



Guest Lecture

Dr Francis Yapp
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French musical aesthetics in the Parisian continuo sonata

Wednesday 30 Sept, 2015 @ 7pm
St Alban's Hall, Pembroke St, Epping, Sydney, Australia

Abstract

The continuo sonata, in eighteenth-century Paris, was considered the most Italian of all genres. Indeed, it was this Italianate quality that is said to account for its popularity. After the nationalism of the Louis XIV era and Couperin's attempts at a *goûts réunis* during the Regency, the triumph of the Italian style in mid-eighteenth century French instrumental music is seen as one of the noteworthy facets of this era.

However, a close examination of French continuo sonatas from the mid-eighteenth century reveals that they are stylistically divergent from the Italian models; many uniquely French elements can be found. In this presentation, I posit that it is this underlying French aesthetic which makes the Parisian sonatas from this period unique.

Dr. Francis Yapp is Lecturer in Music at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, where he teaches courses in music history, ethnomusicology, and music theory. His research focuses on music of the French baroque, especially instrumental music in 18th-century Paris, and music in French liturgical and devotional life. He is also active as a performer on baroque and modern cello.

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