

A

# SECOND EDITION,

[With NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS, which  
now render the SENSE entirely PLAIN]

✓ OF THE

Lawfulness, Excellency and Advantage

OF

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC,

IN THE PUBLIC WORSHIP of GOD,

But chiefly of

# ORGANS.

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Old ORPHEUS play'd so well he mov'd Old NICK!

JOE MILLER.

☞ It must have been an ORGAN which he play'd on.

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PHILADELPHIA :

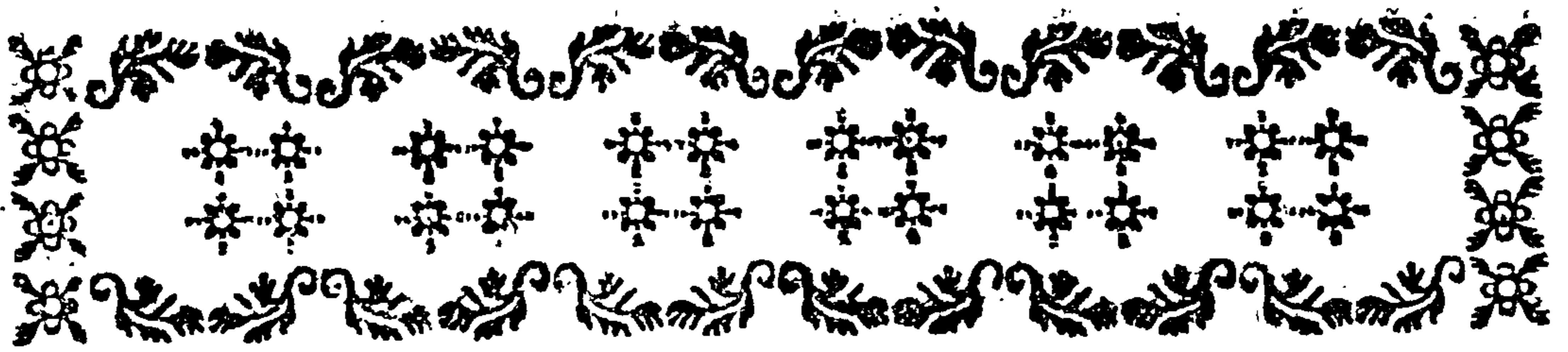
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# P R E F A C E.

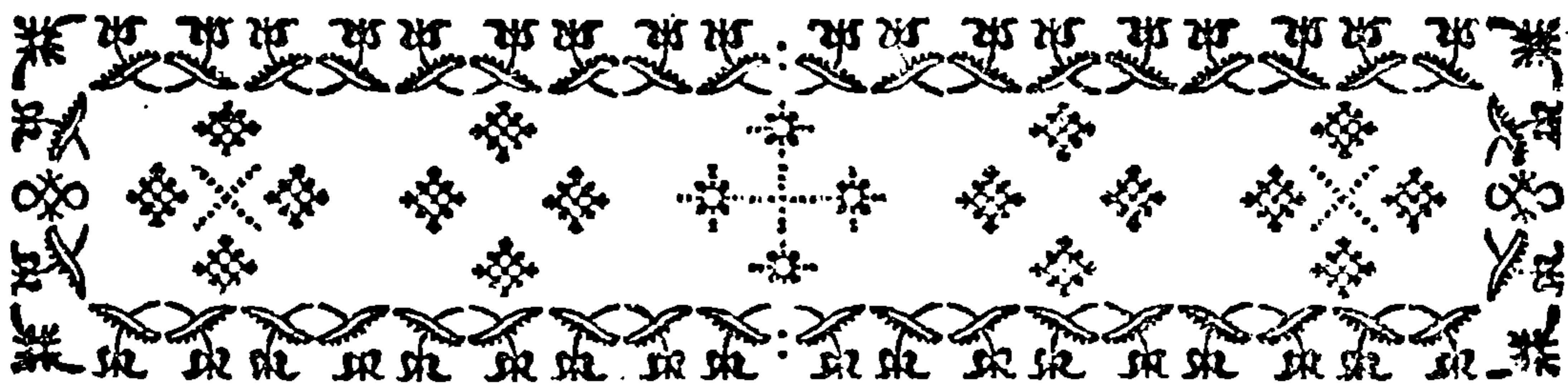
**I**N the first edition of this discourse I addressed myself to Presbyterians, Baptists, and every other denomination of Christians that does not make use of organs in their places of public worship: I endeavoured to convince them of their fatal error with that calmness, that spirit of meekness and brotherly love that becomes a man and a christian.---I then hinted to them in general, in the plainest manner, that they were a set of *morose, sullen, surly, sour, dull, and superlatively stupid, grovelling* mortals, and that I had much reason to fear, least instead of embracing my instructions with rapture (as doubtless they should do) they would be so impious according to their custom, as to pick up texts of scripture by which they might refute the delicate and tender councils I had given them. I informed them also \* that their devotion was apt to be languid by having their minds dissipated in disputing about ceremonies which are not **ESSENTIAL** to religion, therefore I doubted they would not attend patiently

