

# *SCHOOLS DAY FOR YOUNG HARPSICHORD PLAYERS*



*One of the pupils enjoys playing the famous 1769 Taskin harpsichord.*

playing the  
harpsichord  
is "cool"

On Wednesday 24 May 2006 a group of eight pianists/organists from schools in Midlothian and Edinburgh took part in the second Harpsichord Playing Morning organised by the Friends of St Cecilia's Hall.

The day began with a short welcome by Willie Hendry. A tour of the collection, conducted by Assistant Curator John Raymond, preceded the lessons.

Six course tutors were available to give each pupil a half-hour harpsichord lesson with the students using previously prepared pieces of Grade V or above. Many of the participants had no experience of playing a harpsichord and varied remarks were heard from the

pupils, ranging from "interesting", "really different" and "much clearer than the piano", to "cool".

After light refreshments in the Laigh Room, John Kitchen gave an entertaining and informative recital - playing a selection of pieces on the famous 1769 Pascal Taskin double-manual harpsichord.

Our appreciation is due to the course tutors and to the Friends of St Cecilia's Hall for their kind assistance in delivering this highly successful short course.

*Willie Hendry*

*'education  
and  
conservation'*



*After the lessons, the participants listen to John Kitchen's recital. [Photograph: Martin Hillman]*