



Guildhall
ResearchWorks



Mechanical Musical Instruments and Historical Performance

Papers are invited for a 2-day conference to be held on Sunday 7th and Monday 8th July 2013 at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. The event is a collaboration between the Guildhall School and the National Early Music Association (NEMA) and will focus on all aspects of how mechanical musical instruments might serve as sources both for historical repertoire and performance practice.

From water organs to player pianos, the production and reproduction of music by mechanical means has been a source of fascination to many cultures. But what impact can the study of these machines have on live musicians studying the music, and the particular ways of performing music from past eras? What are the advantages, issues and problems connected with this type of research?

The conference will feature papers, a keynote address, a performance by GSMD students on the Historical Performance programme and also a visit (tbc) to the Colt Clavier Collection – home of the Barrel Organ featured on ERATO's recording of two Handel Organ Concertos (among other pieces) in the 1980s.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words for papers of 20mins or lecture recitals of 30mins duration should be submitted to and should include the following information:

- Background
- Research questions
- Aims
- Summary of content
- Significance

Papers will be followed by a 5 -10 minute period for questions

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to be received no later than Friday 1st February 2013