

# Tafelmusik

## HOUSE OF DREAMS: THE FIVE HOUSES TODAY

The five houses we visit in our production of **House of Dreams** not only really existed historically, but still stand today. The following institutions have greatly enriched our understanding of the culture and history of our “Houses of Dreams” by kindly inviting us to visit and explore their premises, as well as by facilitating photography sessions.



**Handel House Museum** occupies the building at 25 Brook Street in **London** where George Frideric Handel made his home from 1723 until his death in 1759. Handel House is an independent museum working closely with other galleries, museums and private collectors to help tell the story of Handel to the general public and to students of all ages. The interiors are a scholarly recreation of the rooms as Handel lived in them, using all available documentation, prototypes and archaeological evidence. The museum has a lively series of concerts, lectures and interactive activities for children, and special programming specifically designed for blind or partially sighted visitors in remembrance of Handel’s own blindness. The Handel House Composer-in-Residence Scheme uses the talents of composers to engage with Handel’s music and his house in new and innovative ways, creating new works inspired by different aspects of Handel’s music. We are particularly grateful to **Sarah Bardwell**, Director of the Museum, for her warm welcome and enthusiastic interest in *House of Dreams*.

[www.handelhouse.org](http://www.handelhouse.org)



*Claudio Buziol*  
photo credit: Thierry Le Gouff

The **Claudio Buziol Foundation** is based in two magnificent buildings in **Venice**. Its operational headquarters are found next to the Madonna della Salute in the newly restored Abbey of San Gregorio, praised by Ruskin as having one of the most beautiful Gothic courtyards in Venice. In the **Palazzo Smith Mangilli-Valmarana**, former residence of Consul Joseph Smith, visitors may explore special exhibits at certain festival times, such as the Venice Biennale. The Claudio Buziol Foundation was established in 2006 in memory of Claudio Buziol, founder of The Fashion Box, a collection of companies manufacturing and distributing Replay fashion brands in over 50 countries around the world. Claudio Buziol sadly

died in 2005 at the age of 47 and his family established the Foundation to support projects in the area of design and education to foster creativity among young musicians, photographers, graphic and fashion designers, writers and filmmakers. The foundation invites young artists to develop their ideas in workshops and residency programmes. We are grateful to the **Buziol family** and to **Simona Casarotto** for their kind support and facilitation of *House of Dreams*.

[www.fondazioneclaudiobuziol.org](http://www.fondazioneclaudiobuziol.org)



*View of the Grand Canal from the balcony of Consul Smith's house*



*Christina Mahler & Jeanne Lamon  
playing in the Gulden ABC*

**Het Gulden ABC** is a restaurant facing onto the main square of **Delft**, a city which has retained much of the character Vermeer would have known in the 17th century. The café, which serves Dutch specialties such as *pannenkoeken*, large thin pancakes with a variety of fillings, occupies the former residence of the bookbinder Jacob Dissius. The inside of the restaurant has kept the intimate atmosphere of the old bookshop and the walls have reproductions of the original paintings by Vermeer which were hanging in the house at the time of Dissius. Tables in the large outdoor area afford magnificent views of the renaissance Town Hall and the 15th-century Nieuwe Kerk (New Church). Many of the famous carillon bells which still ring to mark the hours date from the time of Vermeer. Thus it is possible to drink your coffee while listening to the same sounds heard by Vermeer and the young women he painted as they stood at the window. We are grateful to proprietor **Dirk Wijtman** for generously allowing us to play music and take photographs during the open hours of his busy establishment.

<http://www.hetguldenabc.nl>



It is a great honour for Tafelmusik to present *House of Dreams* under the kind patronage of Domaine national du **Palais-Royal**, for four centuries a place of pleasure and seat of power in the heart of **Paris**. The distinguished history of this site, which faces the Louvre, started in 1642 with the building of Cardinal Richelieu's residence and continued through the 18th century during the occupancy of the dukes of Orléans. The main buildings we see today were put up between the reign of Louis XV and the Bourbon Restoration in the early 19th century. All that remains from the period treated in *House of Dreams* is the beautiful arcade: the Galerie des Proues with its matched series of sculptures of ships' prows, in honour of Cardinal Richelieu's position as Minister of the Navy. The Palais-Royal was the scene of some of the most important events in French history, providing the stage for revolutionary speakers such as Camille Desmoulins. The Palais-Royal reverted to public ownership in 1871 and was from then on occupied by government departments. Today it is home to the Ministry of Culture and the Constitutional Council, the highest constitutional authority in France. Though the beautiful gardens, shops and cafés remain a favoured destination of Parisians and visitors to the city, the official buildings themselves are not open to the public. Thus we are deeply honoured by the interest in our project and by the welcome received from **M. Patrick Monod**, administrator of the Domaine national du Palais-Royal, **M. Jean-Louis Debré**, President of the Conseil constitutionnel, and **M. Jérôme Seguy**, Treasurer of the Conseil constitutionnel and fount of knowledge about the history of the Palais-Royal, who spent hours introducing Alison Mackay to the buildings and the history of the institution. The visit was facilitated by the guardian angel of *House of Dreams*, **Mme Martine Tridde-Mazloum**, Director of the BNP-Paribas Foundation.

<http://www.palais-royal.monuments-nationaux.fr>





*Alison Mackay looking at a double bass in the Bach House in Leipzig. The bass was housed in the St Nicholas Church in Leipzig during Bach's lifetime.*

The work of the **Bach Museum and Archive, Leipzig** has been of incomparable significance in the life of Tafelmusik. This centre for exhibitions and research is housed in the beautiful Bose House in St. Thomas Square, where Johann Sebastian Bach was a frequent visitor. The Bach Archive, now a part of the University of Leipzig, is directed by the distinguished scholar **Christoph Wolff** and is instrumental in the creation of the edition of Bach's complete works, which are constantly used in the research and performance of Tafelmusik concerts. In the museum, which is an inspiring combination of scholarliness and accessibility, twelve thematically-structured exhibition rooms are dedicated to the life and works of Bach. The displays bring his music to life, provide insights into the methods and various fields of Bach research, and include original Bach manuscripts and other precious items. Innovative and interactive displays allow visitors to take a guided guess at dating Bach manuscripts, to experience the music composed by his ancestors, to take a look at his apartments in the St. Thomas School, and to experience the sounds of Bach's orchestra. The musical instrument room displays a special instrument of which the museum is particularly proud: a double bass built in 1672 by the Bohemian luthier Leonhardt Pradter. This instrument, which is for the most part in its original state, has been in the possession of the St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig for 300 years and was probably played in the first performance of the *St.*

*John Passion*. We are immensely grateful to **Kerstin Wiese**, director of the Bach Museum, for her warm welcome and facilitation of photography, and to Press Officer **Franziska von Sohl** for facilitating our visit. The time spent in the beautifully restored "Sommersaal," the music room where Bach's family is thought to have played music, was a highlight in the preparation of this project.

<http://www.bach-leipzig.de>

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*This document is for reference only and is not to be used for house programmes: tour presenters will be sent programme material specific to their performances.*