

Friends of Florilegium

President ~ Emma Kirkby OBE

Honorary Vice Presidents ~ David Hill and Sir David Lumsden

RECORDING NEWS

The third and final volume in Florilegium's project to record all of Telemann's *Paris Quartets* was released at



Wigmore Hall on 23 September, when the ensemble gave a Bach cantata concert with soprano Johannette Zommer.

At the end of September Johannette joined Florilegium

To reserve this or any other recording please contact the address below

on a recording of Bach cantatas, including *Mein Herz Schwimmt in Blut* and *Ich habe genug* which is now being edited. The results promise to be wonderful! The CD is scheduled for release on 16 April, when Florilegium perform Bach's *Easter Oratorio* on Easter Sunday at Wigmore Hall.

The highlight of the recording schedule is however undoubtedly the second volume of Bolivian Baroque Music, which we are scheduled to record in April, once again in the Mission Church in Concepción. This recording is planned not only to use Bolivian singers, but also to give opportunities to Bolivian instrumentalists too.

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“Saturday, so it must be Singapore ...”

The first half of 2006 ranks as one of Florilegium's most ambitious yet, with concerts in Europe, the United States, South America and Asia and a second recording in Bolivia, following the huge success of the *Music of the Chiquitos and Moxos Indians of Bolivia* project.

The new year starts on 21 January 2006 with **Emma Kirkby**, President of Friends of Florilegium, in St Luke's Church Wandsworth, one of London's newest concert venues (see over for details). We then travel to Scotland for concerts and educational work in Kelso, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, followed by a tour of the United States, including the Miami Festival, featuring the *Music of the Chiquitos and Moxos Indians of Bolivia* programme we presented at Wigmore Hall in April 2005.

In April we are delighted to be joining **David Hill** and the **Bach Choir** once again on 9 April for their traditional performance of *St Matthew Passion*, held this year in the **Royal Albert Hall** because the Royal Festival Hall is still closed for refurbishment. On **Easter Sunday**



16 April we present two programmes at **Wigmore Hall**—a Coffee Morning concert at 11am featuring the Canadian soprano **Gillian Keith**, and then at 4pm a performance of JS Bach's *Easter Oratorio* and at the same time will be launching our recording of Bach Cantatas made with Johannette Zommer; please see the panel to the left for details.

We will then be in Bolivia once again, performing and recording a second programme of music from period of the Jesuit missionaries. This project is even more ambitious than last year's because we plan to involve Bolivian instrumentalists who are being auditioned and coached from December 2005 to March 2006, playing on instruments provided by a European charitable foundation. As an added contribution to music in Bolivia these instruments will be donated to local orchestras and the skilled local luthiers (stringed instrument makers) will be encouraged to copy them, to provide a local source of instruments. In addition a choir of Bolivian singers will be formed to perform a *Mass* from the Missions.

On returning Florilegium is appearing at the **Newbury Festival** with tenor **Henry Villca**, one of the stars of the our first Bolivian project

and now based in Amsterdam, where he is studying singing with the renowned baritone David Wilson-Johnson. We are then joined again by **Emma Kirkby** at the Beverley, Chipping Camden and Leicester Early Music Festivals and on 26 May 2006 at **Wigmore Hall**, with a programme of unusual arias and cantatas specially chosen by Emma because she particularly wants to perform them.

Most of June will be taken up touring the new Bolivian programme, starting in Singapore and covering Dresden, Istanbul, Hanover, Aranjuez, Klagenfurt and other venues. The Dresden concert will be in the Frauenkirche – the iconic church



destroyed in the second world war and now restored and twinned with Coventry in a potent symbol of reconciliation which somehow makes it an appropriate venue for this project, built as it is on international cooperation.

In July the ensemble makes its annual visit, supported by the British Council, to Prachatitz in Bohemia for a programme of master classes, followed by a concert tour of South America, including Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil.

Becoming a Friend

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

- A completely free copy of Florilegium's private 10th anniversary CD on becoming a *Friend*.
- A regular Newsletter.
- Priority concert booking for concerts promoted by Florilegium.
- Complimentary or discounted CDs as they are released.
- Social events provide opportunities to meet the members of Florilegium.



Members of The Director's Circle receive annually up to 3 free CDs and acknowledgement in Florilegium's concert programmes. They are also hosted by Ashley Solomon, Founder and Artistic Director of Florilegium, at exclusive receptions to hear future plans and contribute their own ideas.

