



Sightings of William Babell and hautboist Jean Christian Kytch from press and playbills

This document, in the main, limits itself to the lifetime of William Babell (1688-1723), thus only including a few references to Kytch after 1723.

Please note that the inclusion of specific works in these press notices and playbills does not guarantee that, in the event, they were actually performed!

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Sources:

The London Stage 1660-1800, A Calendar of Plays, Entertainments and Afterpieces ... compiled from the Playbills, Newspapers and Theatrical Diaries of the Period. Part 2: 1700-1729 'Season of 1707-1708', Southern Illinois University Press, 1960

Tilmouth, Michael. *A Calendar of References to Music in Newspapers published in London and the Provinces (1660-1719)*, Royal Musical Association Research Chronicle I, 1960

Abbreviations:

HIC Hickford's Great Room in James-street near the Hay-market

HAY New Haymarket Theatre

LIF Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre

23 July 1707

At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. During the time of the Horse-Races the beginning of August next. In Nottingham there will be perform'd a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick: The Vocal Part to be perform'd by Mr Hughs, which will be a Collection of Songs taken out of the Operas of Camilla, Thomyris, and Arsinoe; with the Accompanyments as they are Originally done in the said Operas by Mr Corbett, Mr Babell [most likely to be Charles Babel, William's father], and others. Beginning at 7 of the Clock every Evening.

1708

The orchestra of the Queen's Theatre, Haymarket, included Pepusch in the first violins, [William] Babell in the second violins, and father, Charles Babel, in the bassoons. The *Coke Papers* No.50 lists *per diem* salaries: Pepusch £1 5s; [Charles] Babell 15s; Babell Jr 8s

That was also the year that Jean Christian Kytch arrived in London from the Netherlands, shortly to join the Queen's Theatre band.

18 June 1709

Hand and Pen Tavern, St Alban's-street, near the Pall-Mall. Benefit concert for Mr Kytch. Tickets half a guinea.

October 1709

Hot off the press: *The 3^d Book of the Ladys Entertainment or Banquet of Musick being A Choice Collection of the most Celebrated Aires & Duets In the Opera's of Pyrrhus & Clotilda: Curiously Set and Fitted to the Harpsicord or Spinnet: With their Symphonys introduc'd in a Compleat man^r. by M^r: W^m: Babel.*

London, Printed for J. Walsh Servant in Ordinary to her Majesty, and P. Randall. . . & J. Hare, &c. (Smith 308)

27 January 1711

Hot off the press: *The 4th. Book of the Ladys Entertainment or Banquet of Musick Being a Choice Collection of y^e most Celebrated Aires & Duets in the Operas of Hydaspes & Almahide Curiously Set and fitted to the Harpsicord or Spinnet With their Symphonys introduc'd in a Compleat manner by M^r: W^m: Babell.*

London, Printed for I: Walsh Servt. to his Majesty . . . and I: Hare, &c. (Smith 501)

24 April 1711

Hume's Dancing School, Frith Street. Advertisement in the *Spectator*, 21 April, for a Benefit concert for Signora Lodi and Mr Corbett. Included 'a new Cantata with a Solo on the Harpsichord perform'd by Mr Babell Junior, with a Variety of Concertos, and other Pieces Compos'd and perform'd by Mr Corbett and others of the best Masters'.

25 March 1713

HIC. Benefit concert for Signora Lodi and Mr Corbett. Included 'a Solo on the Harpsichord perform'd by Mr Babell Junior'.

1716

Charles Babel died in this year.

10 May 1716

LIF. *The Island Princess* by Peter Anthony Motteux. The evening's music included 'a Concerto to be perform'd upon the Hautboy by Mr Kytch upon the Stage'.

18 May 1716

LIF. *The Fatal Marriage* by Thomas Southerne. The evening's music included 'Two New Concertoes on the Stage by Mr Kitch, on the Hautboy and Double Cortell.'

4 June 1716

LIF. *The Provok'd Wife* by Sir John Vanbrugh. The evening's music included a Concerto upon the Hautboy by Mr Kytch.

