

Drammi per musica and intermezzo

The term “opera” in its literal sense of a “work,” occurs quite often throughout Metastasio’s correspondence. It also occurs, however, in direct reference to a three-act stage work that he would more regularly identify as a “*dramma*” which, when set to music, would become a “*dramma per musica*.” As a group, particularly in his letters to his publishers, Metastasio usually refers to these works as “*drammi*.” “*Opera seria*” occurs almost never in his correspondence.

As for the term, “*intermezzo*,” Metastasio applied it to each part of his only example of this genre, *L’impresario delle Canarie*, so that what today is referred to as a single, two-part *intermezzo*, Metastasio identified as “*intermezzo primo*” and “*intermezzo secondo*.”