Please see left hand column for contact details

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 21 January 2006

St Luke's Music Society, Wandsworth
Handel, Purcell, Pergolesi and Vivaldi
with **Emma Kirkby**

Thursday 16 February 2006

Imperial College, London
'Father, Son and Godfather'
Trios, concerti and solos by
Telemann, CPEBach and JSBach

Friday 17 February 2006

Kelso Music Society, Scotland
'Father, Son and Godfather'

Monday 20 February 2006

Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen
'The Italian Connection'

Tuesday 21 February 2006

St Andrew's, Edinburgh
'Father, Son and Godfather'

March 2006—Tour of USA

Sunday 2 April 2006

Zamora Festival, Spain
Handel, Purcell, Pergolesi and Vivaldi
with **Emma Kirkby**

Sunday 9 April 2006

Royal Albert Hall, London
St Matthew Passion with The Bach
Choir, conductor David Hill

EASTER SUNDAY 16 April 2006

Wigmore Hall, London

11am Coffee morning concert with
Gillian Keith, soprano

4pm JS Bach *Easter Oratorio* plus
concerti and ouvertures by CPE
Bach and Telemann

21—30 April 2006

Recording and four concerts in Bolivia

Thursday 18 May 2006

Newbury Festival
Bolivian Baroque with Henry Villca,
tenor

CONCERT TOUR WITH EMMA KIRKBY

Music and arias by Handel, Abel,
Telemann, Muffat, JB Bach, Lampe
and Smith

Monday 22 May—Beverley Festival

Tuesday 23 May—Chipping Camden

Wednesday 24 May—Leicester Early Music Festival

Thursday 25 May—Wigmore Hall, London

June 2006

Tour of new Bolivian Baroque
programme in Singapore, Europe,
Turkey

Further dates will be publicised on
Florilegium's website as they are
confirmed. Please visit
www.florilegium.org.uk

Player Profile

James Johnstone



Harpsichord and Organ

James hails from Stamford, Lincolnshire (or Middlemarch, as BBC viewers know it) which, although beautiful, was not the most exciting place in which to grow up.

Despite violin lessons he did not show much early interest in music, ambling through the grades with moderate aptitude. He recalls a school competition pitting him against the now Radio 3 DJ Andrew MacGregor in which both had to play the same Bach Sarabande in *Dm*; conveniently he cannot recall the winner, but does know that, come the moment, most of the double-stops went missing!

Whilst being delighted to have learnt a melody instrument, the hopelessly difficult co-ordination of left and right hands, together with the teeth-grating sound produced — something he still finds difficult to tolerate — led to the demise of his violin career. The piano presented other problems, not least his dad teaching him mainly from the kitchen while doing the washing up. Also the repertoire didn't appeal: he only wanted to play Bach which, combined with a strong affinity with the organ, led to many happy hours hacking with enthusiasm but little skill through what must be one of the most incredible collections of music for any instrument.

Learning was difficult; a string of camp Oxbridge organists on teaching practice simply put him off Oxbridge, until lessons with Harold Dexter (or Dextrous Harry, as he was known) at the University of Sussex led to serious study. At the same time he began the harpsichord, becoming tremendously enthused about words such as 'articulation' and 'primary sources'. Thanks to Jill Severs' guidance and extraordinary pedagogical skills he finally emerged as a musician after a postgraduate year at the Guildhall School.

After eking a living waiting for that 'big break' that never came he took off to Holland to study with Ton Koopman, supported by his earnings as organist at Ruislip Crematorium. Armed with a trill on every note he returned to London to start his professional career.

Since then he has played with most of the UK early music groups, as well as several abroad. For 16 years he has been a principal of the Gabrieli Consort and Players and has contributed to their many award-winning CDs.

He plays about a dozen harpsichord and organ recitals a year and feels privileged to have performed on world renowned organs such as Ottobeuren, Roskilde, Naumburg, Weingarten and the Waalse Kerk, Amsterdam; as well as in Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Spain, Israel, Holland, Poland, Iceland and Colombia.

He has made 5 critically acclaimed solo discs: 'John Blow's Anthology', Orlando Gibbons (Deutsche Schallplattenkritik), a Bach recital (Classic CD Record of the Year), Ercole Pasquini and Pieter Cornet. He teaches early keyboards at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and at Trinity College of Music in London, and has given masterclasses both here and abroad. He joined Florilegium in Autumn 2001.

This year he ran his first marathon in a respectable 3 hours 25 minutes and likes nothing more than biking to the local park with his 4-year old daughter Hâu and mucking about on the swings.

St Luke's Music Society

On 21 January 2006 Florilegium is joined by Emma Kirkby, President of Friends of Florilegium, in St Luke's Church Wandsworth, one of London's newest concert venues, for a programme including Purcell's *Expostulation of the Blessed Virgin* and the contrasting settings of *Salve Regina* by Pergolesi and Handel, interspersed with instrumental music by Purcell, Handel and Vivaldi.

St Luke's is a beautiful Victorian church modelled on an Italian basilica and blessed with wonderful acoustics. St Luke's Music Society has already presented concerts by Nikolai Demidenko, the London Mozart Players, City of London Sinfonia and the Hermitage String Trio.

The box office is on 020 8673 9285.