse*
with original cast list. By permission of the British
Library, R.M.22.a.18-20

Johann Christian Bach: Operas and Dramatic Works is an editorial and publishing project of The Packard Humanities Institute. Its goal is to make available, in both printed and digital formats, a critical edition of the composer's operas, oratorio, and cantatas.

1. *Artaserse*
2. *Catone in Utica*
3. *Alessandro nell'Indie*
4. *Orione, ossia Diana vendicata*
5. *Zanaida*
6. *Adriano in Siria*
7. *Carattaco*
8. *Endimione*
9. *Temistocle*
10. *Amor vincitore*
11. *Lucio Silla*
12. *La clemenza di Scipione*
13. *Amadis de Gaule*
14. *Gioas, re di Giuda*
15. *Cantatas*

Each volume includes a critical report with a brief description and evaluation of the sources used for the edition. An introduction provides background on the opera's first production, along with a brief summary of its plot, and the opera's reception to the present day. In addition, a modern version of the Italian or French libretto is included, reflecting the music underlay, as well as an English translation.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Margaret R. Butler, Ulrich Leisinger, David W. Packard,
Annette Richards, Stephen Roe, Christoph Wolff, Peter Wollny

EDITORIAL STAFF

Paul Corneilson, Managing Editor
Laura Buch, Editor
Jason B. Grant, Editor

3

Sinfonia

Allegro molto

Oboe I, II

Corno I, II
in D

Violino I

Violino II

Viola

Contrabbasso

5

10

Opening page of the overture to *Artaserse* (Turin, 1761)

ATTO PRIMO	ACT I
SCENA I	SCENE I
<p>Atrio del palazzo del re di Persia corrispondente a' giardini reali adorno di fontane e grotteschi. Notte con luna, indi l'aurora.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mandane e Arbace.</i></p>	<p>Atrium of the palace of the king of Persia, leading to the royal gardens adorned with fountains and arabesques. Moonlit night, with dawn breaking.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mandane and Arbace.</i></p>
<p>ARBACE Addio.</p>	<p>ARBACE Farewell!</p>
<p>MANDANE Senz'io, Arbace.</p>	<p>MANDANE How ing Arbace.</p>
<p>ARBACE Ah chel'auroa, adorata Mandane, è già vicina! E se mi noto a Sese fosse, chi venni in questa reggia ad onta del barbaro tuo cenno, in mia difesa ame non basterrebbe un trasporto d'amor che mi consiglia: non basterrebbe a te d'esserli figlia. Giacchè il nacer vassallo colpevole mi fa, voglio, ben mio, voglio morire, o meritarmi. Addio. <i>(In atto di partire.)</i></p>	<p>ARBACE Ah, dawn already approaches, beloved Mandane! And if <i>Sese</i> were ever to discover that I came to this palace despite his harsh order, to say that I was convinced to do so by love's abandon would not suffice for my defence: nor would bring his daughter suffice for yours. Since being born his subject makes me guilty, I wish, my love—I wish to die, or else to deserve you. Farewell. <i>(About to leave.)</i></p>
<p>MANDANE Cruel! Come hai costanza di lasciarmi così?</p>	<p>MANDANE Cruel and How do you have the heart to leave me like this!</p>
<p>ARBACE Non sono, o cara, il crude non son io. Sese è il tiranno: l'ingrato è il padre tuo.</p>	<p>ARBACE It is not I, oh beloved, I am not the cruel one. <i>Sese</i> is the tyrant: the unjust one is your father.</p>
<p>MANDANE Con più rispetto in faccia a chi t'adora parla del genitor.</p>	<p>MANDANE Speak of the father with more respect in front of the one who loves you.</p>
<p>ARBACE Ma quando soffro un'ingiuria sì grande, e che mi toglie la libertà d'un innocente affetto, sen non fo che lagnarvi, ho gran rispetto.</p>	<p>ARBACE But when I suffer such a great offense, and I am robbed of the liberty of an innocent affection, if I merely complain, I do show great respect.</p>
<p>MANDANE Perdonami: io comincio a dubitar dell'amor tuo. Tant'ira mi desta a meraviglia. Non spero, che'l tuo core, oduno il genitore, ami la figlia.</p>	<p>MANDANE Forgive me: I begin to doubt your love. Such anger rouses my wonder. I cannot hope that your heart, hating the father, can love the daughter.</p>

[xi]

Opening page of the libretto to *Artaserse* by Metastasio with English translation



THEODORE FRONT
Musical Literature

To place a standing order,
contact music@tfront.com
or call 661-250-7189.