

# Friends of Florilegium

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Selected performances*

Sat 30 Mar (Easter)	<b>Wigmore Hall, London</b> Bach: Easter Oratorio; Cantata BWV 158; Telemann: Overture & Conclusion <i>Tafelmusik</i> Part 1 (Ashley Solomon, Director/flute, singers: Elin Manahan Thomas, Sally Bruce-Payne, James Oxley, Jimmy Holliday)
Sat 27 April	<b>NCEM, York</b> Composers competition
Sat 4 May	<b>Kings Place, London</b> Bach Unwrapped Cantatas BWV 82 & 199; Sinfonia BWV 196; Trio Sonata BWV 1039; Concerto for harpsichord & 2 recorders BWV 1057 (Katharine Fuge, soprano)
Sun 5 May	<b>Oxford May Music</b> Music from the Court of Louis XIV
Tue 14 May	<b>Hatchlands Park, nr Guildford</b> Music from the Court of Louis XIV
Thu 16 May	<b>Luffhansa Festival, London</b> Music from the Court of Louis XIV
Wed 29 May	<b>Bath International Music Festival</b> Purcell: Dido and Aeneas
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Sat 1 June	<b>Bath International Music Festival</b> Concert includes NCEM winners
Sun 2 June	<b>Bath International Music Festival</b> Bach: Brandenburg Concertos
Wed 12 June	<b>Kings Place, London</b> Bach Unwrapped Trio Sonatas; A Musical Offering
Fri 12 July	<b>Gower Festival</b> Music from the Court of Louis XIV
Wed 31 July	<b>Three Choirs Festival, Gloucester</b> Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante; Beethoven: Symphony No.9

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

## Florilegium

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**SPRING 2013**

## Florilegium chosen for NCEM Composers Award 2013

The National Centre for Early Music (NCEM), based in York, has chosen Florilegium to collaborate with them on the NCEM Composers Award 2013.

The award, which has been running for several years, is co-hosted by BBC Radio 3's *Early Music Show* and takes the form of a daylong workshop at the NCEM to which eight shortlisted composers are invited. This is followed by a more formal concert in the evening in which each of the eight compositions are played and the winners are chosen in the two categories (up to 18, 19 to 25). The workshop will be held on **Saturday 27 April**.

Radio 3's *Early Music Show* will record the winning works, which will be performed as part of a Florilegium concert at the Bath International Music Festival on **Saturday 1 June**, to be broadcast at a later date.

In 2013 the outline brief was to "create a contemporary response to the predominant chamber music forms of the Baroque, the preludes, dance-based forms and instrumental arias which make up the suites produced by composers from Corelli and Purcell to Bach and Handel".

The competition was launched on Radio 3's *Early Music Show* on 3 November 2012, in a programme devoted to Florilegium, including an interview with the group's Director, Ashley Solomon.

Following another reminder during the same programme in January, Ashley was informed that more than forty composers had already registered their intention to compete, with two weeks still left for registration. A report will follow in the next newsletter. For details visit [www.ncem.co.uk/composersaward2013](http://www.ncem.co.uk/composersaward2013)

## Florilegium perform in Bath's Roman bath!

Florilegium have been invited to present an exciting series of five concerts at this spring's Bath International Music Festival, which will include playing in the iconic Roman baths (which will be drained for the performances, as illustrated right).

The first events will be two performances of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, which will be staged (by Martin Constantine, stage director) in the Roman baths. Members of Florilegium will be joined by a chorus selected from members the Royal College of Music Chamber Choir, with the principal solo roles sung by Helen-Jane Howells (Dido), Robert Davies (Aeneas) and Elin Manahan Thomas (Belinda). The performances, on **Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 May** (both starting at 9.30pm), will be directed by Ashley Solomon.

On **Saturday 1 June** the group perform the concert referred to in the article above, which will include the NCEM Composers Award's winning compositions, and will be recorded for future broadcast by BBC Radio 3's *Early Music Show*. This will be held in St Mary's Bathwick at 5.00pm, following a workshop there at 11.00am.

Florilegium's final performances are of the complete Brandenburg Concertos and Orchestral Suites nos. 1 and 2, which will be performed in the Ballroom of the Georgian Assembly Rooms on **Sunday 2 June**, with a lunch break between the two concerts.



