

Friends of Florilegium

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

SELECTED DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thur 18 Sept	Royal College of Music, London Professors' Concert (lunchtime) Bach, Rebel, Marais, Telemann
Thur 2 Oct	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Thur 16 Oct	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Fri 31 Oct	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Mon 3 Nov	Wigmore Hall, London Bach, Buxtehude, Zelenka, Telemann (with James Gilchrist, tenor)
Thur 13 Nov	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Sun 16 Nov	Milton Keynes Theatre Bach: Mass in B Minor
Fri 21 Nov	Royal College of Music, London 18th century coaching session
Thur 4 Dec	Kings Place, London Leclair, Montéclair, Rebel, Couperin/De Lalande (with Dame Emma Kirkby, soprano)
Sat 6 Dec	Winchester Cathedral Handel: Messiah
Sat 13 Dec	Leeds Town Hall Handel: Messiah
Mon 9 Feb	Selected concerts 2015 spring: Wigmore Hall, London Telemann, Forqueray, Leclair, Rebel, Marais
Thur 12 Feb	Holy Trinity Church, London SW7 Telemann, Forqueray, Leclair (for Imperial College)

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

Florilegium

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Friends of Florilegium supports
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AUTUMN 2014

Ashley Solomon appointed RCM Professor

Warmest congratulations to Ashley Solomon who, in February 2014, was appointed Chair of Historical Performance at the Royal College of Music. The personal Chair was created especially for Ashley "in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the RCM".

Professor Colin Lawson, Director of the RCM, commented: "Professor Ashley Solomon is a brilliant musician and inspiring educator. He has developed Historical Performance at the Royal College of Music, so that we are recognised as an influential centre of excellence both in the UK and internationally."

In response, Ashley commented: "I feel proud and honoured to have been appointed to a Personal Chair in Historical Performance at the RCM, and thank the institution for acknowledging my work across theory and practice. I look forward to continuing to develop opportunities and unique projects for our thriving community of students."



Ashley will be giving his inaugural lecture as Professor on 20 November, to which members of The Director's Circle will shortly be invited to attend.

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

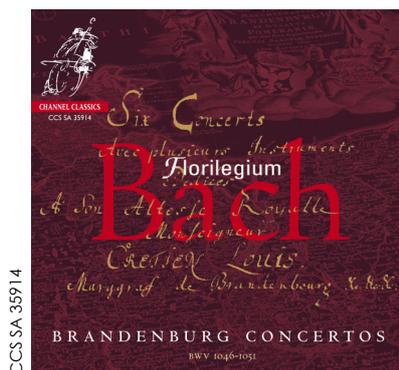
Director's Circle members

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

RECORDING NEWS

In November 2013 Florilegium recorded the complete Bach Brandenburg Concertos for Channel Classics. The 2-disc set will be released this autumn, which will be the 25th CD to be released on this label.

Full details will appear in the Spring 2015 Newsletter, though the Florilegium emailing list will be notified as soon as it becomes available, and copies can then be purchased via the Florilegium website, from where all Florilegium CDs can be ordered. If you want to join the emailing list please write to friends@florilegium.org.uk



CCS SA 35914

Florilegium and Education

Ashley Solomon looks back over the last 15 years at how Florilegium have become increasingly involved with education and promoting Historically informed Performance.

Florilegium have always had a keen interest in education and over the years have given workshops and master classes for a wide range of pupils, from primary school right up to conservatoire level in the UK and further afield (eg Singapore, Bolivia, Australia, USA, Turkey). One of the earliest memories I have of workshops over the last 15 or so years was a class we delivered to around 220 primary school children in Scotland, where we explained the difference between three or four dance forms that occur frequently in French baroque music. This session culminated in us teaching them all how to dance a minuet, and within 20 minutes we had the entire school dancing around the gym to a minuet by Leclair.

Other projects have included inviting children up to conduct us through some repertoire, working with lights and a smoke machine in a project focussing on Rebel's masterpiece Les Elemens and numerous other sessions where we often introduced unusual repertoire and different national styles to children and young adults for the first time.

Part of our work as Ensemble in Residence at Wigmore Hall (1998-2000) ensured we worked regularly with school children local to the Hall and were very fortunate to have access to the Wigmore Hall stage for our projects.

