

Welcome to the **third e-newsletter** of the British Harpsichord Society.

The membership is now around 350 members. The website has continued to grow and many more links have been added. If you haven't seen it recently, click on the "keys" above and have a look. We now attract about 40 visits per day.

Your [Feedback](#) about this newsletter will help to improve future issues. Please send any [news](#) you would like publicised: performances, publications, recordings etc.

Contents

London Harpsichord Centre

Forthcoming Events

2005 Broadwood Harpsichord Competition

Future Developments

Pythagoras and the Scale Design of Early Harpsichords in France, Germany, and Italy.

Symposium of Early English Keyboards (SEEK)

Recital offers

Guestbook request

Instruments Wanted and for Sale

London Harpsichord Centre

The Early Music Shop is pleased to announce the opening of its specialist harpsichord shop, located just a few doors down from its current Recorder Centre in Chiltern Street, London W1. The London Harpsichord Centre houses new instruments by Guido Bizzi, second hand instruments, tuners, accessories, CDs and an extensive collection of sheet music. Many of the sheet music editions, such as Le Pupitre, Fuzeau and Musica Britannica are not available at any other London store. Bizzi's eye catching instruments are highly regarded by professional and amateur players and can be seen on concert platforms the world over. There is a wide choice of options available for each instrument, ranging from the number of stops to the type of stand and option of lid painting, so each harpsichord can be customised to the requirements of individuals.

The opening of the new shop on the 17th November was attended by many harpsichordists and makers including Jane Chapman, David Gordon, Bridget Cunningham and Andrew Wooderson who all gave an enthusiastic response to this new business. It was an exciting evening of musicians meeting old and new friends, trying out the new and second hand instruments and purchasing CDs and sheet music.

Richard Wood of the Early Music Shop has kindly extended a warm welcome to all members of the British Harpsichord Society, and it is intended that the LHC will be hosting and supporting a series of events for the Society.

We do hope members will visit and support the London Harpsichord Centre. Apart from their kind hospitality to us, the Centre provides a focus for promoting interest in harpsichords in the UK and it is envisaged that there will be continued co-operation with the Society in areas of mutual interest.

Open six days a week, Monday to Saturday, from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

London Harpsichord Centre, 14 Chiltern Street, London W1U 7PY

Tel: 0207 935 0789 Fax: 0207 935 0793

Nearest Tube Station: Baker Street

Email: harpsichords@earlyms.demon.co.uk

www.e-m-s.com

Forthcoming Events

Several recitals coming up which we will be attending:

14th August 2003, Oxford, Kah-Ming Ng Solo Recital

21st August 2003, Fenton House, London. David Wright, Broadwood Harpsichord Prize Recital.

If you are going to either email me and we can arrange to meet up.

William Mitchell, a long established British maker, has very kindly offered to host a musical afternoon for the Society at his home near Bournemouth on TBC February 2005.

Instruments available will be a Franco-Flemish double, based on the 1636/1763 Ruckers-Hemsch, (now part of the Cobbe Collection at Hatchlands, a National Trust property near Guildford, Surrey) as well as a rare treat, the Claviorganum. This extraordinary instrument combines a double manual harpsichord with a single manual chamber organ, which achieves a remarkable sound.

There is no formal programme. The idea is for members to come and play and listen and share their enjoyment of harpsichords. All standards are welcome or you can come and listen. We hope that many people will be prepared to play something.

Please support this occasion which has been organised specifically for the Society. Offers to host other events are also very welcome. Advance booking is essential as space is limited.

2005 Broadwood Harpsichord Competition

Open to UK-based harpsichord students and players aged under 32 on 28th February 2005 (the closing date)

Auditions will be held at Fenton House, Hampstead, London NW3 using the historic instruments in the **Benton Fletcher Collection** of early keyboard instruments, on 9th & 10th May 2005

Jury: Peter Holman, Tess Knighton, Malcolm Proud

The winner will be offered engagements at Fenton House, Hatchlands (Cobbe Collection) and in Edinburgh (Russell Collection)

susanalcock@waitrose.com Details from Competition Organiser
62 Messina Avenue, London NW6 4LE Tel: 020 7372 3206

Future Developments

We are working on a number of developments for the future. One of which is a project, suggested by a member, to begin listing the baroque keyboard repertoire by composer as extensively as possible.

