

LECTURE

Harald Vogel

Central/South European influences on Bach

LECTURE

Hans Davidsson

*Tracing the development of the 17th century German Toccata
and its Italian influence*

LECTURE

Keith Hill

The Craft of Musical Communication: Reviving a Lost Tradition

When understood from a cognitive and perceptual point of view, the word "portamento" means exactly what it originally meant when it was coined in Italy in the 17th century. Perceptually speaking, portamento means to transfer (porto, portare) from one mind (mens, mentis) to another. Cognitively speaking, anything which creates an efficient transference of meaning or idea from one imagination to another is a portamento technique. Using this attitude about portamento as tool for making aesthetic decisions appears to have been the central modus operandi of all the greatest artists (musicians, composers, painters, sculptors, architects, instrument makers, and authors) from 1450 - 1900. This is what "The Craft of Musical Communication" is all about."

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Since 1972, Keith Hill has dedicated his career as maker of 239 harpsichords, 48 clavichords, 18 fortepianos, 67 violins as well as 58 other types of bowed stringed instruments, and 8 guitars to figuring out exactly how the musical instrument makers of the 17th and 18th centuries thought about sound. A spinoff, developed originally to enhance his basic acoustical work in instrument making over the last 15 years, is a special way of thinking about aesthetics as it relates to musical performance, composition, and improvisation. That special way of thinking can be expressed in one word: "Portamento". Promulgating this special way of thinking is now Hill's main focus.