

# Friends of Florilegium

President ~ Dame Emma Kirkby OBE  
Honorary Vice Presidents ~ David Hill and Sir David Lumsden

## RECORDING NEWS

The latest CD of Bach and Telemann concerti and Bach's Cantata BWV 209 with Lucy Crowe was selected as **The Sunday Times' CD of the Week** ten days before Christmas.

Hugh Canning wrote:  
Florilegium's discography of baroque chamber (and small-scale vocal) music is already extensive, exploring the byways in preference to the highways. It includes a disc devoted to Telemann's Tafelmusik (some of the finest ever written "on subscription", intended for accomplished and wealthy musical amateurs), and one to Bach cantatas. Here the juxtaposition of Telemann and Bach - giants of the German baroque who applied for the St Thomas cantor's job in Leipzig in 1722-23 - works well as a "concert" programme, substantial orchestral works by each composer framing a delightful performance by Lucy Crowe of Bach's enigmatic Italian cantata *No sa che sia dolore*. This is a work of disputed authenticity that may be a pastiche of other composers' music, but the Bach "fingerprints" - like Handel's when he raided his colleagues' ideas - are there for all to hear. The solo flute, exquisitely played by Ashley Solomon, is the linking thread between the cantata, Telemann's (chamber) Concerto in A (from Part One of the Tafelmusik) and Bach's Triple Concerto in A minor, in which Solomon's co-soloists are the virtuoso harpsichordist James Johnstone and the no less brilliant violinist Rodolfo Richter. Ensemble values are paramount in these stylish and committed performances.

Few can match Florilegium's interpretative flair and technical accomplishment in this repertoire, while Crowe's brightly gleaming soprano is an ever-improving instrument.

### Florilegium

Artistic Director ~ Ashley Solomon  
21 Village Road  
London N3 1TL  
Tel : +44 (0) 20 8346 2896  
Email : friends@florilegium.org.uk  
Website : www.florilegium.org.uk

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SPRING 2009

## Bach launches 2008/09 season

Florilegium's 2008/09 season started with a memorable pair of concerts given as part of the Festival des Cathédrales de Picardie, comprising the complete Brandenburg Concerti and Orchestral Suites. The first concert was given in a small church in a remote part of the region to a small audience (which could have been the entire population for miles around). This was in complete contrast to the second, given in a massive Abbey, only about 30 miles north of Paris, to a capacity and enthusiastic audience.

Back home, the first Wigmore Hall concert of the season was a performance of The Musical Offering, which Florilegium perform with their own settings of some of his organ

trio sonatas. These settings were recorded last year, so watch out for the CD release later in the year. A few days later this concert was repeated in Nottingham and then Southampton. Incidentally, if you came to any of these three concerts you heard an encore which was not identified. It was one of the canons from the end of Bach's Goldberg Variations. You will remember it if you saw it; the players, one by one, left the stage as they finished playing.

JS Bach was also the composer of the final concert of 2008 when Florilegium joined forces with The Waynflete Singers in a performance of the Christmas Oratorio in Winchester Cathedral.

## Anniversaries of Haydn, Handel and Purcell celebrated

The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of **Haydn** is being celebrated in a number of concerts, at home and abroad throughout 2009. Leading this celebration is a series of three concerts at Wigmore Hall, comprising two 'London' symphonies arranged in Haydn's lifetime by the London-based impresario Johann Peter Salomon for six players - string quartet, flute and fortepiano. These are being performed with early string quartets from Opus 17 and flute trios. The first concert, given in January, was recorded by BBC Radio 3 for broadcast on 31 May, the actual anniversary day, as part of the European Haydn Day. Similar concerts will be performed at the Newbury Spring Festival and the Tudeley Festival. Later in the year there will be a performance in Castle Esterhazy, Fertőd (Hungary), a place closely associated with Haydn.

In the 1770s, Prince Nikolaus Esterházy had this magnificent new palace constructed. This is the most admired of the Esterházy homes, often called the 'Hungarian Versailles'. Haydn was hired by Prince Paul Anton in 1761, and worked for most of his years of service (1762-1790) under his successor Prince Nikolaus at Fertőd. Later Haydn described this period of his life to one of his biographers in a particularly positive way: "My prince was always satisfied with my works. Not only did I have the encouragement of constant approval, but as conductor of an orchestra I could make experiments, and was thus in a position to improve, to alter, make additions or omissions, and be as bold as I pleased."

Closely associated with Halle is **Handel**. Florilegium will perform a concert of his works in June with countertenor Robin Blaze, a singer with whom the group will be working more often in the future. In May concerts of Handel and **Purcell** are being given in the Chipping Campden and Bath International Festivals, and the Royal College of Music, all with Dame Emma Kirkby, while Lorna Anderson joins the players for a Purcell concert at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival in May. The next newsletter will give information on autumn concerts, including a Handel/Purcell concert with Emma Kirkby on New Year's Eve 2009 in Wigmore Hall, which promises to round off the anniversary year in style.

