

Friends of Florilegium

President ~ Dame Emma Kirkby OBE
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June 2016 – culmination of Florilegium's 25th anniversary

Ashley Solomon writes:

Florilegium's first concert was given in London in July 1991, and plans have been underway for some time for the 25th anniversary concert, which will be held in London's Wigmore Hall on Friday 3 June 2016. This will be a performance of the complete Bach Brandenburg Concertos, and will be followed by an appropriate Reception.

However, this is just the first of six concerts that month and we are very pleased to be working with some old and valued associates during this time – and we don't just mean the players! Two days after the Wigmore Hall concert sees our return to the Royal Festival Hall, London, to provide an orchestra for The Bach Choir's performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor. The Choir's conductor, David Hill, has been a long-time supporter of Florilegium (he is an Honorary Vice-President of the *Friends of Florilegium*)

and we are delighted to be working with him that month. David Hill, personally, has been working with Florilegium for 20 years, starting with his former choir, The Waynflete Singers in Winchester, with whom Florilegium still regularly perform, and for the last 15 years Florilegium has provided an orchestra for The Bach Choir's annual St Matthew Passion at the Royal Festival Hall.

Four days later sees our return to the National Trust property, Hatchlands Park. Three members of Florilegium have performed there for the last few seasons, though I take my students from the Historical Performance faculty of the Royal College of Music there regularly.



Ashley, Terence and Reiko in rehearsal at Hatchlands Park, June 2015.

We repeat our Brandenburg Concertos in the lovely Kent setting of Stour Music, an annual festival run by Mark Deller (son of the late great countertenor Alfred Deller) and are delighted to be returning to this festival after a number of years.

The final two concerts in June will again be a return to a festival, working with a festival Director we have had a good relationship with over some years, the Scottish composer Alasdair Nicolson, at St Magnus Festival, Orkney. The last time we were in St Magnus we took our Bolivian choir, Arakaendar Bolivia Choir, but this time the first of two concerts we will perform there will be Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas'. I will again direct this performance, as I did for Alasdair, when he was Director of the Bath International Music Festival in 2013, but this time we will swap the steaming Roman Baths for St Magnus Cathedral.

Ashley Solomon records on period flutes

As mentioned overleaf, in the evenings following the Florilegium Telemann sessions, Ashley started recording Telemann's 12 Fantasies for solo flute, which were composed sometime between 1728-1733. On those evenings he was able to record on a rare, period, ivory flute and he recorded three of the Fantasies on this instrument. Ashley first saw and played it in 2014 when it was owned by a private individual, who had



found it in his possession. Ashley then had a discussion with

Professor Colin Lawson, Director of the Royal

College of Music, and he agreed to purchase it for the RCM's Museum, once Ashley had done this recording.

About four weeks later Ashley had an exciting visit to Marlborough House where he met the keeper of the Royal Collection. He was shown a Meissen flute from 1760, which had been given to George III probably by Frederick the Great, which George played when he was convalescing in Kew in 1789. They kindly agreed to allow him to record some more of the solo fantasies on this instrument for this solo CD. In addition, they will in due course discuss the idea of Ashley recording a CD for their shop, which may be followed by recital in Buckingham Palace.

Please support Florilegium; become a Friend!

Florilegium is acclaimed worldwide for its performances and recordings. However the group receives no public funding; its finite resources comprise ticket revenue and the committed generosity of its loyal supporters.

We are very grateful to our Friends and hope you will consider joining them. From £30 per annum – roughly the cost of a concert ticket – you could become a Friend of Florilegium.

