

A Guide to the Peter Pelham Manuscript, 1744

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A Collection in the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation`sJohn D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library MS 2003.7

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

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History

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Title Statement

A Guide to the Peter Pelham Manuscript, 1744

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2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Manuscript Number

MS 2003.7

Language

English

Creator

Pelham, Peter

Physical Characteristics

1 volume (30 pages); 21 centimeters.

Location

On site.

Repository

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift, 2003

Preferred Citation

Peter Pelham Manuscript, Manuscript #MS 2003.7, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Biographical/Historical Information

Peter Pelham (9 December 1721 – 28 April 1805) was an English-born American organist, harpsichordist, teacher and composer. Born in London, Pelham and his family immigrated to Boston in 1730. While there, Pelham's father apprenticed him to Charles Theodore Pachelbel, son of composer Johann Pachelbel. Pelham followed Pachelbel to Charleston in 1736, and remained there for a number of years, studying with Pachelbel and later becoming a harpsichord teacher himself. Pelham returned to Boston in 1744 to serve as the first organist of Trinity Church. In 1750 Pelham moved to Williamsburg, VA to serve as organist at Bruton Parish Church. While in Williamsburg Pelham actively participated in the city's musical life, giving concerts and conducting. Additionally, he supported himself and his family by running a small music store and being supervisor for the printing of currency from 1758 to 1775. Between 1770 and 1780 Pelham was superintendent of the Public Gaol. In 1802 Pelham became blind. He died in Richmond, Virginia. (Source: Wikipedia)

Scope and Content

Inscription reads that the book contains "Lessons received on the spinnet from Peter Pelham" beginning November 1744 and continuing through January 1745. Contains notes on musical terms and styles, several minuets, arias, and other songs. Includes music by Handel and Charles Theodore Pachelbel. Pelham was a student of Pachelbel.

Index Terms

Persons:

Handel, George Frideric, 1685-1759

Lully, Jean Baptiste, 1632-1687

Pachelbel, Charles Theodore, ca. 1690-1750

Pelham, Peter, 1721-1805.

Pepusch, John Christopher, 1667-1752

Subjects:

Keyboard instrument music

Songs (High voice)

Songs (Medium voice)

Music - 18th century

Piano - Instruction and study

Arrangement

Bound

Collection Contents

Songs

King George's March

Minuet (1)

Allmand

Minuet by Mr. Valentine

The Modest Question, Set by Mr. Russet

Thro' the Woods Laddie

Gavott, by Mr. Handel

A Song, in the masque of Comus (1)

Minuet, by Mr. Lully

Minuet (2)

A Song on a Lady of Quality, Set to music by Mr. Marchant

A Song, in the masque of Comus (2)

Combatti da Forte, in the Opera of Rinaldo, by Mr. Handel

A Song [God of Sheep for whom I languish], set to music by Mr. Charles Theodore Pachelbel

The Happy Shepherd, set to music by Dr. Green

Bonny Jean, A Scotch Tune

Allexis, a Cantata by Dr. Pepush

Aria