

Preface

While preparing our edition of *Monteverdi: Il primo libro de madrigali* (Egtved 1985), my late wife Karin and I became acquainted with Aquilino Coppini's very interesting collections, of which, unfortunately, only the first is completely preserved. We wished to make an edition from this collection for various reasons, so we started the preparations. Considering that both the Italian madrigals and the churchly versions are valuable for practical use, from the beginning we decided to make the edition for scholarly as well as practical use and with both Latin and Italian texts.

Due to Karin's death and, later on, my occupation with other work, the preparations have taken many years, but now the material is finally ready.

The book was originally published as an ordinary "paper edition", but now I have decided to make it available in the following way: the **music** along with a rather short **introduction**, the **poems**, a description of the **sources**, the **editorial principles** and the **critical report** are accessible on WWW, whereas my studies of single topics (such as the interesting relationship between the original Italian texts and Coppini's Latin texts, the early partitura, transposition, and so forth) will appear as papers in *Cæcilia*, the yearbook of the Department of Music, University of Aarhus. In addition, they will also appear on WWW. There are several reasons for my decision: Most important, some time ago I was informed that a *Commissione per la tutela e la valorizzazione del Fondo Musicale dell'Archivio Capitolare Cattedrale di Piacenza* is working on a parallel edition of Coppini's work. I do not find it correct for me to compete in selling an edition of music that belongs to a library printing the same music. On the other hand, it may be valuable for scholars to compare the editions and thus get a broader picture of the original. "My" edition will be free for everybody to download and use from the Internet; nevertheless, I appeal to my readers to mention the source if my work is used publicly! The description of the sources, besides Coppini's editions, are rather brief, but a detailed description will appear later on WWW.

Another reason why I have chosen to publish the edition electronically on WWW is that this way of editing is rather new, at least for scholarly music publications. The present publication may be a step towards making this route passable for other scholars, and since my job at the University of Aarhus is to teach and carry out research, I have nothing to lose by making the book freely accessible. For scholarly

reasons and to assist me on possible later editions, I should be happy to receive any comments my readers might care to make at the e-mail address: coppini@jppj.dk .

The electronic version of this edition is divided into several independent parts (the single chapters and each madrigal are all in separate files) which can be downloaded from the net separately. Thus, minor parts may be quickly downloaded for scholarly or practical use. Each page of the edition is designed as a picture, making it impossible to alter anything in it. If any alterations should be desired, I can be contacted at the above e-mail address. For practical reasons the pagination does not correspond to the normal convention in ordinary books: each of the files has its own pagination, so that when downloaded the single topics can be used alone.

My preparations have required trips to a number of libraries, and I wish to thank in particular the staffs of Staats- und Stadtbibliothek, Augsburg; Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München; Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale, Bologna; and Archivio Capitolare Piacenza for their great help and kindness. For invaluable assistance with the Latin texts, I am in great debt to Amanuensis Gert Ernst Skov of the Department of Church History, University of Aarhus, and I sincerely thank Associate Professor Olivia Schmitt Jensen and Professor Svend Bach of the Department of Romance Languages, University of Aarhus, for their inspiring help with the Italian texts. For her considerable assistance on the translation into English, I thank Stacey M. Cozart.

I also wish to thank my dear colleague, Professor John Bergsagel, University of Copenhagen, for his excellent help with the translation into English many years ago, as well as for his constructive criticism of the edition from Monteverdi's 5th book, which in a practical way has also paved the way for the present edition. And last but not least I am grateful to my friend, Lecturer Peer Kjær Andersen of Lystrup, Denmark, who has provided a great deal of assistance in arranging and preparing the layout of the edition for the Internet, a help without which I would have had great difficulty in realizing this edition.

Finally, I wish to mention how greatly indebted I am to my wife, Associate Professor Karin Jacobsen, University of Aalborg, who died far too young, and who was also my best colleague, giving me loyal support throughout many years in my work on publishing older music.