

An Utterly Incomplete History of Keyboards & Keyboard Music

A Study Day on Friday 15th September 2023 at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon

Speaker – Steven Devine

We all know what a piano sounds like, but what we see in the sleek black giants at concert venues, the slightly battered uprights in school halls and even those hanging around on station concourses is the product of years of development and standardisation. In this study day, Steven Devine will explore the history of the instrument from its earliest manifestations. We will examine the music written for keyboards, enjoying the symbiotic relationship between instrument and composition – with many live and recorded music examples on harpsicord, clavichord and piano for illustration.

Programme

9.30 Registration

10.00 **An Overview** – Looking at the instrument and its change and development from early times to the present day and beyond. We explore the different families of keyboard instruments, the different members of those families and how concert halls changed everything.

11.00 Coffee / Tea

11.30 **The Clavichord in Depth** – Different “flavours” of instruments will be discussed and this most perfect of domestic instruments will be shown as the most inspirational of musical vehicles, despite being one of the quietest instruments.

12.30 Lunch – Bring-Your-Own – Tea / Coffee available

1.30 **The Harpsichord in Depth** – Commentators in the early twentieth century described it in very unfavourable terms, but the harpsichord was the main keyboard instrument for nearly 400 years. We'll discuss why the revival of harpsichords a hundred years ago created such unpleasant press, delve into the history and demonstrate how the music written for it took advantage of its expressive capabilities – substantially different from those of the piano.

2.30 Tea / Coffee

3.00 **What Came Next?** – A brief history of the competing schools of piano building, with the associated effect on the music written for it. We'll look at the rise of the virtuoso piano performer and the repertoire that created cult figures in the music world. There will also be a gaze into a crystal ball to suggest what happens next in the keyboard world.

4.00 Departure

To book Members should send the slip below, with a cheque for £12 or £15 for a Guest, payable to Surrey u3a Network, or bank transfer to HSBC Account No. 11519018 Sort Code 40-27-07, Event Reference Sep23, to Denise Dobbs – u3a, 5 Aldridge Rise, New Malden KT3 5RJ, Phone 07964 798791 or email to – surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com. Enclose a SAE or email for confirmation.

KEYBOARDS Member £12 Guest £15 15th September 2023

Please Tick – Attend Hall ☐ or Virtually ☐; E-mail ☐ or SAE ☐; Cheque ☐ or BankTrsf ☐

Title First Name Surname Name of u3a

Address

Post Code Telephone..... E-mail

If you need disabled parking, tick ☐, or a wheelchair space in the hall, tick ☐.

Biographical Information about our Speaker

Steven Devine combines a career as a conductor and director of orchestral, choral and opera repertoire with that of a solo harpsichordist and fortepianist. He is Conductor and Artistic Advisor of The English Haydn Festival; Music Director of New Chamber Opera, Oxford and Director of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's "Bach the Universe & Everything" series. On the concert platform he has directed Purcell, Blow, Bach, Handel and Mozart with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Bach Easter Oratorio with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales; Haydn, Handel, CPE Bach, JC Bach, Dittersdorf and Viotti with the English Haydn Orchestra; Handel, Vivaldi and Porpora with Ann Hallenberg and Trondheim Barokk; Bach Christmas Oratorio with the Norwegian Wind Ensemble; Handel Solomon with Victoria Baroque Players, British Columbia and Handel Music for the Royal Fireworks with Arion Baroque Ensemble, Montreal; He has also directed programmes with the Academy of Ancient Music, Academie d'Ambronay, the Mozart Festival Orchestra and St Paul's Chamber Orchestra. Devine's opera repertoire includes works by Purcell, Cavalli, Handel, Haydn and Mozart as well as rarities by Galuppi, Salieri and Cimarosa. His recordings include Dido & Aeneas with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Sarah Connolly in the title role. Amongst Devine's recent projects have been Purcell, Blow and Drahgi with the OAE in London and Oslo plus Handel Aci, Galatea and Polifemo with the group which he will reprise in Malta next season. He directs further programmes of Bach Cantatas with the OAE; Bach, Handel and Vivaldi with the Academy of Ancient Music on tour in Spain and Handel Belshazzar in Malta.

Steven Devine was educated at Chetham's School of Music before reading Music at St Peter's College, Oxford and completing his studies at the Royal College of Music. He was Director of Opera Restor'd from 2002-2010 and Kurator and Conductor of the Norwegian Wind Ensemble from 2016-2018. For many years he was associated with the Finchcocks Museum of Historical Keyboard Instruments in Kent as Curator and Director. He is Consultant in Early Keyboards at the Royal Welsh and Royal Birmingham Conservatoires and teaches historical instruments at the Royal Academy of Music.

