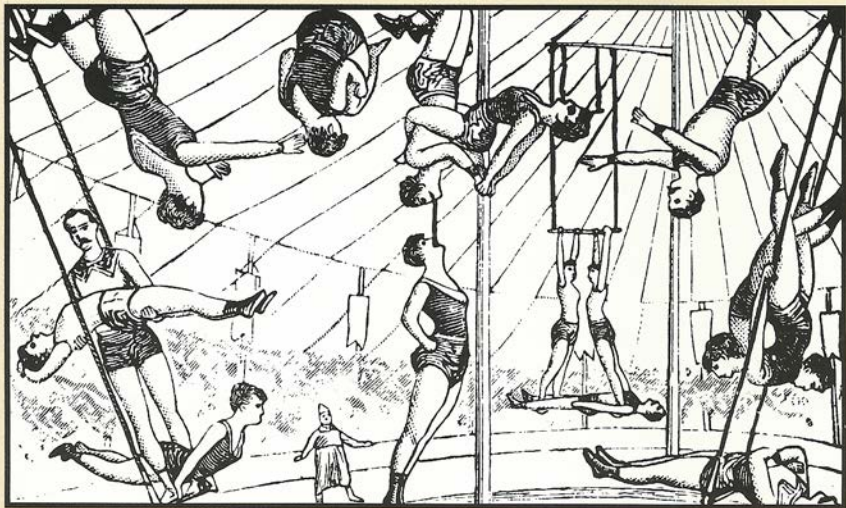


Calliope

A RENAISSANCE BAND



Swings

Jazz, Rags and Blues

Calliope has been performing for over twenty years with the same four members. We have always enjoyed improvising and updating our own arrangements of early music. Performing jazz, rags and blues on renaissance instruments is not a new direction for us. Presenting medieval and renaissance music to the 20th century audience often requires making arrangements of the early melodies and dance tunes. These manuscripts can resemble a modern jazz fake book, allowing the player to decide instrumentation, tempo, mood, type of improvisation and ultimately the length of the piece. Finding ourselves in the late 20th century with the vast array of musical styles ringing in our ears, **Calliope** is carrying on the tradition of the historical musician, enlivening old tunes with contemporary arrangements.

Upon winning the Naumberg Chamber Music Award in 1976, **Calliope** was freed from its renaissance roots with commissions for new music by Hugh Aitken and Alvin Brehm. Peter Schickele, Robert Dennis and Arnold Black have also written for the group. **Calliope** has recorded music for jingles, TV films, the David Parsons Dance Company and other special projects.

After years of improvising in the 16th century styles, *L'homme arme* 1979 was our first extended effort taking an old tune into the 20th century. *L'homme arme* (The Armed Man) lends itself especially well to each individual taking a "chorus", held together by a distinctive rhythmic pattern made up by our percussionist, Ben Harms.

Ben was responsible for our foray into ragtime. In the mid-1980's he was inspired by the xylophone rags of George Hamilton Green (1893-1970). The xylophone's 16th century predecessor, the *strawfiddle*, was a bit too limited for these technically demanding pieces, so Ben resorted to using an "original" instrument: a G.H. Green

model xylophone made in the 1930's by the Leedy Company. The accompaniments (originally piano parts) for these rags evolved with Allan Dean and Larry Benz improvising delicate riffs on the cornetto and sackbut, while Lucy Bardo supported the entire venture by playing a pizzicato "stride" viol. Ben also came across the appropriately named *Calliope Rag* by James Scott.

Frederic Hand has performed with us frequently over many years as lutenist and vihuelist. His tantalizing rhythmic and harmonic ideas inspired our version of the *Ortiz Recercada Primera*. The original ricercar from 1553 starts with and maintains a simple chord progression throughout under a sensuous improvisatory melody. Our chord progression wanders into the late 20th century, taking the melody with it, and then wanders back out again, ending in the 16th century. Fred also contributed the evocative *Fantasy for Bass Viol* written especially for Lucy and premiered by **Calliope** in 1995.

Mit Ganczen willen, along with *L'homme arme* and *Ich far dohin* are 15th century tunes which we are continually arranging and rearranging. *L'homme arme* 1989 started out with a bass line, then individual variations led us to the quasi jazz version found here. This inspired Allan to work on a jazz waltz arrangement of *Ich far dohin* with chord changes supplied by his nephew, Kevin Dean, who teaches jazz studies at McGill University in Montreal. While visiting Allan in 1994 Kevin also composed a blues with a few riffs that Allan arranged for the early instruments. Larry christened it *Forsooth Blues*. Kevin and Allan collaborated on the *Susato Pavan*, Kevin's arrangement orchestrated by Allan for gemshorns. Allan added two Phalsee dance tunes with a Latin feel. *Log Cabin Blues*, with its Stephen Foster quote, rounds out the program.

