

HEREFORD CIDER MUSEUM PIANO

AT HOLY TRINITY HEREFORD

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR HIRERS

The piano is the property of the Museum of Cider Ltd, the trading subsidiary of Hereford Cider Museum Trust. It is managed by Holy Trinity under the terms of a licence agreement between Holy Trinity PCC and the Trust. All financial transactions are conducted through the Holy Trinity PCC accounts and any cheques should be made out to PCC of Holy Trinity.

BOOKING

In the first instance, please contact West Hereford Team office on 01432 273086 (open every weekday afternoon from 2 pm to 5 pm) to check that the piano is available and, if it is being used in Holy Trinity, that the church building is available. The office will 'pencil in' your booking prior to your submission of a booking form and non-returnable £50 deposit. Booking forms (one for use in Holy Trinity and one for use in other venues) are available as .pdf documents on our website (holyltrinityhereford.org), or we can send you one in the post. This form constitutes a legal agreement between your organisation and Holy Trinity PCC and the Terms and Conditions on the reverse are important and should be read carefully. When the booking form is received, a signed copy will be returned to you and this constitutes confirmation of your booking. Please note that the £50 deposit is non-returnable in the event of cancellation.

USE IN VENUES OTHER THAN HOLY TRINITY

The piano may be hired for use in other venues, but please bear in mind that it will cost about £800 in removal fees for a return move within a twenty mile radius of Hereford and more for greater distances. Removal and insurance must be arranged by us on your behalf using only specialised piano removal companies.

TUNING

The piano may be tuned only by tuners on the List of Approved Tuners, a copy of which is available on request. Other tuners may be used only if our agreement is obtained beforehand: any Steinway-approved tuner would normally be acceptable. Our preferred tuner is Phil Kennedy, whose phone number is on the booking form or at: www.philipkennedy.co.uk. Your organisation is responsible for the cost of tuning.

For venues other than Holy Trinity, it is advisable to allow 24 hours to allow the piano to acclimatise to temperature and humidity differences before the tuning for your concert. The temperature and humidity in Holy Trinity are constantly monitored and, as a guideline, if the humidity in your venue is more than 10% different to that prevailing in the church immediately before the move the piano will probably need to be retuned.

You may, at your risk, use the piano in 'as found' tuning state. It will be routinely tuned by us in Holy Trinity four times per year and if we can arrange for one of these tunings to be close to your concert we will always try to do so.

The piano is maintained at International Concert Pitch, A=440Hz.

PAYMENT OF HIRE FEES

Hire fees are payable in advance and cheques must have cleared to Holy Trinity PCC bank account ten working days before the event. Failure to pay fees on time may result in cancellation of the booking. A returnable deposit against damage is payable with the fees: this is £100 for use in Holy Trinity and £250 when other venues are used.

HIRE RATES

Hire fees are £100 per concert (this includes, within reason, rehearsal on another day if necessary) anywhere in Herefordshire and £300 per concert outside Herefordshire.

In certain circumstances these fees are negotiable and the Committee will always give sympathetic consideration in the case of educational projects and work with young people.

CARE OF THE PIANO

To replace this instrument would cost £95,000 and it is expected that you will take the greatest care to ensure that it is not damaged. We apologise if the following seems obvious to you, but we have heard terrible stories from others who hire out concert instruments.

In particular the following must be strictly observed:

- Always close the lid and the keyboard fall when the piano is not in use.
- The cover must always be fitted when the piano is left unattended for longer than a few hours
- No food or drink is to be allowed anywhere near the piano. In particular, the placing of any kind of liquid beverage on it would be regarded as a serious contravention of the Conditions of Hire. Spillage of liquids into pianos often results in irreparable damage.
- Do not allow anyone other than the piano removal company to move the piano
- The piano may not be used in outdoor locations. In large and/or ancient buildings please be aware of the potential danger of droppings from pigeons, bats etc.
- Take particular care not to move furniture in the vicinity of the legs as the high gloss polyester finish is very easily damaged
- No kind of 'prepared piano' use is permitted

The cost of rectifying any damage which occurs during the hire period will be deducted from the damage deposit. If the cost exceeds the deposit figure you can expect a less-than-friendly call from our insurance company.

CONCLUSION

We are sorry that the above has to be so formal. Our sole intention is to ensure that we take every possible measure to protect this precious instrument so that as many people as possible can benefit from it.

We will do everything possible to help to make your concert a success and hope that your performers and audience will enjoy their acquaintance with one of the world's finest pianos.

For further information please contact Stewart Taylor on 01432 273457 or stewart@holytrinity.org.