

FOREWORD

In 1619 the last of the three volumes of the *Syntagma musicum* by Michael Praetorius (1571–1621) was dedicated to the author's patrons, the Lord Mayor and Councillors of the city of Nürnberg in the Holy Roman Empire, and was printed at his seat of residence in Wölfenbüttel. This all-encompassing music encyclopaedia of the time – on a level with the earlier treatises by Tinctoris and Zarlino – surpassed in scope and erudition anything that had appeared in Germany prior to its publication and remained an authoritative reference work well into the early eighteenth century.

Four hundred years on from its first publication it is still of prime interest and inspiration to any musicologist dealing with earlier periods of music. The year 2019 is therefore more than simply convenient for various events and publications dedicated to Michael Praetorius, his monumental *Syntagma musicum* and numerous subjects directly connected with his writings: performance and composition, tuning and tempo, music terminology and tonality, organology and iconography as well as Praetorius's legacy at large.

In April 2019 an international conference titled *Syntagma Musicum 1619 ~ 2019* was organised in Ljubljana, Slovenia, by the Institute of Musicology, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, in collaboration with the Museum of Architecture and Design, the National and University Library, the Slovenian Musicological Society, and the Department of Musicology at the University of Ljubljana. The conference was accompanied by a thematic concert with music by Praetorius and his contemporaries, with special regard to compositions dedicated by various composers to patrons of music in the territory of present-day Slovenia.

The present volume is a final and permanent outcome. It contains nine articles by authors from Slovenia, Germany, Italy, England, Netherlands, the USA and New Zealand that will, one hopes, contribute to a better knowledge of Michael Praetorius as well as foster interest in new or renewed research on many interesting topics connected with his monumental musical legacy.

Metoda Kokole
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