

Harpsichord & *fortepiano*

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Musical Instrument Research Catalog
(MIRCat)

News in the early keyboard world

Soundboard

Magnano (which, for the geographically-challenged, we will reveal is in Italy) hosts its Corsi di Musica Antica with tutors Bernard Brauchli (clavichord & fortepiano), Paolo Crivellaro (organ) and Georges Kiss (harpsichord), among others. This year it will run from 17-27 August. Contact tel: (+39) 015-67-92-60 or (+39) 015-2-33-06 or (+41) 21-728-59-76.

Jane Chapman and Pamela Nash will perform a programme called "HPSCHD": Music for 2Harpsichords and Electro-Acoustics at the Brighton Festival 2000 on Friday 19 May 10pm at St Nicholas' Church, Dyke Road. This pioneering duo will premiere two Festival commissions by Kevin Malone and Mike Vaughan, for harpsichords and live electronics. Also on the programme are new transcriptions of Bach and Louis Andriessen's Overture to Orpheus in honour of the composer's 60th birthday (Andriessen that is, not Bach), as well as 'Close' for 2 harpsichords and tape by Evelyn Ficarra. Box office tel: (0)1273-709709.

Meanwhile, in New York ... **Elaine Comparone** of *Harpsichord Unlimited* will be hosting a concert with members of The Queen's Chamber Band on June 6 entitled 'New Music for the Band' (8pm, Merkin Concert Hall, tel: (1) 212-932-9462). Elaine's publicity states that she also attracts lines from poets, for example, Gerald Stern's: "If I could do exactly what I wanted / I would move a harpsichord into my backyard / and ask Elaine Comparone to play...". (She's not that bad, surely?)

The York Early Music Festival adds David Fallows and Kate Bolton (the latter, BBC Arts and Classical Music) to its artistic advisory team.

The 2000 festival runs from July 7-16 and will focus on Biblical narrative (contemporary with the production of the York Mystery Plays) and ...guess who? J.S. Bach, of course! How original! Tel: (0)1904-658338. Meanwhile the National Centre for Early Music will be opened in the city on 7 April by the Archbishop. We wish it lots of luck — it has an immense task ahead of it.

Melbourne, whose Autumn Festival occurs in April, have compiled such a splendid series that if I had the air fare I'd be there like a shot. Highlights include an opening Bach celebration with the Melbourne Baroque Players (directed by Elizabeth Wallfisch) with the Festival Choir on April 23 at 3pm at Xavier College Chapel, Barkers Rd, Kew; the Elysium Ensemble (with Linda Kent on harpsichord) doing the Musical Offering with some Fred the Great and Benda on 24 April at 8:15 in Trinity College Chapel; Ms Wallfisch herself giving a recital of Bach and Biber on 25 April at 8:15 in Melbourne Town Hall; Geoffrey Lancaster playing Mozart, Haydn and Dussek on the fortepiano on 26 April at 8:15 also at the Town Hall; and Mr Lancaster with Nicholas Parle playing keyboard duets on 28 April at 5:30pm, again at the Town Hall. The latter gives his own harpsichord recital on 29 April at 8:15 at the Ursula Frayne Memorial Chapel, 88 Nicholson St, Fitzroy; and, the festival ends with an orchestral concert including CPE Bach's Eb concerto for 2 keyboards as well as Beethoven and Mozart on 30 April at 3pm in the Town Hall. A splendid week, well worth supporting. Tel: (+61) (0)3-9347-0447.

On a smaller scale, the **Norwich King of Hearts Concerts**, all on

the Bach theme, have plenty to offer. On 4 March at 7:30pm Maggie Cole partners violinist Brian Brooks; on March 9 at 1pm (ideal to catch on a shopping trip!), Malcolm Russell gives a harpsichord recital, and on 25 March at 7:30pm Gary Cooper plays the Goldberg Variations. Tel: (0)1603-766129. All concerts are, not surprisingly, at the King of Hearts, which is at 13-15Fye Bridge Street. Malcolm Russell's indefatigable **East Anglian Academy of Organ and Early Keyboard Music** presents its own series of concerts culminating in the Autumn Festival. Brief details are: 16 April noon concert and talk on 'An Early Organ Revealed' (Peter Bumstead); 20 May 8pm (Fabio Ciofini); 18 June 6:30pm (Michael Bawtree); 16 July 6:30pm (Rodney Tomkins); 28 July (William Saunders); 1 Sept 8pm (Malcolm Russell); 2 Sept 8pm The Goldberg Variations (Maggie Cole); 3 Sept 7:30pm (Gary Cooper & friends); 8 Oct 3pm (Malcolm Russell & the Magnano Consort); 19 Nov 12 noon (Malcolm Russell). All are organ recitals unless otherwise stated, and all take place at Framlingham Church (apart from 16 April, which is at All Saints, Brandeston). It's great to see someone putting so much effort into promoting this repertoire — make a millennium resolution and take an East Anglian weekend break to coincide with one of these offerings!

The Beverley and East Riding Early Music Festival looks more lacklustre than ever, but if you don't know the beautiful town and surrounding countryside it is a fine chance to catch up on some of the more well-known names in British early music: Fitzwilliam String Quartet (25 May 9pm); Quintessential Sackbut & Cornett Ensemble (26 May 7:30pm); The King's Consort (27 May 7:30pm)