Recent Books on Music and Politics

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The books listed in this column address music as political expression or focus to a significant degree on relationships between individual musicians or musical communities and the state. All of the works listed here were published within the previous half year. For a few citations, brief annotations are provided to help clarify political themes not implied by the titles. The list was compiled from a variety of bibliographic tools such as databases of book vendors, online catalogs, and Global Books in Print. Readers are welcome to submit additional titles to the editor (schroeder@library.ucsb.edu) for possible inclusion in the next issue of this journal.


After attempting to divorce her husband, Bembo (c. 1640–c. 1720) left Venice and settled in Paris, where she gained the sponsorship of Louis XIV.


Examines two centuries of German music in light of societal and cultural change, with emphasis on post-Lacanian psychoanalytic theory. One of five themes the author considers is German war songs and the subversion of German music by the Nazis.


Includes all of Brett’s writings on Gradualia, in which he illuminates Byrd’s magnum opus as political expression.