THE EARLIER FRENCH MUSICIANS (1632-1834)

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The earlier French musicians (1632-1834) by Mary Hargrave

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MARY HARGRAVE

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PREFACE

THE object of this little book is to supply English readers with concise biographies of French Musicians from Lully to the beginning of the 19th century (a period covering about 200 years), reflecting in some measure the conditions and influences of the times in which they lived and worked. Although not all were born on French soil, France was so entirely the land of their adoption that they must be reckoned among her musicians.

For detailed analysis of their works, readers are referred to the Authors mentioned in the Bibliography.

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CONTENTS

CHAPT	ER	PAGE
	PREFACE	v
1	I JEAN BAPTISTE LULLY, 1632-1687 -	1
11	I JEAN PHILIPPE RAMEAU, 1683-1764 -	49
111	1 The Clavecin Composers, 1600-1768	87
11	André Ernest Modeste Grétry, 1741-1813	109
V	ETIENNE NICOLAS MÉHUL, 1763-1817 -	159
VI	I JEAN FRANCOIS LESUEUR, 1760-1837 -	207
VII	I LUIGI CHERUBINI, 1760-1842 · ·	225
VIII	FRANCOIS ADRIEN BOIELDIEU, 1775-	
	1834	243

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THE EARLIER FRENCH MUSICIANS

CHAPTER 1

JEAN BAPTISTE LULLY 1632-1687

JEAN Baptiste Lully,¹ born an Italian, left his native land as a child and identified himself so completely with France and French music that (quite apart from the legal formula of naturalisation) he must be reckoned a French musician. Little is known of his family, and his enemies were probably right in declaring that he was of humble birth. Lulli was a common name at that time in Florence. In or near that city Jean Baptiste was born (29th November, 1632) and baptised on the same day, as was then customary, his parents being one Lorenzo Lulli and Caterina del Sera his wife,

Of his childhood we only know that he loved music and that a monk of the Cordeliers (Grey

¹ He changed Luffi into Luffy in France, probably after naturalisation, and all documents signed by him have this spelling.