

of Ancient Musical Instruments and valuable Printed Books and Autographs. That motive of course is to enable all interested in music under its various aspects to contrast, as a fruitful means of instruction, its past with its present condition—to estimate its growth and development, and to observe what progress has been made in the work of the instrument maker, composer, player, and music printer. From all these points of view it has been sought to make the Exhibition as complete as possible. And in our efforts to accomplish this object we have been stimulated by the Royal favour which our project has received; for their Majesties The King and Queen, and their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales, have not only graciously given us their Royal patronage, but His Majesty has also lent us some priceless musical treasures from the Royal Library at Buckingham Palace.

Indeed we believe it may be confidently said that the present Exhibition surpasses from the point of view of completeness any other that has hitherto been held. Particularly is this the case in the department of printed books; and for this gratifying result we are greatly indebted to Mr. Alfred Littleton and Mr. J. F. R. Stainer, both Liverymen of the Guild, and to Dr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. J. E. Matthew, and Dr. Henry Watson, of Manchester. In autographs, manuscripts, and letters the collection is also particularly rich, and to Messrs. Artaria, to Mr. Adolph Schloesser, Mr. J. E. Street and Mr. Randegger, acknowledgments in this respect are especially due.

So far as the making of musical instruments is concerned, it may be thought by some that little is to be learned from