## BECOMING A FRIEND

Florilegium prides itself on a close relationship with its audiences, expressed through Friends of Florilegium. Friends' benefits and privileges include:

- A **FREE** copy of Florilegium's limited edition compilation CD
- A regular Newsletter
- Priority booking for concerts promoted by Florilegium
- Complimentary or discounted CDs as they are released
- Social events providing opportunities to meet the members of Florilegium

### Director's Circle members

- receive up to 3 free CDs a year
- are acknowledged in Florilegium's concert programmes
- are invited to attend rehearsals

Please see left hand column for contact details.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|---------|--|
| 14 Feb  | Helensburgh Music Society<br><i>Les Nations</i>                                  |
| 18 Feb  | Keele University <i>Les Nations</i>  |
| 5 Mar   | Imperial College, London (13.00)<br>Telemann Paris Quartets                      |
| 8 Mar   | Royal Festival Hall, London<br>The Bach Choir<br>Bach: <i>St Matthew Passion</i> |
| 20 Mar  | St David's Hall, Cardiff<br>King's College Choir, Cambridge<br>Handel/Purcell    |
| 5 May   | Norfolk & Norwich Festival<br>Purcell  |
| 13 May  | Chipping Campden Festival<br><i>Music for a While</i> (Purcell/Handel)           |
| 19 May  | Newbury Spring Festival<br><i>Symphonies for Six</i> (Haydn)                     |
| 26 May  | Bath International Festival<br><i>Music for a While</i>                          |
| 27 May  | Royal College of Music, London<br><i>Music for a While</i>                       |
| 31 May  | Tudeley Festival<br><i>Symphonies for Six</i>                                    |
| 3 June  | Sydenham Festival Purcell  |
| 10 June | Halle, Germany Handel  |
| 13 June | Poitiers, France<br>Handel: <i>Messiah</i>                                       |
| 24 June | <b>Wigmore Hall, London</b><br><i>Symphonies for Six</i>                         |
| 10 July | Winchester Festival<br>Haydn/Mozart<br>The Waynflete Singers                     |

For details please visit  
[www.florilegium.org.uk](http://www.florilegium.org.uk)

## Flori lollies!



Unusually, Lollipop was presented to Florilegium after their concert at the annual summer school in Prachatice, Czech Republic, in July.

## Website update: buy Florilegium CDs direct

You can now buy all CDs from our ever-growing discography direct from the Florilegium website.

Go to [www.florilegium.org.uk](http://www.florilegium.org.uk) and click on **BUY CDs direct from Florilegium** and you can purchase CDs via the secure PayPal method of payment. We hope you will find this new method more accessible and simple to use.

## Florilegium's long association with choirs

Florilegium have a long-term relationship with Winchester Cathedral and The Waynflete Singers under its current conductor Andrew Lumsden (who is the son of Friends of Florilegium Honorary Vice President, Sir David Lumsden). With two or three performances each year, Florilegium have performed regularly at Winchester Cathedral since 1994, when David Hill was director of music.

We look forward to opening the 2009 Winchester Festival in July with the Waynfletes in a concert of Haydn and Mozart. In 2010 the choir will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and they have already asked Florilegium to join them for their main celebratory *Messiah*. The invitation stated "It would be especially fitting to have you as our main partners over the years to celebrate with us" and we indeed look forward to joining their celebration.

Florilegium are proud to have a close association with a number of well-established choirs. Since Easter 2000 Florilegium have enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with The Bach Choir, performing in their annual *St Matthew Passion*, restored to London's Royal Festival Hall. We are also delighted to have as a performance partner the wonderful voices of King's College Choir, Cambridge. Having performed in France together in 2007, there is another concert in March, again conducted by the choir's Director Stephen Cleobury, in St David's Hall Cardiff.

Over the years Florilegium have collaborated with choirs from Trinity College Cambridge, St John's College Cambridge and I Fagiolini. In addition, under the directorship of David Hill, we also have our own Florilegium Choir, with whom we will perform *Messiah* in France in June.

## RCM Ensemble in Association – a fine start

A happy relationship is emerging between the Royal College of Music and Florilegium as they start their period as RCM Ensemble in Association.

In the autumn they directed several sessions with students of both period instruments and their modern equivalents, as well as joining with students in a concert of works by Couperin.

The spring season started with a concert at St John's Smith Square, when Florilegium wind players combined forces with the RCM Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir under the direction of Ashley Solomon to perform a programme of Bach, including his *Ascension Oratorio* and

*Orchestral Suite No. 3*. Cantatas were also in this concert, which continues Ashley's series of Bach Cantatas (begun in January 2008) which, as Head of Historical Performance, he is programming over a few years at the College.

Throughout the year Florilegium are giving coaching sessions on 18<sup>th</sup> century chamber music for vocal and instrumental students; in January the wind players involved in the St John's concert also gave a masterclass. RCM students were also coached on works by Handel in the spring term, and members of Florilegium will be working on Haydn symphonies with RCM students in the summer term.

## Kings Place - a new venue

Florilegium gave a memorable concert in Kings Place (near Kings Cross) in November, shortly after the venue opened. A number of music groups and events have relocated to Kings Place including the series Florilegium were playing in, the London Chamber Music Series. In addition two orchestras now have their offices there, although the concert programming has been created around the innovative concept of week-long events, curated by a range of different musicians and covering a very wide range of genres. It also boasts a fine restaurant and a comfortable foyer.

A truly lovely hall with fine acoustics, and a real London alternative to Wigmore Hall, Florilegium look forward to giving more concerts there in the future.

## Bolivian Baroque comes to The Lakes

Bolivian tenor Henry Villca became a tourist for a few hours in September as he was driven to Lake Windermere and wandered down to the edge of the crystal clear lake in a grey, autumn day to see the Lake District scenery in all its glory.

The evening before Florilegium's concert of Bolivian Baroque was performed in Ulverston's Coronation Hall, with the audience seated informally around tables, with an open bar inside the hall. This was part of the Music from a Foreign Land festival which was featuring South America for the 2008 biennial festival. Run by Lake District Summer Music, the group look forward to a warmer return visit to this beautiful area in August when they will perform Salomon's arrangements of three of Haydn's 'London' symphonies.