

ABSTRACT

In this thesis, I summarize the personal and professional profiles of a selection of musically active women who lived alongside prominent composers. These are six women artists from the Baroque to the 20th century. In each chapter, a different element of their lives became the focus of my interest. Sometimes, given the paucity of reliable sources of information (especially in relation to the Baroque period), this is merely a summary of hypotheses, sometimes I focus more on the professional side of the personality, and sometimes on personal and family matters. The thesis deals with sections of music history with which the general public is not so familiar and yet which I suppose deserve to be known.

I focus on the virtuoso of the seventeenth-century harpsichordist Marie-Rose Dubois, who, alongside her husband J. B. Forqueray, was a concert artist, the singer and important creator of the Bach manuscripts Anna Magdalena Bachová, the outstanding singer of the classical period Josefina Dušková, the wife of the Czech composer F. X. Dušek. I also deal with the harpist and composer Sophie Corri-Dusseck, wife of the musical bohemian J. L. Dusik, the most important 19th century pianist Clara Schumann and the opera singer Berta Lauterer, partner of the Czech composer J. B. Foerster. There are, of course, many more women I would like to write about, but in the end I chose these six representatives for my work, each of whom, in my opinion, stood out in a different, original way.