

Vauxhall Revisited: pleasure gardens and their publics 1660-1880

An interdisciplinary conference, accompanied by a concert at Tate Britain, 14-16 July 2008



J. S. Muller after Samuel Wale, "View of Vauxhall Gardens", 1751 (c) Guildhall Library, City of London

Pleasure Gardens have been discussed by historians such as John Brewer and Roy Porter as typifying a nascent public sphere, one identified with the 'commodification' of culture and the rise of the 'middling rank'. Much of our knowledge of these gardens is still founded on Warwick Wroth's works, now more than a century old. For all the importance of the individual composers, painters and artists active within them, pleasure gardens have been neglected by historians of early modern theatre, music, art and dance. Those historians and literary scholars who have addressed them have focused almost exclusively on the 1760s and 1770s, ignoring their Caroline origins and Victorian

development. Pleasure Gardens outside London and in other European countries have also received insufficient attention. It is hoped that this conference will go some way towards bridging the disciplinary, methodological and geographical divides which have hitherto isolated scholars interested in different aspects of the pleasure garden.

The conference is supported by The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, Tate Britain and The Museum of Garden History. Additional support is provided by the Royal Musical Association, The Music and Letters Trust and Southampton University's Music Department, History Department and School of Humanities. The convener is

Dr Jonathan Conlin, University of Southampton. Speakers include Peter Borsay, John Brewer, Rachel Cowgill, John Dixon Hunt, Deborah Epstein Nord, Aileen Ribeiro, William Weber and Simon McVeigh.

For further information including programme details, please visit our website at: <http://www.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk/eventsf/vauxhall.html>

The conference fees are £80 (full), £60 (students/concessions)

To register for this conference please contact Tate Ticketing Services at:

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