

Call for Papers

Enlightenment! Music and Gender in the 18th Century

Organizer: PD Dr. Katharina Hottmann and Cornelia Bartsch on behalf of the research unit Womens' and Gender Studies of the German Society for Music Research

Place: Institute of Historical Musicology at the University of Hamburg

Date: 24.–27. May 2018

Deadline: 15 May 2017

The 18th century has raised several challenges for musical scholarship, in part precipitated by ongoing controversial debates concerning issues of epochs, styles and periods. There is a consensus, however, that profound changes in society entailed profound changes in musical culture: the emergence of an economically relevant market for music supplies and instruments, the establishment of a public concert life, the “ascendance” of instrumental music, the structural changes in church music, the expansion of bourgeois musical culture, transformed subjectivities of musicians, a new public discourse on music etc. Further transformations in society, subjectivity and science also changed musical practices and perception: the emergent categories of individuality and subjectivity, the opposing poles of rationality and sensibility, the growing importance of social formations like the (nuclear) family, ties of friendship, and sociability, the dynamic expansion of education and reading as well as new anthropological and medical concepts, which tried to locate the human within evolutionary science and focused on issues concerning the boundary between the human and animal world as well as between human “races” and politically charged question concerning citizenship. Discourses on gender binary became crystallised through wider discourses of difference, which accompanied discourses of sameness during the age of Enlightenment.

It is clear that all these processes concerned men and women, though not in the same ways. Notwithstanding, the 18th century has long been neglected by scholars of gender within the field of musicology. When compared to the 19th century, the picture of 18th century musical culture appears fragmentary within musicological gender scholarship in the Germanophone world. This is the starting point of our conference. It sets out to map a field of research which hitherto has been hallmarked by large blank areas on the one hand and diverse instructive singular contributions on the other. Hosted by the research unit Women and Gender studies of the German Society for Music Research, this conference hopes to bring together distinguished scholars of musicological gender studies and gender history with distinguished experts of the 18th century, as well as scholars who are involved in both areas. We intend to integrate musicological gender studies into the field of musicology as a whole as well as to embed important currents in the wider discipline into musicological gender studies. Furthermore, the conference aims to internationalize musicological gender studies and to cultivate greater mutual understanding and dialogue between the diverse (regional) cultures of the field of musicology and their different methodologies.

We would explicitly like to address the following topics, though these topics may be condensed, modified or expanded in light of the interest our call for papers elicits:

- A. musicking between the public and private
- B. European urban centres as a site of musical practice
- C. the music market and authorship
- D. musical language
- E. family and generation / biography

- F. mental concepts and the history of the body
- G. discourses and colonial regimes of knowledge: the self and the other in the musical thought of the 18th century
- H. roles: stage and life
- I. piety and secularisation

Please send abstract submissions (2000 characters) together with a short biography (500 characters) to PD Dr. Katharina Hottmann (University of Hamburg) katharina.hottmann@baumgart-hottmann.de and Dr. Cornelia Bartsch (University of Oldenburg) cornelia.bartsch@uni-oldenburg.de **by May 15th 2017**. Proposals by early career scholars and doctoral students are especially welcome. We hope to be able to cover participants' travel expenses, though this is dependent upon whether we are successful in securing funding.