

Men, Women and Pianos: Social and Cultural Perspectives Meet Down Home Memories

Keynote Lecture by Kenneth Hamrick

Date: Saturday, August 25, 2012

Time: 3:30-5:00 pm

Location: Piano Performance Museum, Doctorow Center for the Arts, 7971 Main Street, Village of Hunter ([CLICK HERE](#) for directions)

For more information: 518 263 2063

New York Council for the Humanities

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With the sudden advent of the availability of pianos from the United States during the mid-19th century, mainly through the manufacturing boom in New York City along "Steinway Row" in the borough of Queens, American families were compelled to enlist music-artistic pursuits into their active lives, mimicking the lifestyles of Western European homes. By the early 1830s when wood supplies in northern Europe were depleted because of over-forestry, artisan families migrated to the Great Northern Catskills Mountains, where vast wood supplies were referenced as the new "Garden of Eden."

Using a display surveying playable pianos from the Museum collection, distinguished pianist and musicologist Kenneth Hamrick explores the piano as center of household, as a migratory inspiration, and as the center of an artistic-musical-social boom that remains today, as Eco-Arts collaborative influences. Kenneth Hamrick completed performance studies in early keyboard instruments (organ, harpsichord, fortepiano) in the doctoral program for musicology at the Eastman School of Music/ University of Rochester, including coinciding coursework-seminars at Harvard University, Oberlin College-Conservatory Baroque Performance Institute and Indiana University's Early Music Institute. He continued in Europe studying and performing with distinguished leaders in the Early Music field and in important museum collections. He has lectured, performed and taught throughout the world, including seminars at Princeton, Juilliard, Manhattan, Curtis Schools of Music, MUSICORA-Paris, and at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. He led the performance team for the celebrated international symposium "Music and Poetic Arts in 17th Century Italy" at Yale University, also his being cited by the Order of Sons of Italy in America for his service to language and music. His crossover recording with members of the New York Philharmonic made it to the top of many charts. Based in New York City where he founded the research and performance institute American Virtuosi, he is an active conductor and keyboards performer for specialty projects exploring collaborations in opera, dance and theater in all of the major venues, and is consistently praised for outstanding musicianship. He is the recently appointed Artistic Director of the Piano Performance Museum maintain one of the world's important collections of instruments.