Lucy Bardo (vielle, viols), a native of Wyoming, studied at Oberlin College and Indiana University. She is a member of the New York Consort of Viols and the baroque ensemble, Vineyard Musicke. She also performs frequently with the Berkshire Bach Society. She has recorded for Nonesuch, Columbia, Vanguard, Telarc and Musical Heritage.

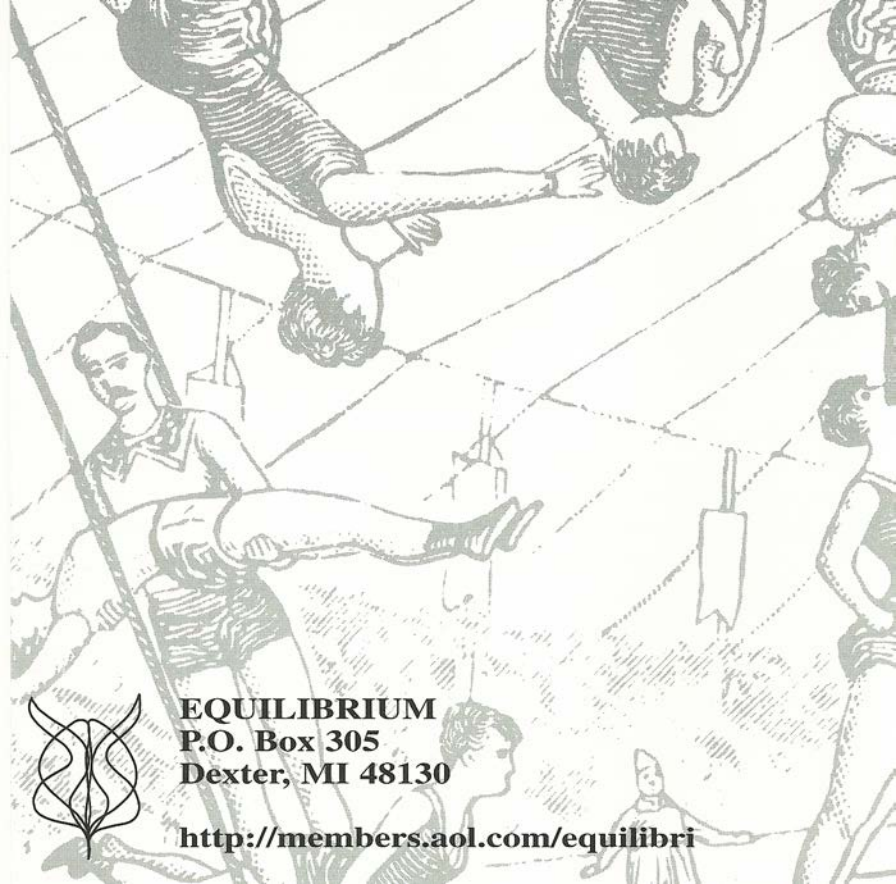
Lawrence Benz (sackbut, recorders) free-lances in New York on tenor, bass and contrabass trombones. He performs with the Brooklyn Philharmonia and the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra.

Allan Dean (cornetto, gemshorns, recorders) is Professor of Trumpet at the Yale School of Music and is a member of Summit Brass, The St. Louis Brass Quintet and the New York Cornet and Sacbut Ensemble.

Ben Harms (percussion, viol, recorders) completed undergraduate studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and the Curtis Institute, holds an MA in musicology from the City University of New York, and did further academic study in Germany as a Fulbright scholar. In addition to Calliope, Mr. Harms performs with the Metropolitan Opera and several early music ensembles. He is a maker of historical percussion instruments.

