Music and Image in Classical Athens

During the fifth century B.C., Athens witnessed the explosion of images depicting musical performance, such as Apollo and the Muses, frisky satyrs, the poet Orpheus, youths at school, brides at weddings, and the dead at tombs. Primarily found in vase paintings, but also in sculpture and now-lost wall paintings, these images provide significant insight into the musical culture of the time and place, especially given that so much of the literary evidence for musical culture in Athens has been lost. In this study, Sheramy Bundrick proposes that the depictions of musical performance were intimately linked to contemporary developments in the field of music itself, such as the debate over music in education, theories of musical ethos, and the growing popularity of professional musicians. Moreover, she argues that music became a visual metaphor for the harmony—or disharmony—of the city. Her book is the first to consider the broad range of musical images in the dynamic Classical period, as well as their sociocultural and artistic implications.

Sheramy D. Bundrick is assistant professor of art history at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. She has received grants from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation and the Fulbright Foundation, and she was an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2000–1.
LET ME NOT LIVE WITHOUT MUSIC.

– EURIPIDES, HERAKLES 676
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This book began with my doctoral dissertation, “Expressions of Harmony: Representations of Female Musicians in Fifth-Century Athenian Vase Painting” (Emory University 1998). While researching scenes of women playing music in domestic environments, I realized that musical imagery in general positively exploded in the fifth century B.C. and decided this merited further study. The initial draft of this manuscript was written under the auspices of an Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral research fellowship at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2000–1; I thank the Department of Greek and Roman Art, especially Joan Mertens, and the Education Department, particularly Marcie Karp, for their hospitality. Thanks are also due to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, which awarded me a Travel Fellowship in 1996 for dissertation research. The manuscript was completed at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, in the period 2001–4.

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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Archäologischer Anziger</td>
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<td>ABV</td>
<td>J. D. Beazley, Attic Black-Figure Vase Painters. Oxford: 1956.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AJA</td>
<td>American Journal of Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFON</td>
<td>Annali dell’Istituto universitario orientale di Napoli. Dipartimento di studi del mondo classico e del Mediterraneo antico. Sezione di archeologia e storia antica.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Athenische Abteilung</td>
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<tr>
<td>AnK</td>
<td>Antike Kunst</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCH</td>
<td>Bulletin de correspondence hellénique</td>
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<td>BSA</td>
<td>Annual of the British School at Athens</td>
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<td>CJ</td>
<td>Classical Journal</td>
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<td>CQ</td>
<td>Classical Quarterly</td>
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<td>ICAM</td>
<td>Classical Antiquity</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRAI</td>
<td>Comptes rendus des séances de l’Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres</td>
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<tr>
<td>CVA</td>
<td>Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum</td>
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<td>CW</td>
<td>Classical World</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAD</td>
<td>Exploration archéologique de Délou</td>
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<tr>
<td>EchCl</td>
<td>Echo du monde classique/Classical Views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GaR</td>
<td>Greece and Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRBS</td>
<td>Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IG</td>
<td>Inscriptiones Graecae</td>
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<tr>
<td>JdI</td>
<td>Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts</td>
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<tr>
<td>JHS</td>
<td>Journal of Hellenic Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>JWalt</td>
<td>Journal of the Walters Art Gallery</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEFRA</td>
<td>Mélanges de l’École française de Rome. Antiquité.</td>
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Abbreviations

RA    Revue archéologique
REA   Revue des études anciennes
REG   Revue des études grecques
ZPE   Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik