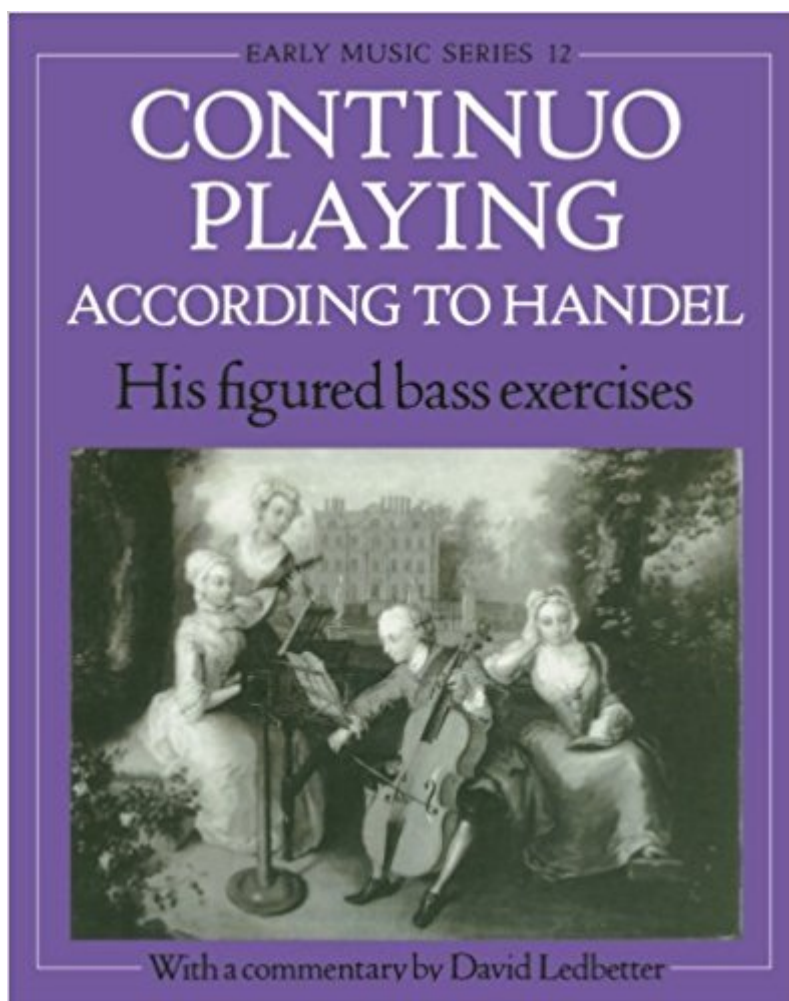


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# Continuo Playing According To Handel: His Figured Bass Exercises (Oxford Early Music Series)



## Synopsis

This book is an edition, with commentary, of Handel's exercises for continuo playing, which he wrote for the daughters of George II. The exercises, which until now have not been readily available, are supplemented by clear and concise commentary. Remaining faithful to his source, Ledbetter, who lectures in keyboard studies, has prepared an edition that will prove invaluable to students and performers of the music of Handel and his contemporaries.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'most stimulating publication' Early Music News 'an ideal introduction to the art of playing from the figured bass ... The work under review is based on a substantial set of exercises devised by Handel ... David Ledbetter has provided substantial commentaries on all these exercises, and has written specimen realisations illustrating admirably the many points implicit in them. He has also provided a most useful Introduction.' Organists' Review 'a timely book, the kind of thing that seems obvious once it is actually available, and I hope it replaces other first-stage tutors ... The format and music size are made for putting on the piano desk, and the textbook approach means a direct, pleasant tutor that deserves to be a set book ... Mr Ledbetter's clean, well-thought-out realizations and commentary could well encourage that pianistic harmony characteristic of keyboard harmony exams.' Peter Williams, Music and Letters 'a welcome contribution to the small number of modern pedagogical works on figured bass... Ledbetter offers excellent suggestions for further practice in the

compositions of J.S.Bach'Patrick J. Rogers, Newsletter of The American Handel Society'a practical workbook which Handel put together during the decade in which he was teaching the daughters of King George II ... David Ledbetter's thoughtful commentary is most helpful, especially to the novice, and he encourages the reader not to be intimidated by the thought of improvising either upon a bassline or a fugue subject, stressing Handel's completely pragmatic and accessible approach.'Elisabeth Wright, Indiana University, Early Keyboard Journal, Volume 11 - Nov 1993

David Ledbetter is at Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.

The quality of the binding is cheap, paper used is almost like construction paper and the ink almost bleeds into the paper itself creating spider marks/hairline absorptive runs (as if the ink was sucked up by the paper and spider cracks formed via the black ink - pretty bad/poor/low quality printing). this book has been around for so long now I wonder why a PDF isn't available but what matters most are its contents. still it's overpriced, \$7.95 would be far more reasonable. Perhaps I'll scan, create a PDF and upload.

I love the content, but I had to pay at the copy place to have them cut off the binding and make it spiral so it lays flat on my keyboard. Now I can actually use the book!

Don't bother. The answers to the exercises are inconsistent with the exercise instructions.

A real treasure. My students love this.

Christmas present for my nephew...it was exactly what he wanted

Very well edited and narrated compendium of Handel's exercises. Used this with great success to learn continuo.

I'm glad to know that this book is available. Now I know how one of the great continuo players would teach it!

I cannot understand why this book is not better known. It is probably the best keyboard harmony book available. The book contains a method written by one of the world's greatest composers,

George Frideric Handel. There are extensive and useful commentaries by the editor, David Ledbetter. Handel's figured-basses are all works of arts. If you practice these pieces and realize the parts with some sense of art, you will have a well-balanced composition. Unlike so many keyboard harmony and thoroughbass exercises, these basses by Handel reveal so much about how to design a musical composition and the basses themselves warrant carefully study. Four things are achieved through practicing these pieces: 1) an intuitive understanding of keyboard harmony-voicing and voice leading, 2) an understanding of musical composition, 3) a mastery of continuo playing, and 4) the acquiring of a virtuoso keyboard technique. Buy this book and devote hours to mastering it. It is a treasure chest of musical wisdom.

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