February 1717

Hot off the press: *Suits of the most Celebrated Lessons Collected and Fitted to the Harpsicord or Spinnet by M^r: W^m: Babell with Variety of Passages by the Author. Note there are two precedent books for y^e Harpsicord by y^e same hand.*

London Printed for I: Walsh Servt. to his Majesty . . . and I: Hare. (Smith 505)

27 March 1717

Stationers' Hall. A Benefit concert for Mr Kenny (bassoonist) of vocal and instrumental music included 'Compositions of both Kinds by the best Masters; and particularly a New Symphony compos'd by Mr Babel, with a Solo on the Harpsicord to be perform'd by him; and also several New Solos and Concertos by that celebrated Youth, Matthew Dubourg.'

3 May 1717

HIC. A Benefit concert for Mr Leniker with singing by Mrs Turner and Mrs Fitzgerald. 'Two new Symphonies, compos'd by Mr Babel, for the Harpsicord and Violins, will be perform'd by himself and Mr Matthew Dubourg'. With a violin solo by Dubourg, and the music 'by the best Hands in the Opera'.

10 May 1717

Stationers' Hall. A Benefit concert of vocal and instrumental music for Mr Kenny, 'consisting of Compositions of both Kinds by the best Masters; and particularly a New Symphony compos'd by Mr Babel, with a Solo on the Harpsicord to be perform'd by him, and several New Solos and Concertos by that celebrated Youth, Mr Matthew Dubourgh.'
Comment. Benefit Kenny. At 7 p.m. Tickets 3s.

1718

William Babell appointed Organist of All Hallows, Bread-street, London.

18 February 1718

Marriage of William Babell to Alice Green

12 March 1718

Tennis Court in the Haymarket. Another Benefit concert for Mr Kenny of vocal and instrumental music 'by above 30 of the best Masters' included a 'new Overture compos'd by Mr Babel, with a Solo on the Harpsicord to be perform'd by him. A new Cantata, and other Concertos by the same Master. A piece for the Echo-Flute by Mr Paisible and also for the German Flute by Mr Grano' and 'A Solo and a Concerto by that Famous Youth of 15 Years of Age Mr Matthew Dubourg'.

5 April 1718

LIF. *The Wife's Relief* by Charles Johnson. With an Entertainment of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, 'compos'd by Mr Babel for St. Cecilia's Day. The Vocal Parts to be perform'd by Mr Leveridge, Mrs Barbier, and Babel's Scholar, who never appear'd on any Stage before'.

26 April 1718

LIF. *The Jew of Venice* (= *Merchant of Venice*) by Shakespeare. Music as above – Repeat of Babell's St Cecilia's Day music with solos by him on the harpsichord. This was a Benefit performance for Babell himself.

1 May 1718

LIF. *The Busy Body* by Susanna Centlivre. The evening included performances by Richard Leveridge and Mrs Fitzgerald (of Purcell's dialogue *Since Times Are So Bad* (Don Quixote)); by Babel's Scholar accompanied by Mr Babel on the Harpsichord, and by Mrs Barbier.

12 February 1719

LIF. *'Tis Well if It Takes* by William Taverner. Music included a song written by [Lewis] Theobald, set to music by William Babell, and sung by the actor/tenor Mr [George] Pack in Part III.

13 February 1719

HIC. Benefit concert for flautist [Francis] Dahuron of vocal and instrumental music included a Concerto and Solo for the Hautboy perform'd by Mr Kytch.

18 February 1719

HIC. A Benefit concert for Leneker and Mrs Smith of vocal and instrumental music 'by the best Hands' included a new Concerto, Compos'd by Mr Hendel, and perform'd by Mathew Dubourg. Also a Concerto and a Solo by Mr Kytch.

4 March 1719

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. A Benefit concert for Matthew Dubourg included 'a Solo on the Hautboy by Mr Keitch'.

6 March 1719

HIC. A Benefit concert for violinist Mr Rouse Hawley. Included a new Hautboy Concerto played by Mr Kitch.

11 March 1719

HIC. Benefit concert for 'William Douglas, commonly call'd the Black Prince, a Scholar of Mr Grano' in which he played a new trumpet piece by Pepusch. Music included a Concerto and Solo played by Mr Keitch, and a Solo on the German Flute played by Mr Grano.