\* Page 5. l. 23, &c.

to what I had to say in favour of an ORGAN which to me seems very ESSENTIAL.---- I very piously comforted myself however, by observing † that I was going to meet opposition, as our Saviour had done before in the same manner, in the cause of godliness and true religion, from the hands of wicked and stupid biggots.---Thus far I proceeded by way of introduction.---I then offered some strong and convincing arguments upon the subject; in which I always availed myself of plain scripture proofs; but some of the arguments being long, and others of them thrown into a new form, somewhat hard to be understood, I doubt that most of my readers, who I hinted before are very stupid, will not be able to comprehend them, so as to reap the fruit of those salutary instructions; for these reasons I have in this edition abridged the arguments, and set them in a clear point of view; so that the most inattentive reader may see how prettily every argument concludes in favour of having Organs in every Church. I have also endeavoured to elucidate the subject by a few additional remarks where it seemed necessary.

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† Page 7. l. 14. &c.



A SECOND EDITION of  
THE  
Lawfulness, Excellency, and Advantage  
OF  
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC,  
BUT CHIEFLY OF  
ORGANS.

---There are braying Men in the World, as well as braying Asses.  
Sir R. L'ESTRANGE.

**T**HERE are thousands in the world of so dull, stupid, morose, and sullen a make, as not to consider that every man who denies the propriety of having Organs in our churches, must of consequence deny the propriety of every kind of cheerfulness, every kind of vocal music, or praise of the supreme

[ O ]

preme Being. But it is certain they may as well deny one as t'other, as they are almost all one; therefore I would have the reader observe, that when I go to prove the lawfulness and advantage of an Organ in christian churches, I shall generally use such arguments, as seem at first view only to prove the necessity or lawfulness of praising God; but keeping in mind the foregoing observation, they will be plain arguments in favour of an Organ. Proceed we now to prove the great use of Organs from the scriptures.

It appears \* Gen. iv. 21. That *Jubal*, the pious descendant of a pious father, was *an Organ-maker by trade*; and as so good a man was doubtless † *immediately directed and assisted by the Holy Ghost*, it follows that Organs should be used in churches.---This good man certainly invented Organs to excite devotion in his soul, for it would not seem that he had much devotion without his Organ, as we are told that the family had “*gone out from the presence of the Lord.*” I might strengthen this argument, by asserting that *Noah* was also an Organ-maker: For having proved that

\* Page 9. l. 2. † P. 8. l. 23.

that *Jubal* did invent the identical instrument now call'd an Organ, the invention would have been lost, unless *Noah* had either learned the trade, or else taken an Organ into the ark with him; in either cases it is plain that he often play'd upon it, which by the way is a strong argument in favour of Organ worship.