This is a huge task but spread between the membership it begins to look feasible to make some impact on it. Let us know if you would like to participate.

A good source of information is the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians which is available in many public reference libraries. If anybody has access to the online version this could make research very much easier.

Have a look at the Repertoire page to see how far we have got.

Pythagoras and the Scale Design of Early Harpsichords in France, Germany, and Italy.

Denzil Wraight An article written specially for the Society analysing the use of Pythagorean principles in the stringing design of some early keyboard instruments.

Do you have any material that we could publish in this way? Comments.

Symposium of Early English Keyboards (SEEK)

Call for Papers and Conference Announcement
Symposium of Early English Keyboards (SEEK)
University of Aberdeen, 15-17 April 2005

The culmination of the Early English Organ Project residency at the University of Aberdeen will be a Symposium of Early English Keyboards at which two reconstructed sixteenth-century instruments (built by Goetze and Gwynn) will be available alongside a reproduction by Darryl Martin of one of the earliest surviving English virginals. The Symposium will feature a Festival of Organs and Virginals, comprising three recitals by international artists: Pieter Dirksen (Netherlands), Davitt Moroney (USA) and Rachelle Taylor (Canada). Speakers so far include: John Caldwell, Pieter Dirksen, Dominic Gwynn, John Harper, John Koster, Darryl Martin, Davitt Moroney, Rachelle Taylor.

The organs are based on two soundboards from organs dating from between 1520 and 1540 discovered in East Anglia. English repertoire from the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries will be considered in the context of the organs and harpsichords of the period. Is it possible to divide the surviving music into repertoire for organ and repertoire for harpsichord? How can we recognize pieces intended primarily for organ rather than harpsichord?

Although the lack of surviving sixteenth-century organs may be explained by the ravages of Reformation and Civil War, it is curious that so few virginals survive from before the 1630s, a situation matched by the general lack of musical sources from the sixteenth century, even though we can be fairly sure that, for example, some of Byrd's keyboard music dates back to the 1560s and 1570s. Why do relatively few English instruments and sources survive from the sixteenth century compared with the seventeenth? To what extent did instruments, tuning systems and the repertoire change in the early seventeenth century (if at all)?

Papers are welcome on any topic related to early English keyboard music (c. 1500-1625), including:

- instruments and organology
- pitch and temperament
- sources
- editing, scribal practice and performance
- organ music in its liturgical context
- performance practice
- repertoire

Aberdeen is easily accessible from London, Amsterdam and the USA. Cheap flights are available either from London Luton or Heathrow. Accommodation will be available in King's Hall, Old Aberdeen.

Proposals comprising an abstract of no more than 200 words should be submitted by Email to Dr David J Smith by Friday 21 January 2005, or posted to Dr David J Smith, School of Education, College of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Hilton Place, Aberdeen, AB24 4FA, Scotland, UK.

The selection process will be completed by 11 February 2005.

**Early Keyboard Weekend 6-8th May 2005
Farncombe Estate, Broadway, Worcestershire.**

Tutors: Laurence Cummings, Micaela Scmitz and Paul Simmonds.

Master classes, lectures & recitals on clavichord, harpsichord and fortepiano

Featuring instruments by Malcolm Rose and Andrew Wooderson.

Details

Recital Offers

One of our aims is to introduce harpsichord music to a wider audience. We would like to encourage members to offer recitals to audiences near them. Some venues can be made available for a nominal contribution, either from ticket sales or a retiring collection. If anybody is interested in performing or helping to arrange a recital, please email me

Guestbook Requests

The Guestbook continues to attract requests and comments. Some members have posted requests for information on specific subjects to see if other members can help. Click on the Guestbook key on the home page to have a look and add your own comments.

Instruments for Sale and Wanted

In case you have not yet seen it, we now have a popular Sale and Wanted page with a number of instruments available and requests.

If you have an instrument you would like to sell you can place an advertisement with picture for £20. Instruments wanted ads are FOC.

Once again, please let me have your feedback with any suggestions or contributions for future issues.

Thanks

William