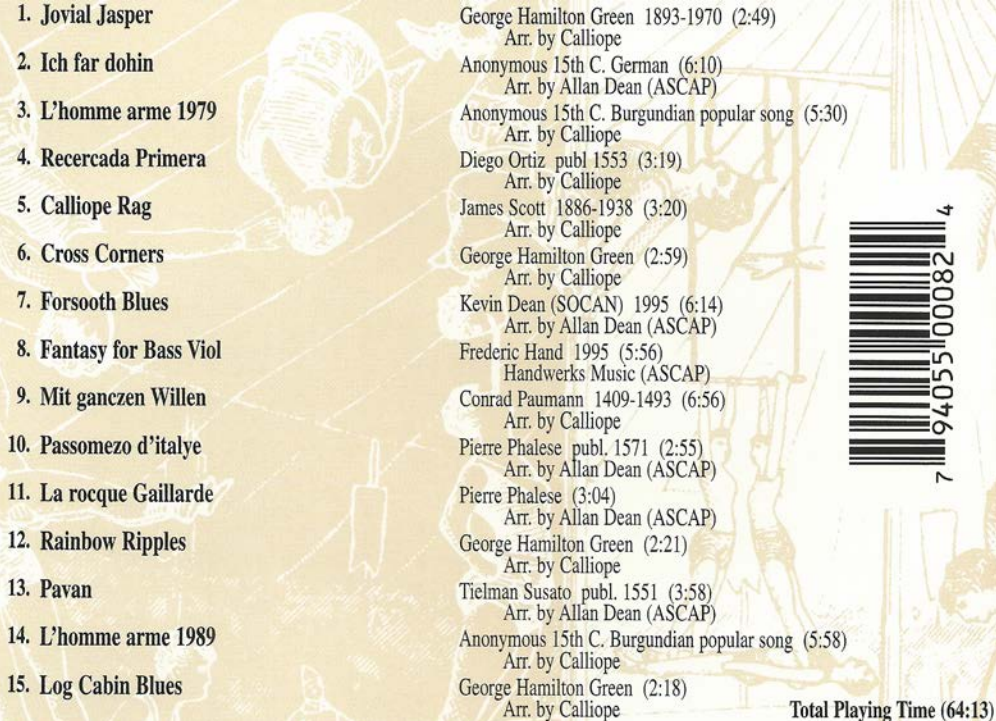
~ *Guest Artist* ~

FredERIC Hand (lute, vihuela) is guitarist and lutenist for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and recently appeared as a soloist at the Mostly Mozart Festival. He is an Emmy-award winning composer for film and television.



EQUILIBRIUM
P.O. Box 305
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1. Jovial Jasper
George Hamilton Green 1893-1970 (2:49)
Arr. by Calliope
2. Ich far dohin
Anonymous 15th C. German (6:10)
Arr. by Allan Dean (ASCAP)
3. L'homme arme 1979
Anonymous 15th C. Burgundian popular song (5:30)
Arr. by Calliope
4. Recercada Primera
Diego Ortiz publ 1553 (3:19)
Arr. by Calliope
5. Calliope Rag
James Scott 1886-1938 (3:20)
Arr. by Calliope
6. Cross Corners
George Hamilton Green (2:59)
Arr. by Calliope
7. Forsooth Blues
Kevin Dean (SOCAN) 1995 (6:14)
Arr. by Allan Dean (ASCAP)
8. Fantasy for Bass Viol
Frederic Hand 1995 (5:56)
Handwerks Music (ASCAP)
9. Mit ganczen Willen
Conrad Paumann 1409-1493 (6:56)
Arr. by Calliope
10. Passomezo d'italye
Pierre Phalse publ. 1571 (2:55)
Arr. by Allan Dean (ASCAP)
11. La rocque Gaillarde
Pierre Phalse (3:04)
Arr. by Allan Dean (ASCAP)
12. Rainbow Ripples
George Hamilton Green (2:21)
Arr. by Calliope
13. Pavan
Tielman Susato publ. 1551 (3:58)
Arr. by Allan Dean (ASCAP)
14. L'homme arme 1989
Anonymous 15th C. Burgundian popular song (5:58)
Arr. by Calliope
15. Log Cabin Blues
George Hamilton Green (2:18)
Arr. by Calliope
- Total Playing Time (64:13)**



Recorded at the United Church of New Marlborough, Southfield, Massachusetts, April 1995 • Engineered by Dongsok Shin, assisted by Michael Hesse • Program notes by Calliope • Cover Design by Julie Shapiro • Cover picture from "Old Time Circus Cuts, A Pictorial Archive of 202 Illustrations", Charles Phillip Fox, Editor • Producer: Michael Udow • Mastering: Will Spencer, Solid Sound, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI • Equilibrium Logo: Rita Blitt