

Kennedy Harpsichords

Kennedy Harpsichords is a small workshop in Tuscany, Italy building harpsichords and clavichords after 17th and 18th Century historical models.

Our instruments can be found throughout the world and heard on more than 100 recordings.

Welcome to our site.



Kennedy Harpsichords

A selection of our Instruments



• [Mietke 1702-4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

We make a variety of models based on historical examples. Some are rather strict copies while others are loosely based on a 'school' of instruments. While listed here are some examples of instruments that have been ordered in the past, in fact, any other model can be considered as we only make one instrument at a time. Shown above is just a small selection.

All instruments are built using only those materials and methods which were standard practice in the 17th and 18th C. This includes wooden jacks, string material composition reproduced after original samples by Oxford University, and when available, Swiss spruce soundboard wood dating from 1650-1775.

Instruments are normally quilled in delrin but may be bird quilled by request. Any decoration is possible. Some of the world's best artisans are still at work in nearby Florence.

Please write to enquire for prices and delivery times > [Contact](#)

French

Taskin 1769 - double manual
Hemsch 1756 - double manual
Blanchet 1730 - double manual

Flemish

Andreas Ruckers 1640 - single manual
Couchet 1650 - virginal
Ruckers (Colmar) - double manual
J. Dulcken 1745 - double manual

German

M. Mietke 1702/4 - double manual & single manual
C. Zell 1728 double and single manual
C. Hubert 1782 - clavichord
C. Vater 1738 - single manual

Italian

Guisti 1684 - single manual
Pertitus 1684 - single manual
Pisaurensis 1543 - clavichord
Various other Italian models

Kennedy Harpsichords

German Harpsichord

after M. Mietke, 1702-1704 (Berlin)

Our Mietke is designed with a long brass scaling. Having now made more than sixty, it clearly is our most popular model. It's range is FF-f^{'''}, pitched at 392 or 415 with transpositions to 440.

[Enlarge Photo](#)



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords



German Harpsichord after M. Mietke, 1702-1704 (Berlin)



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords

Flemish Harpsichord **after A. Ruckers, 1637 (Nuremburg)**

This instrument is a "standard" Ruckers single with the original registration of 1 x 8', 1 x 4'. The range has been extended to include the accidentals F# and G# and a top d'', somewhat in the manner of the Ruckers "English export" version.

[Enlarge Photo](#)

[View Soundboard](#) 



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords



Flemish Harpsichord after A. Ruckers, 1637 (Nuremburg)



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords

Flemish Harpsichord after J. Dulcken, 1745 (Washington)

This is an example of a full 5 octave
18th C. harpsichord which is well suited for
playing concertos against a full ensemble.
Longer than most scales, it's sound is
powerful and majestic.

[Enlarge Photo](#)



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords



Flemish Harpsichord after J. Dulcken, 1745 (Washington)



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1632](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1732](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords

German Harpsichord after C. Vater, 1737 (Nuremburg)

We have only made a few copies of this harpsichord but it is included here to show the variety of different models that are possible. Shown with original decor.
Range: AA-d''' registration 2 x 8'.

[Enlarge Photo](#)



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords



German Harpsichord after C. Vater, 1737 (Nurenburg)



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords

French Harpsichord after P. Taskin, 1769 (Edinburgh)

Our Taskin is based on the very well known original at St. Cecilia's Hall that was originally owned by the Taskin family until 1952. It represents the height of the 18th C. Parisian school. (range FF-f''', registration 2 x 8', 1 x 4', buff, transposes 392-415-440.

[Enlarge Photo](#)

[View of Soundboard](#)



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords



French Harpsichord after P. Taskin, 1769 (Edinburgh)



• [Mietke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1637](#)



• [Dulcken 1745](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taskin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords



French style soundboard painting by Pamela Gladding



• Mietke 1702/4



• Buckers 1637



• Dulcken 1745



• Vater 1737



• Taskin 1769

Kennedy Harpsichords



Flemish style soundboard painting by Pamela Gladding



• [Mecke 1702/4](#)



• [Ruckers 1627](#)



• [Dulcken 1765](#)



• [Vater 1737](#)



• [Taschin 1769](#)

Kennedy Harpsichords

Workshop

The workshop is now located in the small hill town of Castelnuovo in southern Tuscany.

Originally, it opened its doors 23 years ago in the Swiss Alps (Chateau d'Oex-Gstaad) where the shop gained its first international recognition by 1985. The workshop became known for producing its distinctive sound, in part, because of the novel use of 17th and 18th C. aged wood for the soundboards.

As the demand for our instruments for concerts and recordings abroad increased, particularly in the Netherlands, the shop moved to Amsterdam in 1990 where it remained for the next 12 years. During these years more than 140 harpsichords and clavichords were produced and sent worldwide. They can be found throughout Europe, Scandinavia, the Far East, U.S.A., and South America with many of today's professional players and renowned musical institutions.



They also have the distinction of being chosen as their performance harpsichord by more finalists in the Brugge International Harpsichord Competition than any other maker in the last twenty years.

After a two year sabbatical from making instruments and the restoration of a fine old Tuscan property, the doors of the Kennedy workshop are once again open to the public.

