

# Editorial

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the peer-reviewed international music journal *Nineteenth-Century Music Review*, published by Ashgate in association with the Centre for Nineteenth-Century Music, University of Durham, UK. It is the successor of *Music Review*, edited by A. F. Leighton-Thomas for over 50 years, and it is the inheritor of a rich tradition of musicological diversity which his journal had encouraged. Like its predecessor, *Nineteenth-Century Music Review* is founded as an open forum of ideas, and does not prosecute a singular philosophical, methodological or theoretical template. It is intended as 'a conference in writing', where a wide range of ideas can be expressed and discussed, and where intellectual dialogue and debate is advanced. It is interdisciplinary in its approach, and it accepts the idea of the 'long century' (roughly the 1780s to the 1920s). True to its name, *Nineteenth-Century Music Review* will contain numerous reviews of books, CDs and scores, and in addition each issue will include several articles, correspondence to and from the editor and relevant conference reports. Articles with fine visual content will be one of its hallmarks.

When a new journal is established on the foundation of an old one, broad comparisons between the two are inevitable. But I would like to circumvent this, if I may, by drawing attention to one point in particular, namely the last word in the title of both journals – 'review'. The word 'review' comes from the Latin 're' and 'videre'. It means literally to see again, and as a noun and a verb it has had various closely related meanings over the years. In the sixteenth century it meant a formal inspection, and a century later, a general survey or account. The *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* gives recent definitions variously as 'inspect again', 'revise' and 'survey'. Modern dictionaries tend to lump these characteristics together. The *Oxford Reference Dictionary*, for example, gives as its primary definition 'a general survey or assessment of a subject or thing, a survey of past events', and in subsequent definitions 're-examination, reconsideration'; 'a display and formal inspection of troops'; and lastly 'a published report assessing the merits of a book or play etc., a periodical publication with critical articles on current events, the arts, etc.'. Workable as these definitions are, they do not really define the word adequately. They focus on review as an exclusively reflective activity, and in doing so fail to consider the ways in which the act of review actually points to the future. In fact, review is as much about the formulation of the future as it is about the interpretation of the past.

*Nineteenth-Century Music Review* is a journal dedicated to uncovering the past in ways which point to the future, and it is the intention of its editors to publish work which conforms to this basic approach. We are seeking to expand the horizons of musicological discourse, and to create a vehicle for the distribution of new and dynamic perceptions of nineteenth-century music. We wish to encourage scholars to come forward with individual contributions, as well as ideas for thematically unified groupings of articles, and we will ensure that all contributions are assessed with the utmost fairness and impartiality. *Nineteenth-Century Music Review* is intended as a journal for the musicological community

– in service to it – and it is our hope that musicologists and all scholars interested in music will treat it as an opportunity to create a new intellectual future through its pages.

As a journal is dependent upon the help of so many individuals, I would like to thank firstly my five editorial colleagues: Professor Anna Celenza (Michigan State University, USA), book reviews, and Professor Jeremy Dibble (University of Durham, UK), CD and score reviews; and Dr Stephen Downes (University of Surrey, UK), Professor William Weber (California State University, Long Beach, USA) and Dr Phyllis Weliver. Their dedication to the journal has been truly inspiring, and I offer them my warmest thanks and my deepest gratitude. I would like to also offer many thanks to our advisory board, too great in number to name individually, but invaluable in consultation and advice. And finally, I would like to thank the team at Ashgate for their consistent support of this venture. Their excellence in production and administration has ensured a journal of the highest quality.

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