*Job* tells us (a) that at the creation the morning stars *sang together*. Is it not plain from hence, that christians should have Organs.---

(b) There is something in poetry and music admirably fitted to divine praise, and no doubt but our first parents before temples were built, or the inventions of art had engaged their attention, often praised God in unpremeditated strains; doubtless they had an Organ in their churches,---else their praises were little worth. (c) When *Solomon* dedicated the temple, during the ceremonious bondage of the Jews, whom it was necessary to entertain with external pomp, he employ'd many singers and much instrumental music,  
as

(a) Page 9. l. 8. (b) P. 9. 6. (c) P. 9 & 10.

as cymbals, trumpets, &c. Therefore a man must be *more ignorant than a child*, if he cannot see from this the propriety of having Organs in our churches, now under the pure and spiritual dispensation of the gospel.

(b) The psalmist commands to *rejoice in the Lord and be glad*, and the Philippians are three times commanded by the Apostle to rejoice in the Lord.---This is a plain proof for Organ worship, even under the gospel dispensation.

It is generally allowed that the Devil should be banished from all places of public worship, and it is plain that an Organ is the most proper thing to affright him with,---which I shall thus prove.---When an evil spirit possessed *Saul*, *David* play'd with a HARP before him, and the evil spirit departed, hence it is plain, that he cannot endure the sound of an Organ. (c) When *Elisha* the prophet was grown perfectly mad, had killed several of his keepers, and was just going to be carried to the hospital for attempting to knock out the brains of two  
or

(b) Page 16.

(c) P. 13.



or three kings,---they brought him a minstrel, and he play'd on it till he was perfectly restored to his senses.---You may look for the story at large, 2 Kings iii. chap. It is mighty plain in the original, I suppose, but is some how left out in the translation.----

I have just recollected one other proof of the power of music. Some time ago as I was riding, by night, a woman mounted behind me,---my horse, knowing her to be a witch, fell into a dreadful sweat; I chanced to have a Jews-harp by me, which I pulled out and play'd her a tune, immediately she departed to the great satisfaction of my horse. Such is the power of music to banish the devil.

Do not these three last arguments make it as plain as any demonstration, that an Organ is a kind of Devil-frighter? for you see that he hates the sound of it, and in this quality he greatly resembles a Quaker, an Afs, and every body else that does not love to hear the sound of an Organ in church.----  
What reason can be given why the trustees of the colleges in this and the adjacent province have taken so much pains to provide  
Organs

Organs for their respective colleges, but because they well knew that this instrument is the most powerful exorcist.---

The Rev. *Gilbert Tennent* (*d*) allows that the churches of England and Scotland agree in doctrinal articles or in essentials; he also says (*e*) that churches should be decently ornamented: From this it is as plain as the nose on a man's face, that they all agree to have an Organ, which is certainly a doctrinal article and decent ornament into the boot.

(*f*) It is certain that places of public worship have a natural aptness to strike the mind with devout thoughts,---therefore all those places should have an Organ in them.

Most christians agree that, *it is their duty to praise God with the voice of melody*.---Now I am certain that an Organ has the most melodious voice; therefore they should, above all kinds of praise, take care to get an Organ.---Now ye stupid, sullen, braying enemies of true religion and genuine devotion,  
what

what have you to say for yourselves: You are condemned by your own concessions.

But that you may henceforth be dumb upon this subject, I shall answer all the objections that can be made.---

Some of you may say---If an Organ be so much better to praise God with than the voice, and if it be true, as we have heard, that an Organ is proper and necessary, even to hide the disagreeableness of most voices, and *(a) the defects of nature*; then we would be glad to know in case the voice is bad and the devotion languid, and the thoughts wandering, whether an Organ will hide that defect from the supreme Being? Whether a man might not very devoutly, and with great safety, sleep in church; provided there was a good Organ playing at his ear?--And, whether, instead of the fervent praise and devout offerings of a grateful heart, a man might please God as well with the loud sound and melodious voice of the well-tuned Organ?---(for the latter would certainly be a very convenient substitution) To all these I answer: I already told you that every man who cannot see the divine  
appro-

*(a)* Page 20. Line 12.

approbation of Organ-worship is superlatively stupid, therefore your objection is of no weight.

