

HARPSICHORD NEWS BRIEF

Published
by

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IN BRIEF - - Unexpurgated News, Views + Gossip from the World of Harpsichords

February 20 1990

January saw the debut of the Brandenburg Ensemble in Sydney. Led by harpsichordist Paul Dyer, the original instrument group performed as part of Lauda's Mostly Mozart festival. They are expected to return for Basically Bach later in the year.

Debate continues on the use of original instruments. One of the most interesting aspects of the early music revival is the more stylistic playing of high-quality groups on modern instruments. It requires a bit more than adding a harpsichord to an orchestra to make it "authentic", especially if the players attack Bach the same way as Bartok or Brahms. (And sadly some players can only play the way they were trained.) However, there are plenty of sensitive modern players around who are willing to immerse themselves in the conventions of the period of the repertoire they play, with very musical results. The recent Vivaldi Four Seasons recording by the Tasmanian Symphony Chamber Players directed by Geoffrey Lancaster is a good example.

Da Capo Music is a quaint inner-Sydney store with a large range of books, music and scores. They may also be able to help you find out of print books. If you would like a copy of their latest catalogue, or a list of books available, phone or write, (stating your musical field of interest or your special request) to Da Capo Music, 112A Glebe Point Road, GLEBE NSW 2037, (02) 660 1825.

People are having difficulty finding our new workshop phone number since Telecom left it out of the Yellow Pages. But you can find it in the Sydney White Pages under HARPSICHORDS, or ask the Directory Assistance Operator for Harpsichords. (02) 534 2002.

The Harpsichord News Brief comes to you free. But I ask if you no longer wish to receive it, or if you receive duplicate copies, please make a simple phone call or return the coupon.

COMING EVENTS USING OUR INSTRUMENTS OR SERVICES - - please confirm details. . . .

Recent appearances have included Australian Opera "Cosi fan Tutti", and Sydney Philharmonia "Messiah".

Australian Chamber Orchestra presents Australian-born baroque violinist Stanley Ritchie in A FESTIVAL OF MOZART
Sydney Sat 24/2 8:00pm Opera House Concert Hall (with Geoffrey Lancaster, fortepiano)
Sun 25/2 2:30pm Opera House Concert Hall (ditto)
Canberra Tue 27/2 8:00pm Llewellyn Hall, School of Music (ditto)
Sydney Thu 1/3 8:00pm Opera House Concert Hall
Fri 2/3 7:00pm Opera House Concert Hall
Further Information - (02) 261 2733

Australian Association of Musical Instrument Makers presents EXHIBITION
Sydney Sat 3/3 + Sun 4/3 10:00am - 5:00pm Chester Street Uniting Church complex, Epping
Further Information - Ray Holliday (02) 86 1865

Sydney Conservatorium presents Raymond Harvey, French Double Harpsichord MASTER'S DEGREE RECITAL
Sydney Mon 26/3 6:00pm Sydney Conservatorium, Macquarie Street
Further Information - (02) 230 1263

MIFOH presents TWENTIETH MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL of ORGAN & HARPSICHORD
Melbourne Sun 15/4 - Sat 21/4 Various venues & artists
Further Information - David Agg (03) 328 2592

West Australian Opera Company presents the Australian Opera's production of COSI FAN TUTTI
Perth Mon 30/4, Thu 3/5, Sat 5/5, Tue 8/5, Thu 10/5 7:30pm His Majesty's Theatre
Further Information - (09) 481 0707

Australian Chamber Orchestra presents CELEBRATING THE FRENCH INFLUENCE
Sydney Sat 5/5 8:00pm Opera House Concert Hall
Wed 9/5 7:00pm Opera House Concert Hall
Further Information - (02) 261 2733

Badinerie Players with Geoffrey Lancaster, fortepiano; Hans-Dieter Michatz, baroque flute
Brisbane Fri 6/6 8:00pm ABC Ferry Rd Studios ABC presents EARLY MUSIC STUDIO SERIES
Sunshine Coast Sat 9/6 7:30pm Noosa Art Gallery, Tewantin
Sun 10/6 2:00pm Montville Hall, Montville
Further Information - Wayne Brennan (075) 35 2501

FOR HARPSICHORD OWNERS

Transposing keyboards are practical solution for when you must use one harpsichord to play with instruments at both old and new pitch. Rather than retuning your whole instrument, you have the ability to slide the keyboard one note to the right when you must play at A440 with modern instruments. And now we are seeing instruments that even transpose a note down from the "baroque" A415 to A392, a pitch used for French music. However, it is possible to defeat the transposing purpose. I have come across a few institutional harpsichords lately where the keyboards have been in the A415 position, but the instrument tuned a semitone higher than intended. This means it probably doesn't sound its best, or is at risk of breaking strings. If your instrument is transposing but you don't know how to accomplish it easily, call me for a chat. Maybe a simple modification (especially on a double) will make your harpsichord much more user-friendly. Remember that if you use an historic temperament, your good keys will transpose to where you don't want them. So for frequent transposition at the same concert (!) you must probably use evil (equal) temperament.

Decorating in true Flemish style? Since the demise of the hand-printed Mactaggart papers over a year ago, we now have in stock the nicest offset printed machine-made papers we could find. These originate from the Los Angeles Harpsichord Center and are available in a choice of patterns. Please request our information sheet.

You can't be a serious professional or hobby harpsichordist unless you have read Kottick's hardcover "The Harpsichord Owner's Guide". There are sections on the instrument and its history, advice on how to purchase a harpsichord, and well-illustrated practical details on maintenance, troubleshooting and tuning techniques. Cost is \$60 posted by Certified Air Mail. Use the coupon below for your copy.

