

## **Writings of 1738-1740 (III) – Writings for music 1720-1740**

**Series:**

Œuvres complètes de Voltaire

**Volume:**

18C

**VolumeEditors:**

Russell Goulbourne, Raymond Trousson et al.

**Author:**

Voltaire

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When Rameau took the world of opera by storm in 1733, Voltaire set aside his first libretto, *Tanis et Zélide*, and wrote *Samson* and later *Pandore* with the composer specifically in mind. All three libretti depict rebellion against established religions, culminating in spectacular scenes: Isis and Osiris destroying the temple at Memphis; Samson bringing down the temple, crushing himself and the Philistines; and Prometheus and the Titans doing battle against the Roman gods.

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*Lettre à Monsieur Rameau* (Edition critique par Gerhardt Stenger)

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*Divertissement mis en musique, pour une fête donnée par Monsieur André à Madame la maréchale de Villars* (Edition critique par Roger J. V. Cotte)

*Tanis et Zélide* (Critical edition by Gillian Pink and Roger J. V. Cotte)

*Samson* (Critical edition by Russell Goulbourne)

*Pandore* (Edition critique par Raymond Trousson)

**Pages:**

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Eighteenth-century Music

Musicologists specializing in the French Baroque owe a debt of gratitude to the Voltaire Foundation [...] Voltaire's lyric tragedies are dramatically interesting and fun to read [...]

Readers will appreciate the presentation of these volumes, which are up to the Voltaire Foundation's high standards. [...] As additions to the new critical edition, the volumes reviewed here are valuable research tools, compiled with care and clear in what they set out to accomplish. They are outstanding contributions to our research, and our debt of gratitude can only grow accordingly.

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