

John Weretka

Homer the Lironist

P.F. Mola, Art, and Music in the Baroque



Pierfrancesco Mola's *Homer dictating* (1663-66) shows the Classical poet dictating poetry to the accompaniment of his own playing of the liron. This paper will explore the intersections between fantasy and reality in this painting, examining the ways in which Mola's image captures the 'true' history of the liron and its position in society, as well as the ways in which wilfully inaccurate archæology was used as a site for a polemic on the hierarchical superiority of stringed instruments in the late Renaissance and Baroque. Probing musical treatises, the extant repertoire, and documentary evidence from contemporary *novelle*, diaries and festival records, this paper will seek to understand why Mola placed the liron, invented at the turn of the sixteenth century, into the hand of a poet dead for almost two and a half millenia.

Monday 9 October 6.45 pm
Room 148 Elisabeth Murdoch Building
All Welcome