

Telemann's Harpsichord Music

by Edgar Hunt

This year the musical world has been celebrating the tercentenary of Telemann's birth (14 March 1681), but harpsichord recitalists do not appear to have included much of his music in their programmes. His output included two sets of seven times seven plus one minuets, 36 Fantasias, a number of fugues, fughetas, chorale preludes and Suites - not all of it recital music - but there are two Suites in his *Essercizii Musici*.

This work consists of a dozen solos, two for each of the following instruments: violin, flute, viola da gamba, recorder, oboe and harpsichord, and a dozen trio sonatas involving the same instruments in various combinations.

The first of these harpsichord solos is a Suite in C, consisting of a Largo, Allemanda, Lura, Corrente, Minue I and II and Giga: The other, in F, having the following titles: Cantab., Bourree, Sarabande, Gavotte, Passepied and Gigue.

The solo harpsichord also has a role in four of the trio sonatas. Trio 2 in D is for cembalo, viola da gamba and basso continue, Trio 4 in A for cembalo, flauto traverse and B.C., Trio 8 in B flat for cembalo, flauto dolce and B.C. and Trio 12 in E flat for cembalo, oboe and B.C. In each of these there is a fully written out cembalo (harpsichord) part independent of the basso continue which can be given to a second harpsichord or other continue instrument such as a lute.

There are also some items for harpsichord in Telemann's *Der getreue Music-Meister*, a *Portia a Cembalo Solo* in G which starts in lesson 1 with a *Preludio* and *Aria*, continued in lesson 2 with *Rondo* and *Menuets*, and ending in lesson 3 with a *Gigue a PAngloise*. and later an *Ouverture a la Polonoise* in D minor followed by a *Bouree*, *Loure*, *Gavotte en Rondeau*, *Menuet* and *Giga*. There is also a *Marche pour Monsieur le Capitaine Weber* followed by *Retraite*. Other pieces in this work are ascribed to a Mr Kreysing dem jiingern, Mr Haltmieier, Mr

Goerner, Kreising le cadet (evidently the same as the first named) and C. Pezold respectively.

Both works are available in facsimile from *Musica, Musica*, Mark A. Meadow, Holbeinstrasse 3, 4051 Basel, Switzerland.



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Vol. 3 No1 1981

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The British Harpsichord Society

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