

Harpsichord & *fortepiano*

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A Note from the Editors

Dear Readers

As publishers of The Harpsichord & Fortepiano, we must apologise for the considerable delay with this issue and thank you for your forbearance in the long wait for the publication.

Many of you will be aware of the history of the title. First established as The English Harpsichord Magazine & Early Keyboard Instrument Review with Edgar Hunt as editor & publisher in 1972, it was later passed to Warwick Cole who acted in the same capacity. After some issues there followed a period of non publication before Ruxbury Publications purchased the title & good will from Warwick.

The first issue by the new publisher was in October 1994. This was edited by David Bray, who acted in this capacity until 1997 when Allison & Peter Holloway became joint editors. We hope you will agree with us that their contribution to the contents & direction of the magazine has been outstanding. They introduced new editorial aspects and took Harpsichord & Fortepiano to new heights.

We were particularly sorry that a new career opportunity for Peter resulted in their resignation as joint editors. This then is the last edition under their stewardship for while both Peter & Allison have indicated that they are prepared to continue to act as reviewers, neither feels able to take on the sole responsibility of Editor.

As you can see from the above history, publication of the title can only be described as intermittent - with a period of nearly 18th months since the last issue. You will understand that we cannot allow this pattern to continue. To be fair to both readers & advertisers, the magazine must appear regularly or it must cease publication. Our initial feelings were, in the light of the work load associated with our other publications (we publish The Recorder Magazine and eight other titles all of which appear regularly) that this issue should be the last. When however this option was discussed with long term subscribers, contributors and performers on the instrument there was a very strong feeling that every effort should be made to continue the title. Harpsichord & Fortepiano is unique and serves a niche market, throughout the world, which would be all the poorer with its demise.

In an effort to continue publication, a small number of individuals have agreed to act as a core editorial board, with responsibility for different aspects of the content. We are still looking for more individuals who feel they could make a similar contribution and have yet to find a person who will take the ultimate responsibility drawing together these various editorial threads. If any of our world wide readers, wherever they live, feel able to contribute in any way, we would be happy to discuss the various roles which are needed for the continuation of the magazine.

Please, if you feel like us, that Harpsichord & Fortepiano should continue, contact us by phone, fax or e-mail.

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