18 March 1719

Coignard's Great Room in Cross street, near the Globe Tavern, in Hatton Garden. Benefit concert for Mr Vanbrughe, with singing by de l'Epine and Mrs Pulman, both accompanied by Dr Pepusch, singing by Mr Vanbrughe, a Solo and Concerto on the violin played by 'Signor Rousesini' [Rouse Hawley?], an Hautboy Solo played by Mr Keitch, and Solos on the trumpet and German Flute played by Mr Grano.

3 April 1719

LIF. *'Tis Well if It Takes* by William Taverner. A Cantata to be Sung by Mr Armstrong, accompanied by Mr Babel on the Harpsichord.

29 April 1719

Merchant Taylors' Hall. Benefit concert for Signor Pietro, including a Concerto and Solo played by Mr Keitch ...

7 May 1719

HIC. Benefit concert for Mr Keitch including a solo on the bass viol by Signor Pietro ... and several new Solos and Concertos by Mr Keitch on the Hautboy and Little Flute.

19 December 1719

HIC. Benefit concert of vocal and instrumental music for Signior Pietro Guaccini, Servant to his Highness the Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg ... including a Solo on the Hautboy played by Mr Keitch.

23 February 1720

HIC. Benefit concert of vocal and instrumental music for William Douglass, commonly called the Black Prince. Included a Concerto by Matthew Dubourg and a Solo by Mr Kytch.

4 March 1720

HIC. Benefit concert for Joseph Abington Jr. (violinist or trumpeter?) Vocal and instrumental music with singing by Mrs Fitzgerald, Hautboy by Mr Kytch, Flute by John Baston and German Flute by Mr Neale.

1 April 1720

York Buildings. Benefit concert for Raphael Courtivell Jr and the Two American Princes. Included a Solo and Concerto by Matthew Dubourg, German Flute and Hautboy by Mr Grano and Mr Kytch. Also dancing: War Dance by the Indian Princes.

15 March 1721

HIC. Benefit concert for Mr [William] Douglas, commonly call'd Prince, with First Violin by Mr Dubourg, Concerto by Mr Kytch and Solo by J. Festing.

17 April 1721

LIF. *The Busy Body* by Susanna Centlivre. With a Solo on the Hautboy by Mr Kytch.

2 August 1721

HAY. Concert of vocal and instrumental music. 'The Vocal by a young Woman that never sung in Publick before.' Solos by Matthew Dubourg and Mr Kytch.

16 February 1722

HIC. Benefit concert for 'Mr William Douglas, commonly call'd Prince'. Vocal and instrumental music by Mr Castrucci and Mr Kytch.

11 May 1722

HAY. Benefit concert for Mr [John Baptist] Grano, trumpeter and flautist. Music included a Trumpet Concerto by Grano, two concertos by Corelli with the two first Violins in the Opera, a Concerto on the Hautboy by Mr Kytch, a Solo on the German Flute by Grano, a Concerto on the Little Flute by Grano, and a Solo on the Hautboy by Mr Kytch.

6 March 1723

Stationers' Hall. Harpsichord by Babel. Singing by Mrs Fitzgerald. Solo on Violin by Youth of 14 Years, his first in public.

6 March 1723

HAY. Benefit concert for Mrs Atkins of vocal and instrumental music, including a Concerto by Mr Kytch.

6 March 1723

HIC. Benefit concert for 'Mr William Douglas, commonly call'd Prince'. Violin by Michael Christian Festing, Lute by Francisco Weybough, Hautboy by Kytch. [Presumably Kytch was able to play both this and the previous concert with some careful scheduling!]

20 March 1723

Drury Lane. Benefit concert for Mrs Turner Robinson. Music: Overture for French Horns, Hautboys, and Violins composed by Gasperini [sic]; Three Airs sung by Mrs Robinson; Concerto composed by Corelli and performed by Castrucci, Claudio, and Pepo; Three Airs sung by Mrs Robinson; Solo for Hautboy by Kytch; Cantata composed by Handel and sung by Mrs Robinson; New Concerto with French Horns composed by Handel; and Three Airs sung by Mrs Robinson.