## 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

### Handel

In January members of Florilegium, with Canadian soprano Gillian Keith, recorded Handel's nine *Deutsche Arien*, and the group recorded three of his Trio Sonatas. This was the first Handel CD that Florilegium have recorded, despite numerous concert performances of his works. A rare, antique harpsichord, made in 1766, was hired from Christopher Hogwood for this recording, which will be released towards the end of 2013.

In order that this recording could take place, Florilegium received donations from members of their Director's Circle, and sincere thanks go to Michael & Giustina Ryan, Julian & Annette Armstrong, Alan Sainer, Mark Smeë & Fiona Clifton, Bill & Sue Blyth and Andrew Lawton, as well as other Director's Circle members and Friends of Florilegium for their generous contributions.

The next recording is planned for November...

### Bach: Brandenburg Concertos

Florilegium are gaining a reputation for their performances of the Brandenburg concertos which, in concert, are normally combined with the first two Orchestral Suites to make two full-length concerts. As is happening in Bath on 2 June (see article on Bath events overleaf), they are generally performed on the same day, either side of a meal break. Most recently they were performed to great acclaim in Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge, and, in addition to Bath, the group will be performing them for the International Wimbledon Music Festival on Saturday 23 November. At each concert to date, members of the audience have asked to buy CDs of these pieces, which the group has never recorded.



Rehearsing Brandenburg Concerto No.4, summer 2012, in Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge

However, Ashley has been discussing this with the owner of Channel Classics, Jared Sacks, and they have agreed that Florilegium will now record the complete Brandenburg concertos, following the Wimbledon performance in November. The sessions are scheduled to take place in the church in South London, where the group's last three CDs were recorded.

Ashley Solomon, Florilegium's Co-Founder and Director, is looking for funds to make this recording happen. He is hoping to find sponsors to either sponsor a Concerto, or a movement from one of the concertos. He has just started fundraising and one sponsor has already been found for a complete Brandenburg concerto. If you could help by supporting this project, please email him at [ashleysolomon@florilegium.org.uk](mailto:ashleysolomon@florilegium.org.uk)

### Bach Unwrapped: Kings Place

Florilegium successfully launched Kings Place's 2013 Bach Unwrapped series to a capacity audience on 30 December 2012. Richard Fairman, writing for *The Financial Times* wrote "An uplifting New Year cantata provided an apposite opening to Kings Place's year-long Bach festival". He went on to praise solo singers and ensemble, especially Alexandra Bellamy's playing of the Oboe d'amore concerto and Ashley Solomon's solo flute Partita.

Florilegium's two remaining concerts in the series are on **Saturday 4 May** and **Wednesday 12 June**. Tickets are available from <http://www.kingsplace.co.uk/whats-on-book-tickets> or tel: 020 7520 1490

In addition to these two performances, Ashley Solomon (flute) and Terence Charlston (harpsichord) will perform the complete solo flute sonatas for this series, on **Sunday 20 October** (at 11.30am).

### CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBER

Administrator, Jacky Guter, has a new phone number. Her Florilegium land line has been discontinued, so if you need to contact her you can ring or text her on 07443 427470

### From Florilegium's largest orchestra yet...

Florilegium has been invited to perform in the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester Cathedral on **Wednesday 31 July**. The first half of the concert is Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, with soloists Bojan Cacic, violin and Jane Rogers, viola. The second half is Beethoven's Symphony No.9, for which Florilegium will present its largest orchestra so far, with over sixty players.

### ...to Florilegium's smallest band

A Florilegium trio (Ashley Solomon, flute, Reiko Ichise, viola da gamba and Terence Charlston, harpsichord) will perform a series of three concerts in May. On **Sunday 5 May** the group will be playing a concert in the festival Oxford May Music, in Holywell Music Room, Oxford, where a similar ensemble performed for Oxford University in January. Built in 1748, it is said to be the oldest, purpose built music room in Europe, and hence England's first concert hall.



Florilegium perform in Holywell Music Room, January 2013

The second concert, in a building directly contemporary with the Holywell Music Room, is in the National Trust property, Hatchlands Park, Surrey, on **Tuesday 14 May**. This beautiful historic mansion, with ceiling by Robert Adam and extensive grounds, including a garden by Gertrude Jekyll, houses the Cobbe Collection of historic keyboard instruments, one of which will be played at this concert.

The third concert will be in the oldest of the buildings (although more recently restored), in the church-turned-concert hall, St Johns Smith Square in London's Westminster. This concert, on **Thursday 16 May**, is part of the Luffhansa Festival of Baroque Music.

Each of these concerts will contain French baroque music, as would have been performed in Versailles for Louis XIV.