Kennedy Harpsichords

Discography Performers

([Show list by Composer](#))

Performers:

[PIERRE HANTAI](#)
[GUSTAV LEONHARDT](#)
[SKIP SEMPE](#)
[CHRISTOPHE ROUSSET](#)
[ANDREAS STAIER](#)
[BOB VAN ASPEREN](#)
[LA PETITE BANDE](#)
[CAPRICCIO STRAVAGANTE](#)
[ROBERT WOOLEY](#)
[YOSHIO WATANABE](#)
[WILLIAM CHRISTIE](#)
[KENNETH WEISS](#)
[KUIJKEN BROTHERS](#)
[CAROLE CERASI](#)
[LUDGER REMY](#)
[URSULA DEUTSCHLER](#)
[PAUL NICHOLSON](#)
[JAMES JOHNSTONE](#)
[BIBIAN LAPOINTE](#)
[ORCHESTRA OF THE 18th CENTURY](#)
[DAVID CHUNG](#)
[TRIO SONNERIE](#)

Kennedy harpsichords have been used in more than 100 recordings by many of today's performing artists. Below is a partial selection of some of the recordings available.

J.S. BACH	Mietke
------------------	--------

GOLDBERG VARIATIONS

Pierre Hantai, harpsichord
Opus 111 OPS30-84

J.S. BACH	Mietke
------------------	--------

BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS BWV

1046-1051

Pierre Hantai, harpsichord with La Petite Bande
Deutsche Harmonia Mundi 77308

J.S. BACH	Mietke
------------------	--------

CONCERTI pour CLAVECIN BWV 1044, 1052, 1054

Pierre Hantai, harpsichord with Le Concert Français
Astree Auvidis AS128523

GEORG PHILIPP TELEMANN	Mietke
-------------------------------	--------

TRIO SONATAS

Pierre Hantai, harpsichord with Le Concert Français
Auvidis – Astree E 8554

DOMENICO SCARLATTI	Vater
---------------------------	-------

SONATAS K322, K280

From the film track Le Colonel Chabert
Auvidis K1003

JOHANN JACOB FROBERGER	Mietke
-------------------------------	--------

WERKE FUR CEMBALO

Gustav Leonhardt, harpsichord
Deutsche Harmonia Mundi 77923

J.S. BACH	Zell,
------------------	-------

CONCERTOS FOR TWO HARPSICHORDS BWV 1060, 1061, 1062

Bob van Asperen, harpsichord with Melante Amsterdam
Gustav Leonhardt, harpsichord
Virgin Veritas 7243 5 45054 2 3

GEORG BOHM	Mietke
-------------------	--------

KEYBOARD WORKS

Preludium in G minor, Suite in C minor,

Kennedy Harpsichords

**Some institutions owning
a Kennedy harpsichord**

Guildhall School of Music
Ruckers double-manual

London

Juilliard School of Music
Ruckers double-manual

New York

Sweelinck Conservatory
Mietke double-manual
Italian C/E –c''' split sharps

Amsterdam

Tokyo School of Music
Zell double-manual

Tokyo

Hochschule fur Musik
Ruckers double-manual

Vienna

Schola Cantorum
Ruckers double-manual

Basel

Cleveland Museum of Art
Mietke double-manual

Cleveland

Handel House Museum
Ruckers double-manual

London

Zurich Music Conservatory
German single-manual

Zurich

Prague Music Conservatory
Taskin double-manual

Prague

Conservatoire Superior
Zell double-manual

Toulouse

Conservatoire Superior
Zell double-manual

Angers

Hochschule fur Musik
Ruckers double-manual

Trossingen

Hochschule fur Musik
Mietke double-manual
Zell single GG/BB-d'''
Zell single CC-d'''

Hannover

Hochschule fur Musik
Mietke single-manual

Dresden

**Academie fur Schule und
Kirchen Musik**
Mietke single-manual

Lucerne

Kennedy Harpsichords

Some institutions owning a Kennedy harpsichord

Oslo Baroque Orchestra

Mietke single-manual

Oslo

Musik Conservatorium

Ruckers double-manual

Vienna

Festival of Early Music

Dulcken double-manual

Innsbruck

Royal Theater

Mietke double-manual

Madrid

University of Salamanca

Zell double-manual

Salamanca

Pedro Barrie Cultural Foundation

Mietke double-manual

La Coruna

Centre de Musiques Anciennes

Pertitus pentagonal spinet

Geneva

University of Fribourg (CH)

Hubert clavichord

Fribourg

Hangyang University

Mietke double-manual

Seoul

Seoul National University

Mietke single-manual

Seoul

Casa de la Guitarra

Mietke double-manual

Tokyo

Aichi University

Mietke double-manual

Tokyo

Kennedy Harpsichords

Address

Viale della Rimembranza
Castelmuzio (SI) 53020
Italy

Where to find us

The workshop is located in Tuscany
35 km. (20 miles) south-east of
Siena between the wine-towns of
Montalcino and Montepulciano in the
Val d'Orcia.

The village of Castelmuzio is
8 km. North of Pienza next to Montisi.
(exit Valdichiana-Bettola off the A-1
autostrada Roma-Milano).

Telephone

+39 0577 665 828 workshop
+39 3331 651 011 mobile

Email

kennedyharpsichords@libero.it



Aerial view of Castelmuzio



In the neighborhood