

### Longman Clementi Square Piano, c.1799

A five-and-a-half-octave (FF-c<sup>4</sup>) double-action square piano in a mahogany case with inlaid boxwood stringing, sitting on a 'French' Sheraton stand with brass medallions covering bolts and tapered thin legs ending with castors. The ceramic plaque reads: 'New Patent / Longman, Clementi & Comp<sup>y</sup>/ Cheapside / London.' Stamped with the serial numbers '1168' to the well to the left of the keyboard and '351' to the wrestplank. Debates about such numbers appear to have been resolved by the exhaustive research on surviving Clementi instruments by Leif Sahlqvist (2013): the first is a serial number for the 'new patent' double action introduced by Longman and Broderip in 1794 and the second marks production since Longman, Clementi and Co. was set up in 1798 after the liquidation of Longman and Broderip – both date to 1799. Other stamped numbers include '03' and '68' on the spine, and '3' to both the back of the nameboard and the nameboard support plug to the keyboard's right; '3' and '03' are the builder's code, while '68' is simply the last two digits of the new patent serial number and would have been stamped during the initial carpentry production of the case. '1111' appears to be incised to the bottom panel inside the case. The keys have stamped and hammers inked sequential numbers while the wrestplank has inked pitch indicators for pins.

Longman and Broderip was set up in 1776 as the successor to three companies, the first marking when James Longman (1746–1803) began trading from 26 Cheapside, London, in 1767, supplied by makers in the Tottenham Court Road area. In its later years the company also had premises at 13 Haymarket. Longman and Broderip was declared bankrupt on 27 May 1795, but managed to continue selling instruments until its final liquidation in 1798. Its assets, and the premises at 26 Cheapside, were acquired by the new company, Longman, Clementi and Co., on 1 November 1798, although some went to a new company in which Francis Broderip (1750–1807) partnered with Wilkinson. Longman, Clementi and Co. advertised its existence on 3 November in *The Times*. Muzio Clementi (1752–1832) was the most prominent partner. Born in Rome, he had settled in London in the 1770s, and his relationship with Longman and Broderip dated back to 1786, when that company began to publish his compositions. His partners were Josiah Banger, Frederick William Collard, David Davis, Frederick Augustus Hyde and John Longman. David Rowland (2011: 125) notes that Collard, Davis and Hyde had previously worked for Longman and Broderip, while Banger and Clementi were appointed two of its assignees when the company went bankrupt. John Longman was the brother of James, the senior partner of Longman and Broderip, and became a partner in Longman, Clementi and Co. presumably because James could not raise capital, although he seems to have left James to act on his behalf while he continued living in Somerset. The partners all had significant expertise in music publishing and music instrument making. But, Longman, Clementi and Co. was short-lived. John withdrew in June 1800, and the Longman name was dropped in May 1801 (as per an announcement in the *London Gazette*). James Longman departed and was soon back in Fleet Prison, where he died as his debtors circled in 1803. Longman, Clementi and Co., however, lived on, first as Clementi and Co., and then, through various changes in partnership or ownership, into the mid twentieth century as Collard and Collard.

Restored in 2008 by Jean Maurer.

