

DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD AFTER DULCKEN

William Bright, Barraba

School of Music, University of Queensland

- This harpsichord has three sets of strings, but four registers of jacks. Registration is controlled by four knobs arranged in pairs either side in the keywell.
- Ensure the left-most knob is fully IN to engage the dogleg jacks, playing the front 8' (unison) shorter strings on the upper keyboard. This register will play at the same time on the lower keyboard if the keyboards are coupled (see below).
- Pull the left-most knob fully OUT to change from the dogleg to the close-plucking lute register on the upper keyboard. This register will not play on the lower keyboard, even when the keyboards are coupled.
- Pull the second knob fully OUT to engage the back 8' longer strings on the lower keyboard. This register is rarely turned off.
- Using the keyend blocks at either side of the lower keyboard, push the lower keyboard IN to couple, and pull OUT to uncouple.
- The third knob from the left operates the buff stop, bringing a set of soft leather pads against the ends of the front 8' strings to mute their higher harmonics. Push the knob IN to activate the buff on whichever register is set to operate on the upper keyboard—either dogleg or lute—and pull the knob OUT to turn it off.
- The basic voice of the harpsichord is the two unison strings played from the lower keyboard. This is accomplished by the four knobs from left to right being IN, OUT, OUT, IN, and the keyboards coupled by pushing the lower keyboard IN.
- Pull the right-most knob fully OUT to add the 4' (octave) register on the lower keyboard, giving the full ensemble effect with all three choirs sounding at once.