Since my first edition was published I have also thought of another objection that will be made by such as are not ready at drawing conclusions, when the premises only are laid down.----Some will say---If the praise of a devout christian can only ascend to the divine ear, by the blast of an Organ, how shall poor people be saved who are not able to purchase such an instrument? The Jews did all worship at the temple---But Christians are to worship at any place, and often can get no Organ, What shall they do?-----

Have peace gentle reader, and I will clear up this matter. Do not you remember how I proved the lawfulness and usefulness of an Organ? I told you that the Jews had them of old, and so they were at that time both lawful and useful; and I now tell you that they are still lawful and necessary, even under the christian dispensation, as appears plainly from this consideration.---There was certainly a *(b)* magnificent Organ in the temple---  
just

*(b)* Page 36. Line 12.

just such an instrument as we now have in St. Paul's, only ten times as great, and it is certain that our Saviour often worshiped in the temple, and we are not told that he broke the Organ, or took it away.

Now as we are not told where it stood, or whether it was there at all or not, or how it was taken away, we have the finest reason in the world to conclude that it certainly was there, and that it never was taken away. ---It is true, that when *Solomon* told us of every other thing that was in the temple, he some how forgot to tell us where the large Organ stood; But I have told you it was there, and certainly if it was there, it stood some where; I suppose in the front of the gallery. ---You will be pleased to remember that I told you the same scriptures which recommend an Organ, do also recommend a Trumpet, a Cymbal, and an Harp in divine worship, Now tho' I do heartily condemn the unscriptural and carnal instruments, a Bagpipe, a Banjo, and a Fiddle; yet you do not think I am like yourself, so stupid as to condemn one scriptural instrument of music, and at the same time praise another instrument which the scriptures do not speak of

half

half so much ? The consequence is plain ; If you cannot buy an Organ, get a Trumpet, and that will effectually hide your afs-like braying. Or you may buy a Strim-stram, or a Dulcimer, or a Flûte. If more frugality be necessary, get a Jews-harp. That is the truest piece of antiquity ; we are more certain of its being used by the Jews, than of any other instrument of music that we now possess---for you know it is by way of distinction called the Jew's Harp.-----Considering this music is so cheap, you will be inexcusable if you do not get it, not only in your churches, but also in your private families.

If you want ocular demonstration of the lawfulness and goodness of an Organ, I would advise you to go to St. *Paul's* church ; there you will find, especially in the evening, a collection of all the pious young people in town, who besides the certainty of hearing a *powerful* Preacher, have no other view in coming there, than to hear a tune played on the Organ, and their great *devotion* is always manifested by their grave deportment.

Thus I have finished what I had to say on this subject, and my conscience bears me  
witness

witness that I have made this attempt with a fervent desire of reforming all that are led astray, but especially the Baptists and Presbyterians ; for being myself a Presbyterian, I love them sincerely ; therefore I call them fullen and stupid, and compare them to an Ass and the Devil.

After all, if they are not saved by an Organ, they may blame themselves, for I am sure I have said all that could be said upon the subject, and have reasoned like a gentleman and a christian.

F I N I S.

*P. S.* I should be guilty of an unpardonable neglect, were I not to mention how much the public is indebted to those *worthy gentlemen* that have leberally bestowed or lent Organs to our (*c*) Colleges or (*d*) Churches.  
Great

(*c*) The ingenious FRANCIS HOPKINSON, ESQUIRE, stood so high in the good *Graces* of Mrs. *Douglass*, and the rest of the stroling Stage-Players, that HE prevailed on them to perform a Play, the profits arising therefrom, purchased the College Organ. — [This Assertion is without ERRATA.]

(*d*) Mr. WILLIAM DUNLAP, generously bestowed an Organ to the church of St. Paul's,

Great will be the reformation of our lives, seeing the Devil will be banished from those numerous and august assemblies. And as we have an organ builder (*e*) in this city, may we not hope in time that the morals of our citizens will be as pure as those in London, or Paris, or Rome, or even those of the Jews in our Saviour's time, while they enjoyed the great Organ, and all the other musical instruments that were in the temple.-----

(*e*) Mr. FIREING, Organ-builder, lives a little above Pool's bridge, in the northern liberties.