

Preface.

THE Loan Exhibition of the Worshipful Company of Musicians was opened by their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales on Monday, June 27, and remained open until Saturday, July 16, 1904. The Exhibition was admittedly most comprehensive, and of musical instruments, books, portraits, MSS., &c., relating to music, it was one of the largest collections ever brought together.

His Majesty The King not only gave his patronage to the Exhibition, but graciously headed the list of lenders. Notable collectors and others generously contributed to its completeness by the loan of beautiful instruments, rare books, unique manuscripts, fine pictures, &c., many of which had never before been exhibited. Moreover, not a few of the exhibitors kindly allowed photographs and facsimiles to be made of their treasures for the purpose of illustrating this Catalogue.

Valuable and instructive Lectures, with musical illustrations, were delivered daily at the Exhibition by experts on various subjects connected with the art of music.

MAY 1, 1909.