

The Atlanta Early Music News

Newsletter of the Atlanta Early Music Alliance

Volume III, No. 6

February 1996

Editor's Notes

OOPS!

Calendar correction: Alex Ross, baroque violin, Egbert Ennulat, harpsichord, is at Georgia State University Recital Hall, Jan. 31, 8:00 p.m. All Bach program, free. 404-651-4636 (not UGA)

Your Ideas!

We have received letters from two members with wonderful ideas for AEMA, such as presenting a workshop on medieval music for strings and singers, and establishing a scholarship for a student to attend the Mountain Collegium, thus supporting the continued growth of early music through our young people. More about these things later, as well as a report on the recent interim board meeting. Thanks to John Hillenbrand and Emily Stevenson for writing in.

JOIN AEMA!

To become a member of the Atlanta Early Music Alliance, send a check with this form to AEMA, 592B Linwood Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. Dues are \$20.00 for an individual, \$30.00 for a family, \$45.00 for an institution.

Directory of AEMA Members

If you wish to be included in the directory please send the following form by February 10, 1996 to Frances Blaker, 592B Linwood Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. You may also send in your information by e-mail marked "Directory" to tishb@aol.com.

Your AEMA Directory Entry

Name:

Phone(s):

(Fax:)

Address:

E-mail:

Instrument/Voice:

I am interested in forming ensembles/consorts with other players. Special areas of early music interest:

I am a teacher of the following instruments/voice:

A New Kid in Town

Meet Adam Decker, a harpsichord builder and restorer from Richmond, VA and also currently a chiropractic student at Life College in Marietta.

As a new resident and fellow early music enthusiast in the Atlanta area, I would like to thank all of those whose welcome is greatly appreciated. Before I tell you about myself, I want to express my thanks to the staff of the Atlanta Early Music News for allowing me to share with you all a bit about the early keyboard instrument we know as the harpsichord. Even though early keyboards represent a small portion of the total realm of early music, it is the harpsichord that has revolutionized the performance practices of late Renaissance and Baroque music. From solo works to continuo, the harpsichord has proven to be a principle instrument within the framework of early music. It is my intent to share with you some of my experiences with harpsichords from both a technical and aesthetic manner.

Before coming to Atlanta, I have been involved in the repair, sales, construction and rebuilding processes of harpsichords for over six years in Richmond, Virginia. My interest in harpsichords began at an early age when I first heard a recording of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos and wondered what in the world that tinkling sound in the background was. When I asked my music teacher what it was he simply stated, "a harpsichord." From then on my interest grew and I found myself obtaining many of the well-known harpsichord recordings.

While pursuing a degree in biology and chemistry in Oklahoma, I had my first encounter with a lovely Flemish double manual harpsichord built by William Mitchell of England. During my senior year I took harpsichord lessons on that instrument and absolutely loved it. I remember when I would go into the concert hall for my lessons, there was a small Zuckermann straight-sided harpsichord that was unplayable, sitting on top of an old table. Tinkling on the keys revealed an instrument that definitely needed help. Upon graduation I purchased the small instrument from the college for \$150.00. It took approximately 6 months to restore, because I had to seek advice from professionals in order to get it playing. The Zuckermann shop in Stonington, CT along with its agents helped me tremendously in completing the task. The instrument was sold to a lovely couple in Richmond, VA and from then on I was hooked.

To date I have been involved in the rebuilding and building of fourteen harpsichords and have enjoyed every minute doing it. The work is very tedious, but seeing the finished projects are definitely worth forging through each one. Every instrument takes on its own personality, which attracts different people with different tastes. One of the instruments was a copy of a 16th century Italian harpsichord which was purchased by Chicago-based harpsichordist David Schrader. A recording of Vivaldi was made using the small Italian, and is scheduled to be released this month.

If you are presently in the market for an instrument or want to talk about the possibilities of owning your own harpsichord I would be delighted to talk with you. Presently I have three instruments for sale: Italian virginal (\$3,300), Flemish double manual (\$6,500), Flemish single manual (\$5,500). All three have been rebuilt to their finest condition. Price includes delivery, setup and continual maintenance and technical support. A newly built instrument allows you to choose from the many different styles, keyboard ranges, materials used, and decoration. To find out more, obtain photographs, or even schedule a time to play them, please contact me at 770-424-8271. It is my sincere desire to see early music develop to its fullest potential in this area. I believe early keyboard music is an excellent place to begin. Best wishes in your music making.

Weds., Jan. 31, 8 pm
Violinist **Alexander Ross**
and harpsichordist **Egbert**
Ennulet perform an all Bach
program in the Recital
Hall, Georgia State University.
Free. 404-651-4636

Feb. 2 - 4
Viol Weekend with Martha Bishop
in Montgomery AL. Call (334) 277-
2452 for more information.

