



Upbeat

CLASSIC *f*M

NEWS, VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS FROM THE WORLD OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

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GUITAR

An ornate 1623 guitar by Italian Matteo Sellas. The striking back has an ebony and ivory veneer.

OCTAVE SPINET

This octave spinet was made in Italy in around 1600. The picture inside the lid depicts the story of a famous singer rescued by a dolphin after being thrown overboard by pirates.

HORNIMAN MUSEUM
100 LONDON ROAD,
FOREST HILL SE23 3PQ
IS OPEN 10.30-5.30
DAILY. ENTRANCE,
INCLUDING TO THE
ART OF HARMONY
EXHIBITION,
IS FREE.

The Art of Harmony

NEW EXHIBITION Two instrument collections meet in a new exhibition at the Horniman museum. **BY GAVIN DIXON**

Beautiful designs for beautiful music go on display in a new exhibition at London's Horniman Museum this month. 'Art of Harmony' showcases some of the spectacular instruments from the Victoria and Albert Museum, currently on loan to the Horniman. The V&A's collections focus on elegant design, and its musical instruments are no exception.

These sumptuously decorated instruments mostly date from the 16th to the 18th centuries and many were made for wealthy aristocratic patrons. Among the string instruments is a baryton, the complex cello-like instrument for which Haydn wrote many works to be

performed by his employer Prince Nikolaus Esterházy, as well as a Venetian theorbo and a 1699 Stradivari violin.

Some of the instruments also show the aristocratic vogue for rustic themes in the 18th century, such as a finely crafted set of miniature bagpipes and an ornate hurdy gurdy, the head of which is carved in the shape of a country lady lifting her skirts to reveal the instrument's tuning pegs.

The keyboard instruments, too, are elaborately decorated. Some of the most spectacular examples include a 1521 harpsichord (thought to be the earliest surviving named and dated in existence) with a handsomely intricate tooled leather case, and a positive organ illustrated with a range of biblical scenes. There is also the chance to see a rare ivory oboe made in Italy in 1730.

The Horniman Museum of course has its own diverse collection of musical instruments, and the exhibition is a chance to seek out the parallels between the two. In the early 19th century Giovanni Puzzi was the most famous horn player in Europe – he worked in London under the patronage of the Duke of Wellington. One of the highlights of the exhibition is sure to be the chance to see two horns made for the virtuoso, one from each collection, on display side by side. ■

BARYTON

The scroll of a 1686 baryton made by Hamburg-based Joachim Tielke. Haydn wrote many pieces for the instrument.

RAOUX HORN

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