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Nota di contenuto	Under the spell of opera? : Bach's oratorio trilogy / Christoph Wolff -- Johann Sebastian Bach and Barthold Heinrich Brockes / Daniel R. Melamed -- Drama and discourse : the form and function of chorale tropes in Bach's oratorios / Markus Rathey -- Oratorio on five afternoons : from the Lubeck Abendmusiken to Bach's Christmas oratorio / Kerala J. Snyder -- The triumph of "instrumental melody" : aspects of musical poetics in Bach's St. John passion / Laurence Dreyfus -- Bach's Ascension oratorio : God's kingdoms and their representation / by Eric Chafe.
Sommario/riassunto	As the official publication of the American Bach Society, Bach Perspectives has pioneered new areas of research in the life, times, and music of Bach since its first appearance in 1995. Volume 8 of Bach Perspectives emphasizes the place of Bach's oratorios in their repertorial context. These essays consider Bach's oratorios from a variety of perspectives: in relation to models, antecedents, and contemporary trends; from the point of view of musical and textual types; and from analytical vantage points including links with instrumental music and theology. Christoph Wolff suggests the possibility that Bach's three festive works for Christmas, Easter, and Ascension Day form a coherent group linked by liturgy, chronology, and genre. Daniel R. Melamed considers the many ways in which Bach's

passion music was influenced by the famous poetic passion of Barthold Heinrich Brockes. Markus Rathey examines the construction and role of oratorio movements that combine chorales and poetic texts (chorale tropes). Kerala Snyder shows the connections between Bach's Christmas Oratorio and one of its models, Buxtehude's Abendmusiken spread over many evenings. Laurence Dreyfus argues that Bach thought instrumentally in the composition of his passions at the expense of certain aspects of the text. And Eric Chafe demonstrates the contemporary theological background of Bach's Ascension Oratorio and its musical realization

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