

For immediate release



Live music events celebrate the restoration of historic keyboards at the Horniman

Three historical keyboard instruments from the former Finchcocks Musical Museum have been restored to playing condition, thanks to National Lottery funding, and will be the centre pieces of ***In the Company of Finchcocks***, a three day celebration at the Horniman Museum and Gardens marking the instruments' installation into its acclaimed Music Gallery and their inclusion in its enhanced live music programming.

Between Wednesday 11 and Friday 13 September, eminent early keyboard players and performers will present two concerts, a masterclass and an exclusive gallery tour, allowing visitors to learn about and hear these rare instruments brought to life once more.

The instruments are:

- A rare surviving example of a signed Neapolitan virginals by Onofrio Guarracino, 1668;
- A beautifully-preserved square piano by Adam Beyer, London, 1777; and
- A handsome English chamber organ, possibly by Joseph Beloudy, London, c.1800.

The ***In the Company of Finchcocks*** programme of events includes:

- 'Music for the list'ning soul' - a concert by the distinguished duo Helen Charlston (mezzo-soprano) and Terence Charlston (virginals and square piano). The programme will feature a wide variety of music, from Monteverdi, Frescobaldi and Barbara Strozzi to Handel, Elisabetta de Gambarini and Haydn.
Wednesday 11 September, 7.15-9pm. Tickets £10.
- An organ masterclass where visitors can hear aspiring professional organists and early keyboard musicians perform their chosen repertoire and receive instruction from acclaimed organist and teacher, Stephen Farr.
Thursday 12 September, 2-5pm. Playing participants: £20, register [here](#). Free to auditors, no ticket required.
- A solo Chamber Organ concert by celebrated organist, Stephen Farr.
Thursday 12 September, 7.15-9pm. Tickets £10.
- An exclusive musical tour of the Music Gallery featuring demonstrations of the newly restored instruments together with the previously restored 1772 Kirckman harpsichord, led by renowned music director and early keyboard player, Steven Devine.
Friday 13 September, 3-4pm. Tickets £5. Spaces are strictly limited - early booking is advised.

Visitors will be able to get a preview of the instruments being played at the Horniman's popular *Hear it Live!* series of free public recitals held each Thursday from 18 July from 3.30-4pm in the Music Gallery.

Mimi Waitzman, Deputy Keeper of Musical Instruments says: 'It is a great privilege to be able to bring these precious representatives of the Finchcocks' legacy to the Horniman's Music Gallery where they now take on a new life in the context of our world-wide collection. Here, they will contribute to the creation of new research opportunities for students, musicians and specialists, and to an increasingly frequent, vibrant and diverse programme of live events for all to enjoy. We are thrilled that these four distinguished musicians, Steven Devine, Terence Charlston, Helen Charlston and Stephen Farr are able to join us ***In the Company of Finchcocks*** to help celebrate the instruments' restorations and installation. These important developments which enhance our display and live music programming have been made possible through the generous support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund.'

The keyboards are an important addition to the Horniman's internationally renowned collection of musical instruments and were acquired at auction following Finchcocks' closure in 2016.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant also enabled the Horniman to conserve, document and install the instruments as part of a four-year project and offers the museum this exciting opportunity to expand its existing live performance programme. Future events over the coming year include an early keyboard competition, further concerts and masterclasses and a specialist musical instrument conference.

The keyboards will be on public display in the Horniman's acclaimed Music Gallery from July 2019. Entry to the Horniman, the Music Gallery and to *Hear it Live!* is free. ***In the Company of Finchcocks*** takes place from Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 September. To book tickets please go to www.horniman.ac.uk

Ends

Picture attached shows: Neapolitan virginals by Onofrio Guarracino, 1668. Credit Sarah Duncan/Horniman Museum and Gardens.

Please contact the press office for further images

Tel: 020 8291 8166 - press@horniman.ac.uk

Notes to Editors:

- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens' Musical Instrument Collection** is internationally renowned and includes over 9,500 sound-making objects representing many periods of history and diverse musical traditions from all over the world. Around 1,300 of these instruments are exhibited in its dedicated Music Gallery – the largest number on display in the UK. The Music Gallery also features short films and listening stations linking instruments on display to the cultures and contexts in which they are played. An 18th-century English harpsichord is maintained in playing order for regular live performances and specially commissioned instruments can be played in a separate Hands On Space. The themed displays include examples from many of the major collections acquired by the

Horniman, including Boosey & Hawkes, Adam Carse (wind instruments), Dolmetsch, Neil Wayne (concertinas) and the Horniman's founder himself, Frederick Horniman. The musical holdings have been augmented most recently by Brazilian instruments associated with carnival in Rio and historic keyboard instruments from the former Finchcocks Musical Museum. To date, the records of some 2,000 musical instruments from the Horniman's collection form part of the MINIM project.

- **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund.** Using money raised by the National Lottery, we inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk. Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund.
- **Music in the Making** is a major four year programme to improve understanding of the Horniman's musical instrument collection and to maximise its potential through creative programming. www.horniman.ac.uk/about/music-in-the-making
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx. 15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).

