

The Western Early Keyboard Association Presents

## ***FLIGHTS OF FANCY***

*Music by Byrd, Frescobaldi and Bach*

### **Gregory Crowell, Clavichord & Harpsichord**

Sunday, November 10, 2019 - 2:00 p.m.

Reed College, Performing Arts Building, Room 320

*Though we think of music mostly in the context of performance today, much of music making in the past happened in the most private spaces of the home, where composers could take refuge from the pressures of employment and commissions by letting their innermost thoughts take musical flight. J.S. Bach took to the clavichord at the end of the day to play spontaneous keyboard transcriptions of his works for unaccompanied strings. Girolamo Frescobaldi reinvented the rich world of the madrigal into a language for the fingers. William Byrd spun brilliant essays in musical imagination over simple harmonic patterns. Each of these composers left a legacy of music that invites us along on their flights of fancy.*

#### **Clavichord**

##### **Extemporized Prelude**

##### **Partita for Unaccompanied Violin (BWV 1006)**

*Preludio*

**Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**

*Arr. for keyboard by Gustav Leonhardt*

##### **Suite in C Minor for Unaccompanied Cello (BWV 1011)**

*Prélude - Allemande - Courante - Sarabande  
Gavotte I - Gavotte II - Gavotte I Da Capo - Gigue*

**J.S. Bach**

*Arr. for keyboard by G. Leonhardt and  
Gregory Crowell*

*Intermission*

#### **Harpsichord**

##### **Toccata settima (Book I, 1637)**

**Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)**

##### **Canzona Quarta: La Pace**

**Giovanni Paolo Cima  
(ca. 1570-1622)**

##### **Wardie's Dump**

**James Woodman (b. 1958)**

##### **Pavana and Galiarda My Ladye Nevells Grownde**

**William Byrd (1540-1623)**

# Gregory Crowell

**Gregory Crowell** has appeared internationally as organist, harpsichordist, clavichordist, lecturer, and conductor, performing in many festivals and conventions, including the American Guild of Organists and Organ Historical Society conventions, the Boston Early Music Festival, the Saugatuck Chamber Music Festival, the Fontana Chamber Music Festival, the Boston Clavichord Society, the International Clavichord Symposium, and meetings of the Southeastern and Midwestern Historical Keyboard Societies. Particularly noted for his performances of the keyboard works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Crowell has been a featured performer at the Weener (Germany) International Bach Series, the Grand Rapids Bach Festival, the Old West Organ Society (Boston) Bach Marathon, and the Valparaiso Bach Institute.

Broadcasts of Gregory Crowell's performances have been heard on numerous radio programs, including NPM's *Pipedreams*, and his compact disc recordings include live organ performances on the OHS label. Crowell's solo performances have been described as "beautiful, flexible, expressive" (The Diapason), "full of panache and expression" (Ostfriesen Kurier), "reliable as a sunrise, steady as a rock, especially in the virtuoso finale" (The Grand Rapids Press), and "this listener cannot recall ever having heard better" (The Boston Herald).

Dr. Crowell has also published widely on subjects related to early keyboard instruments and their repertoire and is the current editor of *Clavichord International*. Dr. Crowell serves as University Organist and Affiliate Professor of Music General Education at Grand Valley State University, and Director of Music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## About the Instruments

**Large Unfretted Clavichord** - *Thank you to Paul Irvin for loan of the clavichord.*

Built in 2001, modeled after a 1784 Hoffmann antique clavichord. It has a five-octave range, as do most late harpsichords and the early fortepianos. There is one pair of strings for each key which permits overlapping tones for a very wide range of phrasing and expressiveness and a type of vibrato. Beside being useful for playing early Classical composers, this type of clavichord inspired its own repertoire which cannot be fully realized on harpsichords or fortepianos.

### Italian Harpsichord

Owen Daly constructed this harpsichord after one by Sicilian builder Carlo Grimaldi, 1697, with the outer case painted by PBO cellist Lori Presthus. With a keyboard range of GG, AA-d''' such instruments were and are very useful for both solo and ensemble playing. To accommodate both period and modern performing styles today, this harpsichord's two choirs of brass strings can be transposed to play at either low (a' = 415) or modern 440 pitch.

### Italian Virginal

Built and donated to Reed by alumna Chloe Lewis, with painting by Reed alumna Elecia Beebe, this virginal is modeled after various 16th- and 17th-century Italian virginals. It has recently been brought much closer to historical practices in stringing, pinning and voicing, and now has a keyboard range of BB-e''' , or f''' , depending on whether it is transposed to play at a' = 440, or 415 position on its single set of brass and iron strings.

## Future WEKA Events - [www.wekaweb.org](http://www.wekaweb.org)

Saturday, February 15, 2020 - Julia Brown, Harpsichord. *All My Children: The Bach Legacy*  
Saturday, May 16, 2020 - Spring Soirée held in Salem, OR

WEKA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and deeply appreciates your memberships and donations to support our early keyboard programs.