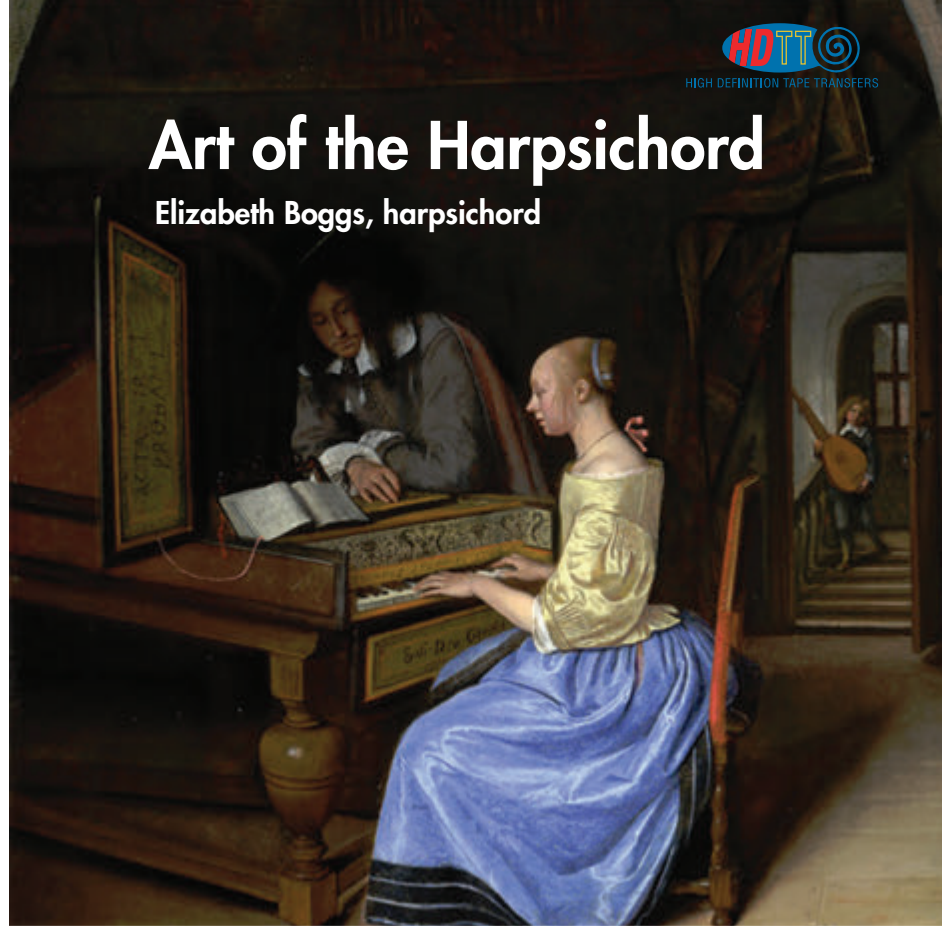




# Art of the Harpsichord

Elizabeth Boggs, harpsichord



The French Baroque composer Jean-Philippe Rameau wrote three books of Pièces de clavecin for the harpsichord. The first, Premier Livre de Pièces de Clavecin, was published in 1706; the second, Pièces de Clavessin, in 1724; and the third, Nouvelles Suites de Pièces de Clavecin, in 1726 or 1727. They were followed in 1741 by Pièces de clavecin en concerts, in which the harpsichord can either be accompanied by violin (or flute) and viola da gamba or played alone. An isolated piece, "La Dauphine", survives from 1747.

Jacques Champion de Chambonnières (Jacques Champion, commonly referred to as Chambonnières) (c. 1601/2 - 1672) was a French harpsichordist, dancer and composer. Born into a musical family, Chambonnières made an illustrious career as court harpsichordist in Paris and was considered by many of his contemporaries to be one of the greatest musicians in Europe. However, late in life Chambonnières gradually fell out of favor at the court and lost his position. He died in poverty, but at an advanced age, and not before publishing a number of his works. Today Chambonnières is considered one of the greatest representatives of the early French harpsichord school.

The Dauphine is the title of the last piece of harpsichord composed with certainty by Jean-Philippe Rameau .

This isolated play which is not part of any collection was played on the occasion of the marriage of the Dauphin of France , son of Louis XV with Marie-Joseph of Saxe (who thus became "Dauphine") in 1747 .

It is the only piece of Rameau preserved in the state of autograph, remained long unpublished. This score was part of the collection gathered by Jacques Joseph Decroix whose heirs donated to the National Library of France .

My Lady Carey's Dompe is one of the earliest surviving Renaissance musical pieces, most probably written for lute and harpsichord. A traditional English dance tune, it was written c. 1520s by an unknown composer during the time of Henry VIII of England, who played various instruments, of which he had a large collection.

Flow, my tears is a lute song (specifically, an "ayre") by the accomplished lutenist and composer John Dowland. The song and its melody became very well-known and influential, and are a prime example of the contemporary fashion for melancholia.

Originally composed as an instrumental under the name Lachrimae pavane in 1596, it is Dowland's most famous ayre, and became his signature song, literally as well as metaphorically: he would occasionally sign his name "Jo. Dolandi de Lachrimae".

Hugh Aston (also spelled Asseton, Assheton, Ashton, Haston c. 1485 - buried 17 November 1558) was an English composer of the early Tudor period. While little of his music survives, he is notable for his innovative keyboard and church music writing. He was also politically active, a mayor, Member of Parliament, and Alderman.

The Harmonious Blacksmith is the popular name of the final movement, Air and variations, of George Frideric Handel's Suite No. 5 in E major, HWV 430, for harpsichord. This instrumental air was one of the first works for harpsichord published by Handel and is made up of four movements. An air is followed by five doubles (variations in the English division style): semiquavers in the right hand; semiquavers in the left hand; semiquaver triplets in the right and left hands; and finally demisemiquavers in both hands.

## **Elizabeth Boggs: Art of the Harpsichord**

### **Pièces de clavecin (Francois Couperin)**

- |     |                                     |      |
|-----|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1.  | Les Moissonneurs                    | 2:12 |
| 2.  | Le Baricades misterieuses           | 4:21 |
| 3.  | Soeur Monique                       | 3:30 |
| 4.  | Les Ondes                           | 3:02 |
| 5.  | Le Tic-Toc-Choc, ous Les Maillotins | 2:30 |
| 6.  | Chaconne in F Major (Chambonnières) | 3:59 |
| 7.  | La Dauphone (Rameau)                | 2:57 |
| 8.  | My Lady Cary's Dompe (Anonymous)    | 2:05 |
| 9.  | Pavana Lachrymae (Dowland; Byrd)    | 5:04 |
| 10. | Hornepype (Aston)                   | 2:05 |
| 11. | The Harmonious blacksmith (Handel)  | 2:31 |
|     | (from <i>Suite In E Major</i> )     |      |



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Co.  
14 Station Avenue  
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035-1456

