

New Directions in the Study of Music and European Jewish Culture, ca. 1600–1800

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Editorial Note

REBECCA CYPRESS

In the summer of 2023, I was pleased to receive an invitation to serve as guest editor for an issue of *Min-Ad: Israel Studies in Musicology*. For a range of reasons, I eagerly accepted the invitation. Chief among my hopes were to continue fostering the excellence of a journal with such an illustrious history and to encourage collaboration between music scholars in Israel and those in the international community.

In soliciting contributions to this issue, I sought not to advance a particular narrative or theme, but to solicit the best new work possible from a stellar group of musicologists working on topics in the study of music and Jewish culture in Europe between ca. 1600 and 1800. Liza Malamut presents newly discovered archival material—and new interpretations and arguments—pertaining to Europa Rossi, a seventeenth-century singer at the Mantuan court and sister of Salamone Rossi. Paul G. Feller-Simmons and Jonathan Salamon address the repertoire of the Ets Haim synagogue in Amsterdam in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries—Feller-Simmons from the angle of the cultural and musical politics of identity and “conversion,” and Salamon from the perspective of schema theory, ultimately offering new a realization of music from the Ets Haim repertoire. Avital Vovnoboy has produced a new, annotated translation of a satiric document on cantorial music from Amsterdam that is discussed in Feller-Simmons’s article. Matthew Austerklein addresses cantorial music in eighteenth-century London, presenting new perspectives on sources that are little known and understood. Tina Frühauf uncovers new evidence of music making in synagogues in Berlin in the eighteenth century, before the rise of the Reform movement. My own contribution addresses the 1803 songbook by the Jewish-born singer and composer Harriett Abrams, arguing that it demonstrates her continued engagement with Jewish themes and the Jewish experience even after her conversion to Christianity. This issue also includes book reviews by Eytan Agmon, Julian Rushton, and Rebecca Zola.

It has been an honor to work with the authors of these outstanding articles, as it has been to partner with co-editor Alon Schab, an outstanding scholar with vast expertise, and with Irit Youngerman, the tireless, dedicated, and visionary Editor in Chief of *Min-Ad*. Special thanks are due as well to Bonnie Blackburn, who has served, with her characteristic care and attention to detail, as copy editor for this issue. It is my sincere hope that this issue will contribute to the ongoing success of this important journal.