

- Wednesday 23* ALEXANDER'S FEAST. *Cast not listed.*
CG MUSIC. As 18 Feb., but add Handel's *Coronation Anthem*.
COMMENT. By Command of their Majesties.
- Thursday 24* ELVIRA. As 1 Feb. Also PHOEBE; or The Beggar's Wedding. Chaunter – Love;
DL Hunter – Vernon; Justice Quorum – Bransby; Grigg – Parsons; Gage – Moody;
Phoebe – Miss Young; Tippet – Mrs Dorman; Tib Tatter – Mrs Bradshaw;
Cant – Vaughan; Scrip – Ackman; Swab – Clough; Mump – Fox. With a *Dance*
incident to the farce by Del'Agata, Aldridge, Vincent, Sga Giorgi, &c. Lockery,
Sga Fiorentini, Miss Baker, Miss Dawson.
COMMENT. Afterpiece: Not played for 20 years.
- CG ARTAXERXES. As 14 April 1762; Principal Characters by: Beard, Tenducci,
Mattocks, Peretti, Miss Poitier, Miss Brent.
DANCING. I: *A Comic Dance* by Granier, Miss Valois, &c.; II: *La Provençiale* by Sga
Manesiere, &c.
COMMENT. Books of the Opera to be sold at the Theatre. Nothing under
FULL PRICE can be taken. Opera not perform'd this season. [A riot this night
in which the benches were torn up. Led by Fitzpatrick against the abolishment
of the custom of admitting at half-price after the third act. See previous disturb-
ance at Drury Lane. No more plays at CG until 3 March 1763 while repairs were
being made to theatre.
See *Gentleman's Magazine*, Feb. 1763, *Historical Chronicle*, Th. 24: A riot hap-
pened at Covent Garden theatre occasioned by a demand being made for full prices
at the opera *Artaxerxes*. The mischief done was the greatest ever known on any
occasion of the like kind; all the benches of the boxes and Pit being entirely tore up,
the glasses and chandeliers broken, and the linings of the Boxes cut to pieces.
The rashness of the rioters was so great, that they cut away the wooden pillars
between the Boxes, so that if the inside of them had not been iron, they would
have brought down the Galleries upon their heads. The damages done amount
to at least £2000. Four persons concern'd in the riot have been committed to the
gatehouse.
The Beauties of All Magazines Selected, for March 1763 (p. 142) reprinted from the
Ledger a humorous account of this riot as told by a sailor in fabricated seaman's
language: "As soon as the foresheet was clewed up . . . As to my *sr.*, why the
owners are welcome to it towards repair, for you stripp'd plank, timbers, and
scantlings,—you gutted her; she look'd like a French prize, after a yard-arm
engagement."]
- Friday 25* [OCCASIONAL ORATORIO]. Cancelled.
CG COMMENT. [The following notice appeared in the *Public Advertiser*]: Whereas a
very unjustifiable disturbance happened last night at this theatre; the managers
think it incumbent upon them to acquaint the Publick that when the Opera of
Artaxerxes was in rehearsal it was determined that no expence should be spared to
render the performance as elegant as the nature of so peculiar an Entertainment
would admit. This desire occasioned so considerable an increase of the nightly
charge 'twas thought by many disinterested persons would justify additional
prices; but to avoid giving the least umbrage, and in gratitude for the Public
indulgence on other occasions, no such advance was attempted. When it is known
that the extraordinary nightly expence attending this performance amounts to
upwards of *Fifty Pounds* it is humbly apprehended no persons of justice and candour
will think the Full Price an exorbitant gratification for such unusual disbursements.
The Management therefore flatter themselves that a resolution to oppose the
arbitrary and illegal demands of a particular set of persons, contrary to the general
sense of audience, will not be deemed arrogant or unreasonable, especially when
those demands are enforced by means subversive to Private Property, and in
violation of that decorum which is due to all public assemblies.