Fake Music Re-Anticipations

Maria Anna “Nannerl” Mozart — Complete Catalog
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Maria Anna Mozart, called Marianne and nicknamed Nannerl, was the older sister of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. She received musical education early on, and like her brother, she was considered a child prodigy. The two toured Europe and performed together, Nannerl sometimes receiving top billing. In 1769 she reached the marriageable age of eighteen and was made to cease touring and give up her musical education, as a grown woman who continued to perform did so at the risk of ruining her reputation.

The siblings’ correspondence suggests that Nannerl composed numerous works. Wolfgang wrote to her from Rome in 1770, “I am amazed! I had no idea you were capable of composing in such a gracious way. In a word, your Lied is beautiful.” But there remains only evidence of her compositions; none survive.

We at Fake Music acknowledge these losses (of works, of a career, of influence) and speculate that their like was not uncommon, but we must ultimately submit to them. History settled our inability to reissue Nannerl’s music well before we decided to recognize it.

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