5 April 1723

HAY. Vocal and instrumental benefit concert for 'an unfortunate Gentleman'. Concerto by Mr Kytch.

24 May 1723

HAY. Benefit concert for 'John Clegg, a Youth of Nine Years of Age, lately arriv'd from Ireland'. Music: Violin by John Clegg; Concerto by Mr Kytch.

23 September 1723

Death of William Babell

26 February 1724

HIC. Benefit concert for Mr William Douglass, 'commonly called Prince'. Music includes a Concerto and Solo on Hautboy by Mr Kytch; a Solo on Violin by Mr Michael Festing and a Sonata by Mr China.

18 March 1724

HIC. Benefit concert for violinist and harpsichordist [John Christian] Eversman with a Concerto by Mr Castrucci and a Solo by Mr Kytch.

27 March 1724

York Buildings. Benefit concert for violinist, 'Mr Johnson, lately from Ireland'. Music: Overture to [Handel's] *Radamistus*; Three songs out of *Julius Caesar*, performed by Kytch; Three Violin Concertoes by Johnson, one called *The Cuckoo*; A Concerto for Two French Horns composed by Handel; and a Trumpet Piece.

17 April 1724

HIC. Benefit concert for Charles Pardini, cellist [he had played in the Duke of Chandos's band at Cannons for Pepusch and Handel]. Music included Concertos by Castrucci, Solos by Kytch and Violoncello [Solos?] by Pardini.

c.1725

Hot off the press: *Chamber Music. XII Solos, For a Violin or Hautboy: with a Bass, figur'd for the Harpsicord. With proper Graces adapted to each Adagio, by the Author. Compos'd by Mr W^m. Babell, Late Organist of Allhallows Bread street, and One of his Majesties Private Musick. Part the First of his Posthumous Works.*

London, Printed for and sold by I: Walsh ... and Iⁿ. and Joseph Hare, &c.
(Smith and Humphries 107)

c.1725

Hot off the press: *XII Solos for a Violin Hoboy or German Flute with a Bass figur'd for the Harpsicord With proper Graces adapted to each Adagio by y^e Author Compos'd by Mr W^m. Babell, Late Organist of Allhallows Bread-street, and One of his Majestys Private Musick. Part the Second of his Posthumous Works.*

London Printed for and sold by I. Walsh ... and In? Ioseph Hare, &c.

(Smith and Humphries 113)

c.1726

Hot off the press: *Babell's Concertos, in 7 Parts: The first four for Violins and one small Flute and the two last for Violins and two Flutes. The proper Flute being named to each Concerto. Compos'd by the Late Mr Will^m. Babell. Perform'd at the Theatre with great applause Opera Terza. Note: All the Works of this Author may be had where these are sold.*

London, Printed for and sold by I. Walsh ... and Ioseph Hare, &c.

(Smith and Humphries 109)

16 April 1729

HIC. A Benefit concert for Mr Keitch, First Hautboy to the Opera. Music to be performed:

I The Overture of *Ptolomy* by Mr Handel. Songs: *No oh Dio*, sung by Signora Cuzzoni in *Calphurnia*. *Lusinghe piu Care*, sung by Signora Faustina in *Alexander*. Eighth Concerto of Corelli performed by Castrucci and others. French Horn Song in *Griselda*.

II Concerto Grosso by Pepusch, with solo parts for the Harpsicord, to be performed by Mr Bach. Songs: *Fonti Amiche*, sung by Signora Cuzzoni in *Ptolomy*, accompanied by Flutes. *Chio mai vi polla*, sung by Signora Faustina in *Siroe*. Solo for Hautboy by Kytch. Concerto for French Homs, composed by Nicholini.

III Concerto for Hautboy, composed by Alberti. Songs: *Ombra cara*, sung by Senesino in *Radamistus*. *L'Empiorigor*, sung by Signora Cuzzoni in *Rodelinda*. Concerto for Little Flute composed by Babel. First Part of *Water Musick* with French Horns composed by Handel. All the Vocal Parts performed by Kytch on Hautboy, also Little Flute and Bassoon.