

DISCOVER *the* HARPSICHORD!

June 19th – July 3th 2011

Discover the Harpsichord! is a special program within the framework of the world-renowned Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute (BPI) that offers serious young pianists and organists a unique opportunity to gain experience on the quintessential keyboard instrument of the baroque. In addition to cultivating an idiomatic harpsichord technique, a wide range of topics pertinent to baroque performance practice will be addressed in depth, including:

- Stylistic Interpretation
- Improvisation
- Ornamentation
- Basso Continuo realization from a figured bass
- Ensemble Playing & Accompaniment

For the many young musicians who have contemplated studying the harpsichord at some point, this immersion would provide the ideal introduction.

In addition to daily masterclasses, there is a wide variety of optional activities available to participants. Faculty and student concerts promise to offer memorable listening and music-making experiences, lectures and informal open discussions stimulate the intellect, and the ever-popular baroque dance classes provide excellent physical exercise as well as a kinetic appreciation for the rhythms that underlie so much music of the baroque era. Although the focus of the course will be the harpsichord, students will have an opportunity to explore a wide variety of early keyboard instruments including the organ, clavichord, and fortepiano. Private lessons are also available (for a separate fee), and with the purchase of two such lessons students are eligible for Oberlin College credit.

Why Harpsichord?

Over the past several decades, the once esoteric field of historically informed performance on period instruments has grown considerably and is now a vibrant part of the musical mainstream. The harpsichord in particular has returned to a place of prominence alongside the piano and organ and can be heard regularly in concerts, recordings, and radio broadcasts, either as a solo instrument or in its traditional role accompanying period ensembles and orchestras. The large and diverse harpsichord repertoire invites creativity and imagination, a love of history, and provides opportunities to work collaboratively in orchestral and chamber music settings. Whether you are interested in re-casting yourself as a harpsichordist and specialist in baroque music, or simply eager to bring a heightened understanding to your performances of baroque music on the modern piano, this experience will prove invaluable.

BPI

For 40 years, the Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute has been a gathering place where the world's leading practitioners of period performance come together and teach inspired students from all walks of life. BPI engenders a positive, supportive, and nurturing environment based on mutual respect and camaraderie – not on competition. As such, participants can comfortably learn at their own level and pace.

Who should apply?

Applicants do not need to have any prior experience on the harpsichord, but should:

- Be an accomplished piano/organ student
- Have a keen interest in baroque and classical music
- Demonstrate creativity and individuality in their playing
- Be a current High School student at the time of this application

Dates

Although BPI is divided into two one-week sessions (June 19th – 25th & June 26th – July 3th), *Discover the Harpsichord!* is designed as a cohesive two-week course.

An Opportunity for Organ Students:

Students planning to attend the Oberlin Summer Organ Academy (June 20th – June 25th) can augment their experience by attending the first week of *Discover the Harpsichord!* These students will be able to continue receiving instruction on the harpsichord during the Organ academy.

Tuition & Scholarships

A half-tuition scholarship is awarded to qualified high school applicants. To be eligible, students must be accepted based on an audition recording (see high school application for details) and attend **both** weeks of BPI.

Harpsichord Faculty

John McKean – Instructor, *Discover the Harpsichord!*
(University of Cambridge)

Webb Wiggins – Teacher, BPI Harpsichord Masterclass
(Professor of Harpsichord, Oberlin Conservatory)

Lisa Crawford – Teacher, BPI Harpsichord Masterclass
(Professor Emeritus, Oberlin Conservatory)

Joseph Gascho – Continuo Class Instructor
(George Washington University)