

NEWSLETTER of the American Handel Society

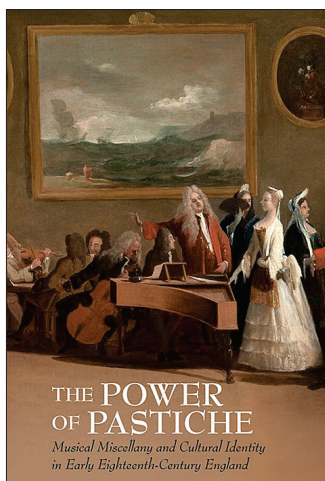
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BOOK REVIEW: ALISON C. DESIMONE, *THE POWER OF PASTICHE: MUSICAL MISCELLANY AND CULTURAL IDENTITY IN EARLY EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND*

(Clemson, SC: Clemson University Press, 2021)

Paula Maust



In *The Power of Pastiche*, Alison C. DeSimone sheds light on the myriad of variety found in English musical life in the often-neglected time between Henry Purcell's death and Handel's arrival in London. Miscellany, defined in the book as "the intentional juxtaposition, assemblage, and organization of unrelated parts into a new whole," played an integral role in numerous aspects of literary, artistic, and musical life in the first decades of the eighteenth century. DeSimone evaluates musical miscellany in variety concerts, songbooks, pasticcio operas, England's growing cosmopolitan landscape, and music history and criticism from the perspectives of composers, performers, and spectators. As she demonstrates, musical miscellany was a cultural strategy shaped by those who created and consumed it, and her study provides insight into the diversity of cultural tastes in England at a time when the nation was undergoing substantial transformation.

Each of the five chapters examines a facet of musical miscellany through broad overviews of the concept at hand as well as thorough case studies based on extensive archival research. Chapter 1 considers the ephemeral experience of attending a variety concert, where for the price of a ticket

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"HANDEL: INTERACTIONS AND INFLUENCES"—LONDON, NOVEMBER 19–21, 2021

Fred Fehleisen



Donald Burrows (left) presenting the certificate to Hans Dieter Clausen (right).

The Handel Institute hosted its 12th Triennial Conference, "Handel: Interactions and Influences," live and in person, at the Foundling Museum and the Bridewell Centre in London (November 19–21, 2021). The event was a great success and a welcome opportunity for Handelians from both sides of the Atlantic to come together and share their ideas and findings.

Thanks to the efforts of the Conference Committee (Matthew Gardiner, Colin Timms, David Vickers, and Lawrence Zazzo), the event proceeded smoothly from start

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