

THE VIOL No 26, Spring 2012

Georg Philipp Telemann *Sonata in E major for violin, viola da gamba and basso continuo* TWV 42: E6 by, ed. Günter and Leonore von Zadow and realisation by Torsten Übelhör. Edition Güntersberg G215.

Is it a sonata? Is it a concerto? Scheibe described it in 1745 as a ‘sonata in the manner of a concerto’, a form used many times by Telemann in his trio sonatas, but with the viola da gamba present in only two of these. One can clearly feel the alternation from solo to tutti passages as the music progresses. The movements are the standard concerto line-up of Allegro – Largo – Allegro.

This fine edition from Güntersberg, the first since 1928, includes part books for violin and gamba, a figured bass part and a sparsely figured score (presumably the only figures originally marked). Alongside that we have the added luxury of another score with a fully figured, realised basso continuo part. A page of MS facsimile showing the first lines of the three part books is a good bonus.

Although a useful work to have in the library for its unusual scoring and viola da gamba interest, it’s Telemann in his work-a-day mode: fun, but not devastatingly profound. Perhaps it is because moments of an E major arpeggio theme in the final movement remind one of Bach’s concerto for violin in the same key, that it disappoints a little.

Judy Tarling