

## ST CECILIA'S BURSARY REPORT

*The St Cecilia's Bursary 2005 was awarded jointly to Josephine Yannacopoulou and Nicola Stein. Josephine visited Paris to pursue her studies of medieval stringed instruments. In this report she outlines the valuable assistance her research gained from the support provided by the Bursary. Nicola's report will appear in the next issue.*

The St Cecilia's Bursary which was kindly awarded to me has been of great benefit as it enabled me to travel to Paris to further my research.

Although I spent only five days in Paris I made enormous progress and had the honour to meet two of the most important medieval iconographers and instrument makers, Mr Christian Rault and Mr Olivier Pont, who were both aware of my research, and we exchanged ideas on my work to date. My first meeting with Mr Rault was extremely useful, as he provided me with two rare medieval illustrations of the 'gigue' which I had not seen before. He was also able to point my research in a possible new direction.



*Mr Olivier Pont demonstrates the 'gigue' which he made.*

Mr Rault invited me to MUSICORA, the leading international instrument making exhibition which was taking place at the Louvre. While there, I was introduced to Mr Olivier Pont, who has made reproductions of the 'gigue' after consulting iconographical sources. Mr Pont showed great interest in my research, and offered to perform some improvisational pieces on his 'gigue' in for my video-camera. I made three short movies of him performing on the 'gigue', while explaining on camera the possible

different methods of the medieval performance practice. He was also kind enough to allow me to take many pictures of the instrument he has made, knowing that I plan to make my own 'gigue' in the near future. Finally, I visited and become a member of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, where I spent three days engaged in intensive research at the department of medieval Western Manuscripts. Here I found vital research material which will enable me to further support some of my radical ideas on the instrument's social role in the medieval Church.

My visit to Paris has been an enlightening experience which expanded my horizons, pointed me in new directions and allowed me to meet and speak with two experts in the field of early music. I could not have achieved all of this without the help of the Friends of the St Cecilia's Hall and I am very grateful for your



*Josephine outside Notre Dame Cathedral indicating the figure of King David holding a "gigue".*