

Western Early Keyboard Association

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**Continental Connections: from Mount Vernon to Leipzig,
with Joyce Lindorff, Harpsichord**

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 2:00pm

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland Oregon

YouTube premiere, Saturday, May 17, 2pm - @westernearlykeyboardassoc

Washington's International Parlor

Simphonie	Thomas Alexander Erskine, Earl of Kelly (1732-81)
Joy to Great Caesar	Traditional
Lee Rigg	arr. Alexander Reinagle (1756-1809)
Water Music, Suite in D Major [Allegro] - Alla Hornpipe - Minuet - Lentement - Bourrée	George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) arr. Francesco Geminiani (1687-1762)
Maggy Lauder	Traditional

Pause

A Transnational Masterpiece

Overture in the French Style <i>Overture - Courante - Gavotte I and II - Passepied I and II - Sarabande - Bourrée I and II - Gigue - Echo</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
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Pause

Talk - "Nelly Custis's Musical World"

The recital harpsichord was built in 2006 in the Zuckermann shop, modeled after early 18th century French instruments by Blanchet and Taskin. It has recently been extensively voiced by Paul Irvin, including restringing with Stephen Birkett's historical wire. Thanks to Carol lei Breckenridge for loan of the instrument. Thanks to St. Michael & All Angels for hosting WEKA in this beautiful space.

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

Many Thanks to our recent donors!

*Alan Bostrom, Jillon Dupree, David Edwards, Bonnie Garrett, C. David Harris, Elizabeth Hays, Sue Jensen,
Spencer Reynolds, Richard Smiraglia, Scott Smith, Barbara Ulman*

A Note From the Performer

My 2019 Research Fellowship at George Washington's Mount Vernon afforded me the opportunity to arrive on the very day the much-anticipated reproduction of Washington's Longman & Broderip harpsichord was delivered by its maker, John Watson. It enabled exploration of that instrument's rich possibilities, in tandem with the archives at the Fred W. Smith Library for the Study of George Washington. In particular, among the beautifully preserved personal music books owned by the Washington family are four volumes containing music that would have been played on the original harpsichord, a gift from Washington to his granddaughter Nelly Custis in 1793. Despite Washington's advocacy of American manufacturing, much of Nelly's sheet music, like her harpsichord, was imported from abroad. The list of composers represented is international, including Clementi, Corri, Edelman, Felton, Giordani, Just, Kozeluch, Martini, Nicolai, Pleyel, Pugnani, Rush, Smith, Sterkel, and Vanhal. Also represented is Alexander Reinagle, who after immigrating from England became prominent as a composer, performer and concert organizer in Philadelphia and New York, where he was Nelly's first keyboard teacher from 1789–92. The chronology of the Washington family's keyboards is a bit surprising: first spinet, followed by pianoforte, with the elaborate harpsichord acquired in 1793 remaining dominant quite a bit later than is generally assumed.

Johann Sebastian Bach's *Ouverture nach französischer Art* epitomizes his masterful assimilation of the French style. Summoning images of a theatrical and orchestral entertainment, the spirit of each French baroque dance movement is captured exquisitely. The Gavottes, Bourrées and the final jubilant Echo movement are notable examples of Bach's few solo keyboard works to indicate dynamics, others being the Italian Concerto (to imitate the orchestral tutti and soli) and the G# minor Prelude of the Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II (one piano marking to suggest a terrace effect). - Joyce Lindorff

About the Performer

Joyce Lindorff has earned rave reviews for her performances throughout the US, Europe, Russia, Japan and China, receiving solo recitalist awards from the Pro Musicis Foundation (France) and the National Endowment for the Arts (US). Based in New York for many years, she served as Teaching-Artist with the Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education. She began her teaching career at Cornell University and is currently Professor of Keyboard Studies at the Boyer College of Music at Temple University. For several years she was based in Hong Kong and China, where she taught full-time at the Shanghai Conservatory and later Hong Kong Baptist University, and as an adjunct at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong University, and Chinese University of Hong Kong. Some of her publications include the Chinese language *Anthology of Baroque Keyboard Performance Practice* and research on European musicians in the late Ming and early Qing court. She can be heard on the Titanic, Centaur, CRI, Serenus, Digitech, BCM&D, Affetto and Paladino labels, including the first complete recordings of Poglietti's *Rossignolo*, *Harpsichord Miscellany Book Two*, and the twelve sonatas of Teodorico Pedrini with baroque violinist Nancy Wilson. She also serves as Artistic Director of Music at Fishes Eddy, an early music festival in the Catskills. <https://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/directory/joyce-lindorff/>

NEXT WEKA EVENT: Historical Keyboards Conference, Saturday, October 4, 2025. An entire day of fascinating presentations on early keyboard topics followed by an evening harpsichord recital with guest artist from Spain, Yago Mahúgo. The conference and recital are open to the public.

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