
Editorial

From 26th to 30th July 2006, Warsaw University's Institute of Musicology hosted the 12th Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music, which was organized in conjunction with the Warsaw University Foundation and the Royal Palace in Warsaw. It formed part of a series of conferences first launched in 1982 by Jerome Roche. Since 1982, international experts on Baroque music have met once every two years in order to create a stimulating forum for scholarly exchange where their findings and expertise can be shared. The Conference is unique in being independent from any organization or institution, and its participants are free to choose each venue after putting forward and debating a number of options. In 2006, the Conference came to Poland for the first time.

A record number of participants gathered in Warsaw for the 12th Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music. They hailed from 24 countries and 5 continents, including such far-flung places as China (Hong Kong), Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil. We see it as a special achievement that a substantial contingent of Central and Eastern European academics (including 15 scholars from Poland) made an appearance at the Conference. This had the welcome effect of raising the critical attention directed at music from Central and Eastern Europe, previously an under-researched area. This eastward shift of emphasis gave the Conference a distinctive feel without sacrificing the overall balance. The participants tackled a rich and diverse

range of issues and practically all current musicological approaches to the Baroque were represented. This resulted in what in hindsight seems to have been a very noteworthy Conference. Not only did it offer a platform for the achievements of Polish musicology within a broader European context, but it provided a glimpse of Polish Baroque music culture from the perspective of world musicology.

This special issue of *Musicology Today* entitled 'Polish Studies on Baroque Music' presents nine articles, which are extended versions of some of the papers read at the 12th Conference by Polish participants. Other articles by Polish speakers have already found their way into print elsewhere or are due to do so at a later date.

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