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 certain 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 free CDs on release
- are acknowledged in Florilegium's concert programmes
- are invited to attend rehearsals

Florilegium

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Friends of Florilegium supports
The Florilegium Trust
Registered charity 1060443

SPRING 2016



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thur 28 Jan	Holy Trinity Church, London SW7 Handel, Vivaldi, Locatelli etc for Imperial College
Fri 29 Jan	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Sun 31 Jan	Kings Place, London Benda, CPE Bach, JS Bach, Quantz <i>London Chamber Music Series</i>
Fri 12 Feb	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Sun 14 Feb	Kings Place, London Leclair, Telemann, Rebel (with Mary Collins, baroque dancer)
Fri 19 Feb	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Fri 19 Feb	Assembly Rooms, Bath Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann <i>Bath Bachfest</i>
Thur 3 Mar	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Fri 4 Mar	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Sat 12 Mar	St Andrew's & St George's West, Edinburgh 'Towards the Enlightenment' <i>Georgian Concert Society</i>
Sun 20 Mar	Royal Festival Hall, London Bach: St Matthew Passion
Fri 27 May	St Mary's Church, Beverley JC Bach, CPE Bach, Leclair <i>Beverley Early Music Festival</i>
Fri 3 June	Wigmore Hall, London Florilegium's 25th anniversary concert Bach: Brandenburg Concertos
Sun 5 June	Royal Festival Hall, London Bach: Mass in B Minor
Thur 9 June	Hatchlands Park, nr Guildford Couperin, Bach, Abel etc
Sun 19 June	All Saints', Boughton Aluph Bach: Brandenburg Concertos <i>Stour Music</i>
Tue 21 June	St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall Purcell: Dido and Aeneas <i>St Magnus Festival</i>
Wed 22 June	tba, Kirkwall programme tba <i>St Magnus Festival</i>

For further details please visit
www.florilegium.org.uk

A busy period

Florilegium work tends to be one-off, or maybe pairs, of concerts but the end of November/early December was a very busy ten days.

It started on the Monday (23 November) with an afternoon rehearsal for the concert that Wednesday, followed in the evening with a rehearsal for recording sessions, and Tuesday repeated that pattern. Wednesday was the concert day, one of just two concerts the group gives each year at London's Wigmore Hall, this one with the wonderful baritone Roderick Williams (who had had to cut short his original rehearsal the day before as he was needed for a concert at Buckingham Palace!). Thursday and Friday were free, but on the Saturday Florilegium provided an orchestra for the Wimbledon Choral Society's performance of Bach's Christmas Oratorio (4 of the 6 parts), performed to a sold-out Southwark Cathedral.

On the Monday there was another rehearsal for the recording scheduled, this time in the recording venue, St Michael's Highgate, where Florilegium hasn't been worked for a number of years. This was to include the mezzo Clare Wilkinson. However, her Eurostar that morning was cancelled and after she spent a lot of time rearranging her travel, as we did the schedule, she eventually arrived in London late that evening.

So, instead of launching into a recording session on the Tuesday (1 December), the day commenced with the rehearsal, postponed from the previous afternoon. The rest of that day was rearranged, but by the end of that day the recording was back on track. The following two days consisted of two recording sessions for Channel Classics, of the new Telemann CD, which the group are making as their 25th anniversary recording.

In case you think that that wasn't busy enough, Ashley recorded solo on each of these three evenings, playing a rare original 18th century flute, which couldn't be played on for more than 1 or 1½ hours, as any longer could damage the fragile instrument. BBC Radio 3 also played their part in this period, by broadcasting a lunchtime concert the group gave at LSO St Luke's in October, as well as Ashley's recording of CPE Bach's solo flute sonata, CPE Bach being their 'Composer of the Week'.



Rehearsing before the LSO St Luke's concert, February 2015

A trip down memory lane...

For those of you who have followed Florilegium for a number of years, here's a photo that will bring back memories. In April 2015 on a trip to Australia, Ashley performed in Sydney conservatory with two of its professors, Neal Peres da Costa (harpsichord) and Daniel Yeadon (cello), two of the original members of Florilegium who left in 2001, to move to Australia. However, they have been here more recently – they were special guest performers with Florilegium in the 20th anniversary concert at Wigmore Hall in July 2011.



NEXT WIGMORE HALL CONCERT

**Fri
3 June** **Florilegium's 25th anniversary
concert**
at **Bach: Brandenburg Concertos**
7.00pm (complete)

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM 5 FEB
wigmore-hall.org.uk



Florilegium on Twitter

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