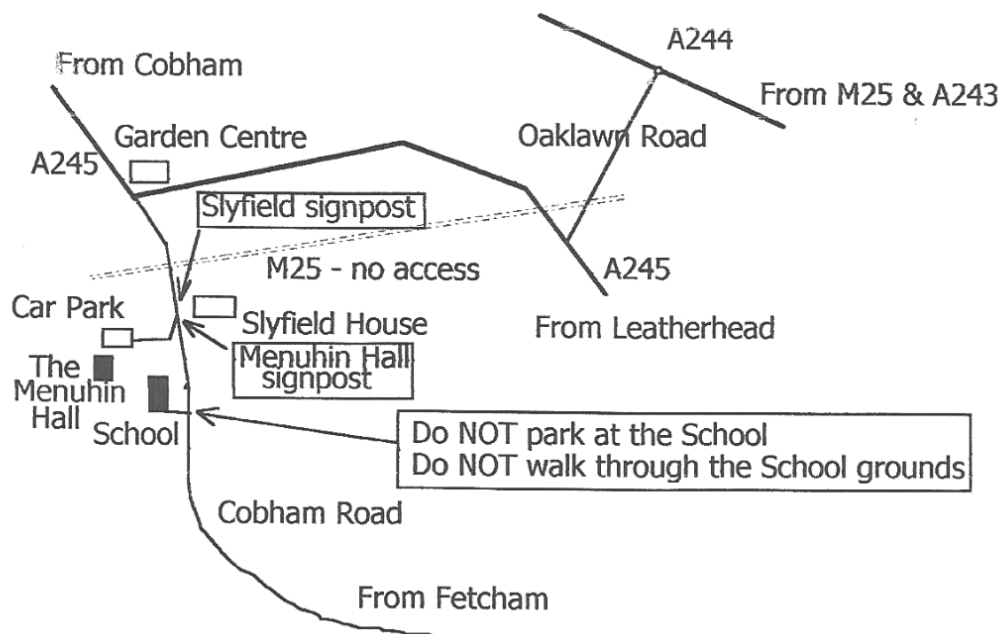
Location & Contact Details for Study Day

The Menuhin Hall, Cobham Road, Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey KT11 3QQ

Map Ref: TQ 132 579 on Landranger 187 & Explorer 146

Telephone 07763 805046 (Emergency - On-Day-Only) or Menuhin Hall Office 08700 842020

There is a Garden Centre (01932 862530), about 800 metres to the north of the Menuhin Hall where light lunches are available. Reservations are not required.



The Menuhin School was founded in 1962 in London and moved to its present site in 1964. It has around eighty pupils learning to play stringed instruments including the piano. Lord Menuhin was born in New York on 22nd April 1916 and died on 12th March 1999 in Berlin. His parents had come from Russia. His first public concert was in March 1924 and his first in Europe, in Paris, in 1927. His performance of Elgar's Violin Concerto was recorded at the Abbey Road Studios in 1932. The Hall, designed by Mark Foley, was conceived as a memorial to Yehudi and was handed over to the school on 5th August 2005. The official opening was on 7th January 2006. Yehudi is buried by the stone pillar in front of the Hall. Nearby is an oak which he planted on his 80th birthday. The Hall was first used for a Surrey Network Study Day on 14th October 2005.

Study Days at the Menuhin Hall

Surrey Network Study Days – After an eighteen-month gap, study days at The Menuhin Hall resumed in September 2021. We welcome members to our study days in the hall, as in the past, while also making it possible to view the study days remotely.

Advertising & Booking – The practice of applying by post or by email will continue, with booking responses being sent as members chose, while payment can be made by cheque or bank transfer. We have discussed using on-line booking and consider that this is our likely next step, but the workload in setting up the programme for 2023 is our first priority. We advertise the study days with full details and booking forms on our website – <http://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/> and circulate the information electronically to all u3as in Surrey Network and surrounding areas. In the past we posted booking forms to all those u3as but as the great majority of members have internet access and due to the work involved, we have decided to discontinue that service. We have been electronically circulating a poster suitable for advertising the future programme on display boards or websites and this will continue. The booking fee was £9 when the study days started in 2004 and has been £10 for the last five years. The fee rose to £12 in 2022. The fee for virtual attendance fee will rise to the same figure in 2023 to enable us to cover our costs. The fee for guests will remain at £15. Further information is given above, including the booking form, details of the programme and the speaker's background.

Nut Allergies – The Menuhin School has pupils who have an allergic reaction to nuts and the staff have taken the decision to make the school and the Menuhin Hall a nut-free environment. Please ensure that your lunch does not contain any trace of nuts.

Disabled Parking – There are six spaces behind the hall and there are more in the main car park. If you have a blue badge and need level access to the hall, then tick Disabled Parking on the booking slip; you will then be allocated a space at the back of the hall and sent a permit. There is a drop-off space where disabled members have level access to the hall.

Wheelchair Spaces – If you need a seat removed in the hall to accommodate a wheelchair then tick Wheelchair on the booking slip.

Appreciation of Team Members and Plea for Support – Over the period of lock-down and more recently we were very sad to hear that five team members had passed away due to various causes and we wish to acknowledge the valuable support they gave for many years; Arthur Browne, Horley u3a, Alison Gaitonde, Banstead u3a, John Harbridge, Dorking u3a, Sheila Hill, Fetcham u3a and Sheila Pomfret, Bookham u3a. The study days have been running successfully for eighteen years and new volunteers with ideas for the future programme and the energy to help run the study days will be made very welcome. Our website is based on the u3a software Site Builder, and as a transfer to a new system is required in 2023 some extra support for the website would be very welcome.

Please contact Surrey Network Chairman, Cher Palmer, on 01293 784313 with offers of help.

Surrey u3a Network Study Day

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The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon

Friday 15th September 2023

9.30am Registration – tea and coffee provided