

## Acknowledgments

This study is a doctoral dissertation written at Heidelberg University under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Silke Leopold and defended on 1 February 2017. It was originally submitted under the title *The Vocal Duet and G. F. Handel's Italian Contemporaries. An Attempt at a Comparison* and it underwent many revisions at the behest of the reviews before it was approved for publishing.

The long and arduous process of research and writing was supported, encouraged and aided by a number of persons and institutions. First and foremost, I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Leopold for agreeing to supervise the dissertation, for offering advice at different stages of the working process and for encouraging me to adopt a breadth of scholarly approaches. I owe a tremendous amount of financial and institutional support to my employer, the Academy of Music at the University of Zagreb, since I had the privilege to pursue doctoral studies at Heidelberg University while I held the post of research assistant in Zagreb. The administration of the Academy of Music, all my colleagues from the Department of Musicology, especially the deans Prof. Mladen Janjanin and Prof. Dalibor Cikojević and the heads of department during this period, Prof. Dr. Dalibor Davidović and Dr. Mojca Piškori showed a lot of understanding for my commitments in Heidelberg, encouraging me throughout the process and not losing faith in me in spite of the difficulties.

The Musikwissenschaftliches Seminar at Heidelberg University has provided excellent institutional and logistic background to my research. I would like to thank both Prof. Dr. Leopold and Prof. Dr. Dorothea Redepenning for the numerous productive discussions they moderated at the Doktorandenkolloquium, and my fellow doctoral students who encouraged me with constructive criticism and friendly comments. Prof. Dr. Dorothea Redepenning kindly agreed to be the second reviewer of my dissertation and I would like to thank her for this, as well as Prof. Dr. Inga Mai Groote for agreeing to take over the chairmanship of the Doctoral Committee. Dr. Matthew Gardner provided many research tips and I am very grateful to him for this, as well as for the many discussions on Handel we had. I would also like to thank the Library of the Musikwissenschaftliches Seminar and its head Dipl.-Bibl. Birgit Becher for providing excellent resources and a pleasant working atmosphere, as well as the Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg and its resourceful staff for the same benefits. Their affordable and practical interlibrary loan services enabled me to access numerous manuscript sources on microfilm. During my research trips to London, the British Library provided priceless access to early manuscript and printed sources.

Last but not least, the scale of gratitude to my family, my partner and my friends is difficult to put into words. Without your understanding, your help and your support I would not have been able to do this.