

Preamble

‘You all remember,’ said the Controller, in his strong deep voice, ‘you all remember, I suppose, that beautiful and inspired saying of Our Ford’s: “History is bunk.” History,’ he repeated slowly, ‘is bunk.’

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

I hope you didn’t buy this little book because you were beguiled by the cover. If you’re really into alternative history, the idea of the Tudor king hurtling around the grounds of Hampton Court Palace on a motorcycle might have been quite appealing. Well, sorry to disappoint you, but Henry VIII remains steadfastly a horseman, although in this narrative Clio the Muse of History herself is taken for a ride. The subtitle—*A Tale of Two Trumpets*—is what the book is really all about, but I was so taken with the cover art that I couldn’t resist the subterfuge. But, even if you know very little about what goes on in the modern baroque orchestra, read on and you’ll be exposed to one of the longest running confidence tricks in history, 60 years and counting. That little fact alone should intrigue you, and perhaps recompense somewhat for having bought this book under false pretenses.

On the other hand, if you’re a baroque music aficionado, cracking the spine of this book will serve you well. There’s a lot of information on the many aspects of the recreation and use of historic musical instruments. In addition, you will learn how one trumpet became two, how authenticity bowed to expediency, and how the international cover-up of sharp practice continues to this day. More than this, you will learn how beautiful the baroque trumpet is when played in its rightful milieu.

There is no better tract on the subject.

Of course, you might be one of the baroque trumpet folks who know all about this stuff anyway, and are sick of hearing about it. Especially sick of me prosing on. Well, you’re reading this right now, so there’s surely some vested interest in your continuing. You might be amused, intrigued, annoyed or even (who knows?) informed, all of which are the elicited emotional outcomes of being exposed to great writing. Mind you, my kind of wisdom might be the one usually associated with the pain of impacted teeth.

You decide...