programs in other academic institutions and locales. We will benefit from the inevitable results of their efforts.

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The Eyes of Handel

I enjoyed the interesting and detailed article by Zegers1 entitled “The Eyes of Johann Sebastian Bach,” a story that has intrigued historians for many years.2 I think readers would also appreciate knowing more about the eyes of George Frideric Handel, briefly mentioned in the article by Zegers.

Zegers mentions that owing to illness, Bach was unable to meet Handel in the 1730s. Handel also was unable to meet Bach on 2 other occasions when Handel was traveling in Germany. However, a common thread did unite these 2 men, the most famous composers of their time. Not only did Chevalier John Taylor operate unsuccessfully on Bach, he also operated unsuccessfully on Handel.3

Both Bach and Handel were born in 1685. Handel lived until 1759, almost 9 years longer than Bach. In 1751, he lost the vision in his left eye; in 1752, he had a couching operation in 1 eye, 1 of 3 operations on his eyes that were each performed by a different surgeon. Although there was some temporary improvement, Handel had apparently lost most of his vision in both eyes by 1753. No new music flowed from his pen after the 1752 premiere of his great oratorio, *Jephtha*. However, Handel was still able to prepare, revise, and conduct his music, especially his oratorios.

In 1758, we know that both Handel and Chevalier Taylor were at the Tunbridge Wells spa and that Taylor claimed to have operated on and cured Handel. The procedure, however, was unsuccessful. Handel continued his musical activities, but his health failed later that year. He died in April 1759 and was buried in Westminster Abbey.4

Two recent, comprehensive analyses propose that Handel’s blindness was the result of cerebrovascular disease causing either ischemic optic neuropathy or retinal vascular disease rather than cataracts. This would explain the failure of the couching operations to restore any vision.5,6

Although these 2 towering composers never met in person, they shared 1 degree of physical contact in that they were both operated on by the same surgeon, the self-styled ophthalmiater John Taylor.

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**Correction**

Error in Byline. In the Clinical Sciences article titled “Evaluating Surgical Dexterity During Corneal Suturing,” published in the September 2006 issue of the *ARCHIVES* (2006;124:1263-1266), there was an error in the byline. The second author’s name should have read as follows: “George Voyatzis, MBBS.”