Maybe even despite Kottick's constant reassurance that with a little study the average person is perfectly capable, you are not inclined to maintain your own instrument. Help is never far away. Please book a time for me to visit you on one of my frequent interstate maintenance visits. For people close to Sydney, you may prefer to bring your instrument to the workshop.

SECOND HAND INSTRUMENT LIST - - - Scan our listing and phone (02) 534 2002 for further details.

#21 VIC	Morley Bentside Spinnet London 1972	61: 6G-g'''	attractive shape, walnut ext, good musical scope	##3000
#23 VIC	Italian Virginal, copy of Zuckermann	54: 6G/BB-e'''	Queensland walnut case	##3500
#32 NSW	Neupert Telemann model 8'4" buff	54: C-f'''	Dark teak, rose, elaborate music desk, travel case	##4000
#35 NSW	Zuckermann Fortepiano complete parts	61: FF-f'''	case completed to veneering stage, excellent value	##7500
#36 NSW	Morley Pentagonal Virginal London 1974	51: C-d'''	blackwood & ivory kb, mahogany ext, stool, as new	##4000
#40 WA	Sperhake Double & Pedal Harpsichord	63: FF-g'''	8'4";8'16"; 30 pedals 16'8'4" ideal organ practise	\$12000
#46 QLD	Spanish double harpsichord 8'4"	57: AA-e'''	brown exterior, parchment rose, reverse keyboard	##5000
#57 VIC	Hugh Craig Flemish Single harpsichord	61: FF-f'''	deep green with gold color bands, sb painting	##6500
#58 TAS	Deegan 1986 Flemish after Moermans	55: BB-f'''	2x8' walnut + sycamore veneer, sycamore stand	\$14000
#62 VIC	Zuckermann Triple-fretted Clavichord	45: C/E-c'''	Honduras mahogany, popular portable instrument	##1250
#63 SA	Morley Unfretted Bach Clavichord 1970	51: C-d'''	wood finish, Louis XVI-style legs, just over 1m long	##1800
#67 NSW	Zuckermann Triple-fretted Clavichord I	45: C/E-c'''	kit form with case assembled, stand, carry case	##1500
#68 NSW	Zuckermann turned stand	-	Honduras mahogany, suit any Flemish instrument	##250
#69 VIC	Zuckermann Double-Fr Clavichord III	45: C/E - c'''	A440, Honduras mahogany, cabriole stand, Latin motto	##2300
#70 ***	Zuckermann Flemish Single XV 1985	56+1: 6G-d'''	8+4, reverse kb, green ext, papered int, cover	\$11000
#73 ***	Zuckermann Unfretted Clavichord III	59: 6G-f'''	double-strung, handsome walnut veneer, v good cond.	##4000
#74 NSW	Hugh Craig Double Manual hc 1972	54: AA-d'''	walnut veneer, stool (broken), needs revoicing	##2000
#75 SA	Goble Double-manual harpsichord 1965	61: FF-f'''	7 pedals, walnut casework, a little regulation req	##6000
#76 QLD	Spanish style Virginal 1978	53: CC-e'''	Green exterior, ivory keyboard	##1800
#77 NSW	Morley Pentagonal Virginal 1965	51: C-d'''	light brown woodgrain exterior, little used	##3200
#78 NSW	Sperrhake Silbermann model Spinnet	54: C-f'''	c1969, walnut case, reverse kb, action req some work	##2500
#79 QLD	John Storrs Clavichord kit 1975	54: 6G-e'''	poplar cabinet, stand, recently restrung	##1750
#80 VIC	John Storrs Flemish Double Harpsichord	58: 6G-e'''	solid poplar stained light oak color, stool	\$13500
#81 ***	Virgil "New Perfected Clavier" c1910	88: AAA-c'''''	oak, silent practice keyboard with variable action	##500
#82 ***	Zuckermann Flemish Harpsichord IX 1980	56: 6G-d'''	2x8', maroon panels on ext + lid, papered keywell	##7500

*** denotes instruments at our showroom

CUSTOM INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

Double-fretted Clavichord, 51 notes CC-d''' A415 with matching cabriole leg stand, French walnut case, Carey Beebe 1987 \$5600

Italian Virginal, 54 notes with short octave 6G/BB-e''' A415, boxwood naturals and pearwood sharps, hand-painted cabinet maker's blue exterior, Carey Beebe 1989 \$8200

French Single Harpsichord, 59 notes 6G-f''' transposing A392/A415/A440, reverse keyboard, soundboard painting after Goermans/Taskin by Dianna Ford, hand painted Chinese Red exterior and Japan Silk interior, gilded mouldings and bands, padded cover Carey Beebe 1989 \$23500 AVAILABLE SHORTLY UPON COMPLETION

French Double Harpsichord, 63 notes FF-g''' A415, reverse keyboards, historic action of crowquill plectra, tapered pearwood jacks working in leathered registers. Soundboard painting after Goermans/Taskin by Diana Ford. Colo River scene lid painting in oils by Phyllis Bray. Seven leg Louis-XV cabriole stand with concealed music drawer, hand painted tavern table blue exterior with gilded mouldings and bands, matching cabriole stool with buttoned gold velvet seat, padded cover, Carey Beebe 1980/Refait 1987 \$28000

detach here & return * * * * *
 Please change my address details. I don't want to miss the HNB. Name: _____
 I'm not on your mailing list, but would like to be. Please add me to it.
 Please delete me from your mailing list. I'm no longer interested. Address: _____
 I'm a Zuckermann owner. Please send me the latest spare parts price list.
 I enclose \$60--Please airmail me Kottick's "Harpsichord Owner's Guide". Place: _____ State: _____ PC: _____
 I want to see what's new. Please rush me my free copy of the latest Zuckermann kit and custom instrument brochure. [*] [*] [*] PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY [*] [*] [*]