

exhibition and conduct of his Oratorios, which he has undertaken (in conjunction with Mr Stanley) every since Mr Handel's death. Friday 6
DL

Their band was composed of some of the most capital performers in this kingdom, and was led by Mr Ximenes. The vocal performers (exclusive of Chorus singers) were Mr Norris, well known to all lovers of Music, for his taste and delicacy of execution. Mr Parry (a Bass voice) from the Cathedral Church of Salisbury. This gentleman, though very young, has an extensive compass, and a great power of voice, and acquits himself with considerable reputation. Mrs Weichsel and Mrs Scott, of whom it would be superfluous and unnecessary to say anything, since their abilities are generally known. And lastly Signora Grassi, a performer of great merit.

Theatrical Review, 6 March: This is Mr Dryden's celebrated *Ode on St Cecilia's Day*, and not an Oratorio, but performed as such . . . It contains many beauties and such as are worthy of Mr Handel's genius . . . Being much shorter than the usual length of oratorios, Mr Handel's celebrated *Coronation Anthems* were added in order to make the evening's entertainment of a proper length. Also a Solo on the *Violincello* by Mr Janson . . . lately arrived from Paris, said to have been a pupil of Mr Duport's, but, though his taste and execution is very astonishing, we cannot give him the preference of his master. [See 13 April 1773. Charge seems to have been £28 per night plus expenses for oil, candles &c.]

THE MESSIAH. *Cast not listed.*

MUSIC. Part I: A *Concerto on the French Horn*, by Mr Ponta; End Part II: A *Concerto on the Violin* by Sga Lombardini Sirmen (*Theatrical Review*, 214). CG

COMMENT. Words from Holy Writ . . . Music so admirably designed by Handel as to Beggars all description (*Theatrical Review*). Mr Ponta is Musician to his Serene Highness the Elector of Mentz. Tickets and places for the boxes to be taken of Mr Sarjeant at the Stage Door. Box 5s. Pit 4s. First Gallery 3s. Upper Gallery 2s. Books of the performance sold at the Theatre. Doors to be opened at Five o'clock. To begin at half past Six (Account Book). [Messrs Toms and Arnold were putting on the Oratorios at Covent Garden this season.] Charges: £35 (Account Book).

THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE. As 9 Jan., but Fanny – Miss Rogers, 1st time; Chambermaid – Mrs Davies; Mrs Heidleberg – Mrs Hopkins. Also THE INSTITUTION OF THE GARTER. *Cast not listed*, but see 10 Dec. 1771. Saturday 7
DL

COMMENT. N.B. The sixth night of the New Tragedy of *The Grecian Daughter* is oblig'd to be deferred till Monday. Paid 2 Clarinets 3 nights (22 Feb. incl.) £4 14s. 6d.; Paid 4 Days' salary at £83 9s. 9d., £333 19s.; Mrs Abington's cloaths acct, £1; Mr S. French 6 days, £1 10s.; Extra soldiers, £1 4s.; Rec'd Mr Condill's 2nd payment for fruit office £20 (Treasurer's Book). Receipts: £156 16s. 6d. (Treasurer's Book).

JANE SHORE. As 4 Feb., but Ratcliff – R. Smith; Catesby – Perry; Derby – Thompson (playbill). Also MOTHER SHIPTON. As 27 Feb. CG

COMMENT. Mainpiece: By Desire. Paid Whitefield for cloaths bought £47 12s.; Paid Mayer for silver and gold lace as per bill £24 1s. 6d. (Account Book). Receipts: £189 14s. 6d. (Account Book).

IL VIAGGIATORI. *Cast not listed.*

DANCING. Mlle Heinel will dance.

COMMENT. By Command of their Majesties. King's

THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER. As 5 March. Also THE DEVIL TO PAY. As 4 Feb. Monday 9
DL

COMMENT. Author's Night for the Mainpiece. Paid ½ year's water Rent to Christmas last, £1 (Treasurer's Book). Receipts: £264 8s. 6d.; Charges: £73 10s. Profit to Murphy: £190 18s. 6d. (Treasurer's Book).

- Monday 9**
CG
A WIFE IN THE RIGHT. As 5 March, and the note added thereto. Also THE INTRIGUING CHAMBERMAID. As 11 Oct.
COMMENT. [Mainpiece advertised on this bill as "Never Performed" (playbill).] Paid John Doe, John Claridge, and John Smith each £1 12s. 6d. for performing 13 nights in the Ass and the Hog [in *Mother Sbipton*] to the 7th inst. (Account Book). [See account of damning of mainpiece in *Town and Country Magazine* (Theatre No. XXXV). Halfpennies and apples thrown at chandeliers and one broken.] Receipts: £243 6s. 6d. (Account Book).
- Tuesday 10**
DL
THE SUSPICIOUS HUSBAND. As 6 Dec. 1771, but Mrs Strickland – Mrs Egerton, 1st time; Milliner – Mrs Davies. Also THE ANATOMIST. As 17 Oct. 1771.
COMMENT. G[arrick] (Hopkins Diary). Receipts: £260 9s. (Treasurer's Book).
- CG
ZOBEIDE. As 21 Jan., but Mrs Woodman omitted, and Gardner and Thompson restored. Also THE APPRENTICE. As 14 Dec. 1771. Also TRUE BLUE. As 18 Jan.
COMMENT. Receipts: £153 13s. 6d. (Account Book).
- King's
CARNOVALE DI VENEZIA. *Cast not listed.*
DANCING. End last Act: *A New Grand Historical Ballet, Admete and Alceste*, in which Mlle Heinel and several other principal dancers are to perform.
- Wednesday 11**
DL
L'ALLEGRO ED IL PENSEROSO, with Handel's *TE DEUM*. *Cast not listed.*
MUSIC. Concerto on *French Horn* by Ponta (Musician to his Serene Highness the Elector of Mentz); Solo on *Violincello* by Janson, his 2nd performance in England.
COMMENT. By Command of their Majesties. *Theatrical Review*, 11 March: Written by the celebrated Milton when he was very young . . . it would have been sufficient had he never produced anything more considerable, to have transmitted his fame to the latest posterity. It is inimitably set to music by Mr Handel . . . not strictly an Oratorio, tho' perform'd as such, the subject not being taken from Holy Writ.
To which was added the celebrated *Te Deum*, composed by Mr Handel for the peace of Utrecht . . . a very grand masterly piece.
End of Act I, a *Concerto on the French Horn* by Mr Ponta, musician to his Serene Highness, the Elector of Mentz, lately arrived in England. What this gentleman executes with the horn is very surprising, but, not being suited to the genius of the instrument, it is not productive of any good effect, when considered musically; as a matter of novelty it may surprise and please, on which account it is worthy the notice of the curious.
- CG
JUDAS MACCHABEUS. *Cast not listed.* Parts were: Judas, Israelite Man, Israelite Woman, Chorus, Simon (Brother to Judas), Messenger, Eupolemus (Jewish Ambassador to Rome).
MUSIC. End Part I: *Solo on Violincello* by Mr Duport; End Part II: *Concerto on Violin*, as 6 March by Sga Sirmen.
COMMENT. Oratorio By Particular Desire. Charges: £35 (Account Book).
Theatrical Review: His [Duport's] execution is truly masterly, his tone very brilliant, and his taste pleasingly delicate and chaste. What he performs on this instrument is wonderful, when the genius of it is considered.
As this celebrated Lady [Sga Sirmen] has been in England some time, her abilities are pretty generally known. Her tone and style of playing is very pleasing, and her execution truly chaste, without any of those unnecessary and extravagant liberties, which the generality of solo players on the Violin too frequently give in to.