

DONIZETTI

EDITORIAL

This fourth Journal of the Donizetti Society reflects a quickening of the scope of Donizetti studies, and indeed, of the Society itself. In the latter context and in respect of the wider membership of the Society, it has been considered appropriate to include a small number of articles in the Italian language and further Journals are likely to continue this trend with contributions in French, as and when they are received. The fundamental language of the publication however will continue to be English. A further factor is the inclusion of research material: the understanding and appreciation of the primo Ottocento can best be served by a knowledge of the framework within which Donizetti and his contemporaries worked; with this in mind Journal No 4 includes documentation both of Donizettian interpreters and of the repertoire in the theatres of his day. These apparently innocuous listings will be found to contain facts, casts and dates that throw a new light on the world of performances and stagioni- much of this information comes from contemporary newspapers and from musical ephemerae, sources which have tended to be overlooked in earlier studies. Future Journals will, it is hoped, cover other aspects of musical life in the Italian peninsula and beyond, and will be able to create an essential fund of basic information for the study - not just of Donizetti and his life and work - but of his peers, rivals and successors in such a way that they throw the outline of the Bergamasc maestro into strong relief.

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