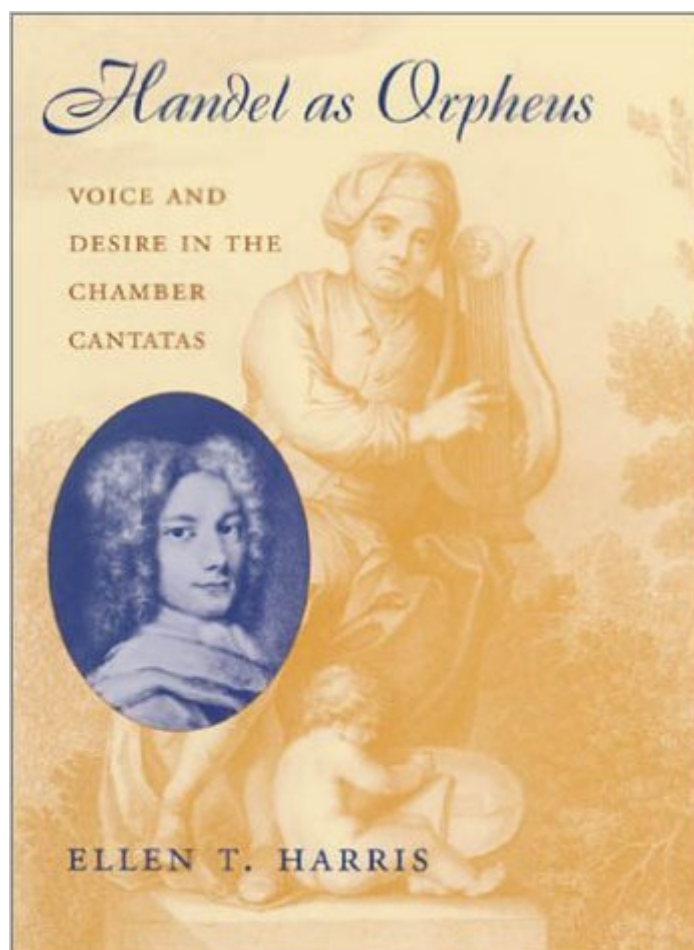


The book was found

Handel As Orpheus: Voice And Desire In The Chamber Cantatas



Synopsis

Handel wrote over 100 cantatas, compositions for voice and instruments that describe the joy and pain of love. In *Handel as Orpheus*, the first comprehensive study of the cantatas, Ellen Harris investigates their place in Handel's life as well as their extraordinary beauty. The cantatas were written between 1706 and 1723--from the time Handel left his home in Germany, through the years he spent in Florence and Rome, and into the early part of his London career. In this period he lived as a guest in aristocratic homes, and composed these chamber works for his patrons and hosts, primarily for private entertainments. In both Italy and England his patrons moved in circles in which same-sex desire was commonplace--a fact that is not without significance, Harris reveals, for the cantatas exhibit a clear homosexual subtext. Addressing questions about style and form, dating, the relation of music to text, rhythmic and tonal devices, and voicing, *Handel as Orpheus* is an invaluable resource for the study and enjoyment of the cantatas, which have too long been neglected. This innovative study brings greater understanding of Handel, especially his development as a composer, and new insight into the role of sexuality in artistic expression.

Book Information

Hardcover: 448 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press (January 30, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674006178

ISBN-13: 978-0674006171

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 7.1 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,510,640 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 inÂ Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Handel #864 inÂ Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Composition #2779 inÂ Books >

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Customer Reviews

Fantastic book!

The question of Handel's possible homosexuality is interesting, if not necessarily crucial to an appreciation of his art. This book analyses, in "graduate student" style, certain aspects of the Italian

cantatas that seem to reflect a homosexual environment. The thesis would gain from more context drawn from biography, literature and social history. A good editor would have pruned heavily. Nevertheless, worth reading if you are interested in Handel the man, a complex and fascinating figure as well as a great genius.

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