

His Works
of
George Frederic Handel.

Printed for
the German Handel Society
by
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Leipzig.

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Pièces
pour le

Clavier

par

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PREFACE.

The *first* part of the Pianoforte works of Handel collected in this volume, was published in the year 1720 with the title:

Suites de Pieces | Pour le | CLAVECIN. | Composées par | G. F. Handel. ||
PREMIER VOLUME. || London, Printed for the Author. | And are to be had at Christopher Smith's,
at the Hand and Musick-Book in Coventry-street, § Upper-end of § Hay-market; | And by R. Mears,
Musical Instrument-Maker in St. Paul's Church-Yard. | Engraved and Printed at Cluer's Printing Office
in Bow-Church-Yard, Cheapside; where all manner of Businets is printed, and all sorts of Copper-Plates
curiously Engrav'd. (p. 1.)

Price one Guinea. Handel, who edited it himself, accompanied it with the following words:

I have been obliged to publish Some of the following
Lefsons, because Surreptitious and incorrect Copies of them
had got Abroad. I have added several new ones to make
the Work more usefull, which if it meets with a favourable
Reception; I will Still proceed to publish more, reckoning it
my duty, with my Small Talent, to serve a Nation from
which I have receiv'd so Generous a Protection

G F Handel

The promised continuation never appeared; however J. Walsh in London, who pirated the first part, also published in the year 1733 several pieces obtained surreptitiously from the composer, as a *second* part:

Suites de Pieces | Pour le | CLAVECIN. | Composées par | G. F. Handel. ||
SECOND VOLUME. || London | Printed & Sold by John Walsh Musick Printer & Instrument Maker |
to his Majesty at the Harp & Hoboy in Catherine street in the Strand. | Where may be had All the
Opera's & Instrumental Musick of § above Author. N^o 490. (p. 61.)

These pieces Handel had written for the young Princesses, and not intended to publish in this form.

Of the *third* collection (p. 123), five pieces were printed in the shape of maps the same year (1733) by Witvogel in Amsterdam, likewise as „*Pièces pour le Clavecin*“. A few others were published by Arnold. To these published pieces we are enabled to add some hitherto unpublished ones from the manuscripts in Buckingham Palace, London, and in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Several draughts of pieces are also reserved for the critical and bibliographical appendix which is intended to follow.

The six fugues forming the *fourth* collection (p. 159) appeared for the first time in 1735:

Six FUGUES | OR | VOLUNTARYS | for the | ORGAN | OR | HARPSICORD |
 Compos'd by | G. F. HANDEL. | TROISIEME OUVRAGE [OUVRAGE]. | London
 J. Walsh | N^o 543.

Handel's manuscript in Buckingham Palace was written about 1720, and is thus contemporary with the first part. It was most likely his intention, on the publication of a second part, to incorporate these fugues with the suites.

The three London publications were printed in oblong folio.

LEIPZIG, February 23^d, 1859.

First Collection.

