

“Bey Hochzeiten und andern erlaubten Tüntzen”: The Role of Town Musicians in Stuttgart, 1659–1671

Samantha Owens (Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington)

To date, most musicological scholarship on the musical life of Stuttgart in the decades immediately following the end of the Thirty Years’ War has centred on the cultural activities of the Württemberg court. Yet as the duchy’s geographical and political centre, the town experienced significant economic expansion during this time, thus ensuring an environment in which musical performances of many different kinds were increasingly in demand from a steadily growing urban population. Concentrating on the years between 1659 and 1671, this paper examines the role of Stuttgart’s *Stadtzinkenist*, a position held successively during this period by Johann Wilhelm Mayer (d. 1665) and Johann Wilhelm Nagel (d. 1694).

Together with five journeymen, the *Stadtzinkenist* performed not only for church services but also had a monopoly – issued by ducal decree – over music for wedding processions, banquets and dances, as well as for other festive occasions celebrated in public and private. As documents held in both Stuttgart’s Hauptstaatsarchiv and Landeskirchliches Archiv demonstrate, however, this was a hotly contested space, with other musicians also attempting to defend their right to perform in the town (and earn a living wage). A close examination of this archival material sheds light on the wider sonic landscape of seventeenth-century Stuttgart, moving beyond the confines of the court and onto the streets of the town itself.