



From Renaissance to Baroque: Change in Instruments and Instrumental Music in the Seventeenth Century

By Jonathan Wainwright, Peter Holman

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Historians of instruments and instrumental music have long recognised that there was a period of profound change in the seventeenth century, when the consorts or families of instruments developed during the Renaissance were replaced by the new models of the Baroque period. Yet the process is still poorly understood, in part because each instrument has traditionally been considered in isolation, and changes in design have rarely been related to changes in the way instruments were used, or what they played. The essays in this book are by distinguished international authors that include specialists in particular instruments together with those interested in such topics as the early history of the orchestra, iconography, pitch and continuo practice. The book will appeal to instrument makers and academics who have an interest in achieving a better understanding of the process of change in the seventeenth century, but the book also raises questions that any historically aware performer ought to be asking about the performance of Baroque music. What sorts of instruments should be used? At what pitch? In which temperament? In what numbers and/or combinations? For this reason, the book will be invaluable to performers, academics, instrument makers and anyone interested in the fascinating period of change from the 'Renaissance' to the 'Baroque'.

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Editorial Review

Review

'The 17th century was one of change in instrumental design, confusing nomenclature and varying ensembles. Anyone performing music of that period will benefit from at least dipping into this varied collection of studies.' Early Music Review '...comprehensive in scope...engaging in narrative... One of the most compelling aspects of the collection is the systematic manner in which the contributors (all experts in their fields) present their diverse evidence... a valuable addition to the literature...Essential.' Choice

About the Author

Jonathan Wainwright is Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of York, UK. Peter Holman is Reader in Music at the University of Leeds, UK.

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