Sat., Feb. 3, 7:30 pm
The Merry Band performs "Brie and
Bratwurst: Baroque Delicacies from
France & Germany". All Saints
Episcopal Church, North Ave. at W.
Peachtree, Atlanta. \$12/\$7. Call
(770) 924-8182

Weds. Feb. 7, 8 pm
The **Baltimore Consort** performs at
Georgia College in Milledgeville.
This is your only chance to hear this
group perform for the incredible low
cost of only \$3! I don't have a number
to call, but you might try looking up a
number for Georgia College if you
need more information.

Sat., Feb. 10, all day. Birmingham
Recorder Society, Birmingham, AL.
Lessons with Letitia Berlin and
Frances Blaker in the morning, group
meeting for all 2:30-4:30 pm. Shades
Valley Presbyterian Church. Call
404-658-1357 or 205-870-7443.

Sun., Feb. 11, 3:00 p.m.. Diverse
Musicke with Peter Marshall and
Cheryl Boyd-Waddell. Music of
women composers. John C. Campbell
Folk School, Brasstown, NC.
Call (704) 837-0456.

Sat., Feb. 17, 8:15 p.m. Derek Lee
Ragin, countertenor, Moses G. Hogan
Chorale. Spivey Hall, \$15. 770-961-
3683.

Sun., Feb. 18, 3:00-5:00. Atlanta
Recorder Society meeting. All
welcome. DeKalb College, Fine Arts
Bldg. 404-659-3976.

Sat., Feb. 20, 8 pm
James Rogers, lute and viol, will
perform his senior recital. Clayton

EARLY MUSIC CALENDAR

State College. Call (770) 968-5313 for
more information.

Fri., Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. Questa Bella
Sirena, a new American recorder
quartet, (Berlin, Blaker, Layton,
Carslake) performs at the
Birmingham Museum of Art.
Call (404) 658-1357.

Saturday, Feb. 24, TBA. Questa Bella
Sirena performs in Atlanta. Call 404-
658-1357 for location and time. \$8/\$6.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2:00 p.m. Questa
Bella Sirena performs in Aiken, SC,
USC at Aiken. 803-593-8756.

Tues., Feb. 27, 8:15 p.m. Elizabeth
Arnold, soprano and AEMA member,
Ben Arnold, piano, Cannon Chapel,
Emory. Free.

March 1 - 3
Viol Workshop focusing on Italian
music, with **Jay Bernfeld, Martha**
Bishop, Harriet Woldt. Tampa, FL.
Call (813) 785-5096.

Sat. March 2, all day. Birmingham
Recorder Society, Birmingham, AL.
Lessons with Letitia Berlin and
Frances Blaker in the morning, group
meeting for all 2:30-4:30 pm. Shades
Valley Presbyterian Church. Call
404-658-1357 or 205-870-7443.

March 4 - 7
The **Boston Camarata** will be in
residence at the Univ. of GA, Athens.
Master classes etc., open to the public.
Thurs. March 7 at 8 pm the Boston
Camarata will perform in the UGA
Chapel. Call Sandra Piñegar for
more information at (706) 613-0511.

Sun. March 10, 3 p.m. Atlanta
Recorder Society concert at High
Museum. Free. 404-659-3976.

Sat. March 16, 8 pm
Camerati will perform German
Baroque Music. St. John's Lutheran

Church, Ponce de Leon
Ave. in Atlanta (the
church with the red
door). \$7. Call (770)
498-6900.

Fri., March 22, 8:15 p.m. Jane Flynn,
harpsichord with guests Elizabeth
Arnold, Letitia Berlin, Martha
Bishop, Frances Blaker, et al. Cannon
Chapel, Emory. Free.

Fri., March 29, 8:15 pm
Musicians of Swanee Alley
perform at Spivey Hall, CSC. \$15.
770-961-3683.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plan now for AEMA's general
membership meeting on Sunday,
April 28 at 5 p.m., after Simon
Preston's organ recital at Spivey
Hall. Potluck at Pat and Lyle
Nordstrom's house in Stockbridge
(south of Morrow).

AEMA needs your ideas for its mission
statement. Please send them to
AEMA, 592B Linwood Ave. NE,
Atlanta, GA 30306 or email to
tishb@aol.com, marked "mission
statement". We will be forming a
committee to work on this statement
after we have received your input.
Please indicate if you would like to be
on such a committee.

Please notice location of Alex Ross's
Jan. 31 recital - we goofed in January's
calendar.