

English abstract

The master's thesis deals with different representations of non-European cultures and their inhabitants in musical dramas (operas and related genres) of the eighteenth century. Firstly it gives some typical characteristics of these musical artworks in historical context (focusing on Italian and French examples especially) than it concentrates on the topic of so-called exoticism in general. The final part of the thesis which is based on three case studies formulates some typical approaches to the problem of representation of non-European cultures by analyzing musical settings, stage representations and especially librettos of three important operatic works by Vivaldi (*Moteczuma*), Graun (*Montezuma*) and Rameau (*Les Indes Galantes*). The topic of exoticism in Handel's selected operas is mentioned in a short survey.

Keywords: 18th century, music history, opera history, Italian opera, French opera, exoticism, intercultural relationships, comparative studies