In September 2008 Florilegium were appointed Ensemble in Association at the Royal College of Music. This Association was initiated by the Director, Professor Colin Lawson, and was supposed to last for two years, with the aim to continue the promotion of historically informed approaches to baroque and classical repertoire already begun at the RCM since the establishment of the Historical Performance (HP) department in September 2006 under my direction.

The relationship continues to flourish and we are now in our sixth year of collaboration. As part of the initial Association Florilegium gave one performance each term with some of the more advanced students as well as delivering frequent master classes on 18th century baroque repertoire and large-scale themed projects. Over the years these master classes have helped support the work given by other professors in the HP department who are responsible for the 1-1 principal study lessons at RCM. The success of these sessions (which are also all open to the public) has really helped galvanise interest not just among those students who have chosen to study period instruments but more importantly modern instrumentalists keen to understand the importance of historically informed performance practice. As a result the RCM now boasts two baroque orchestras, one on period instruments and one on modern instruments.

Our projects at RCM have included Couperin, Handel instrumental and vocal pieces, Haydn London symphonies in the arrangements by Salomon, Bach Organ trio sonatas (linking via video conference with Yale University in the United States), Bach Cantatas, Telemann's Tafelmusik and Purcell's Dioclesian with baroque dancers in full 17th century costume to name just a few!

In 2013 Florilegium, together with the RCM Chamber Choir, under my direction gave two staged performances of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas as part of the Bath International Music Festival. This was presented in the Roman Baths, and a purpose built stage was erected for both performances across the Baths (see Autumn 2013 newsletter for further information, and the photo in next column).

For the last few years Florilegium have delivered five master classes each term and work to mentor all students who wish to engage in repertoire from 1600-1800 on period and modern instruments. One unique result of these sessions is that some of the most talented post-graduate students are now being given the opportunity to share the concert platform with Florilegium in professional engagements. Often a small number are invited to perform with the group in their annual St Matthew Passion with the Bach Choir at the Royal Festival Hall and recently one current student performed with the group at Wigmore Hall.

We are delighted to have witnessed a real flourishing of Historical Performance at RCM since the start of our collaboration and look forward to nurturing the new generation who we hope will ultimately share the concert platform with us.



Teaching at a girls' school in Singapore; showing the children a baroque flute, which none would have ever seen before. As part of a Florilegium tour in 2010

Ino cancelled again

Just one day before a major Wigmore Hall concert with Florilegium on 1 June, soprano Elin Manahan Thomas completely lost her voice and, regrettably, was forced to withdraw. She had spent some weeks learning Telemann's massive Cantata Ino – a work which is very rarely performed and she knew no-one else who sang it. Luckily, the young soprano Helen-Jane Howells, who has worked with the group on a number of occasions, was available. In addition to not knowing Ino, Helen-Jane had never sung Vivaldi's Motet Nulla in mundo pax sincera RV630, which was the soprano's other solo piece in the concert (a piece that Elin had recorded with Florilegium), but she said she would be able to learn that 12-minute motet overnight. She had sung Pergolesi's Stabat Salve Regina with Florilegium a few times before, so that, together with a Vivaldi concerto for strings and a Telemann flute concerto became the new second half of the concert.

Helen-Jane sang the Vivaldi as if she had been singing it for years – no-one believed she had learned it overnight, and the whole concert went very well.

This was the second time that Ashley Solomon has had to withdraw Cantata Ino from a Wigmore Hall concert (the first time was in 2008, when the soloist hadn't prepared it in time for the concert), so it will hopefully be third time lucky, sometime in the future...



Helen-Jane Howells (far left) with Robert Davies and Elin Manahan Thomas, and Ashley Solomon directing Florilegium and some members of the RCM Chamber Choir in rehearsal of Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas' in the Roman Baths, Bath; as part of the 2013 Bath Festival. Helen-Jane and Robert sang the title roles, with Elin singing Belinda

Florilegium on Twitter

You can follow Florilegium via Twitter. The Username is FlorilegiumUK; you can see what the group are doing by clicking the link on the Florilegium website home page, or, if you not yet a Twitter user, join via Twitter.com

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