

The Robert Hauptfuhrer Memorial Harpsichord was built by the legendary William Dowd in 1966 and commissioned by Dr. Merrill Kenneth (“Kenny”) Wolf, a child prodigy who was referred to by *Life* magazine as the “Yale Prodigy multi-talented whiz-kid” who at the time held the Guinness World Record for being the youngest college graduate ever at age 14.

Our harpsichord is a French “double,” modeled after a 1770 French Taskin harpsichord from the Yale University Musical Instrument Collection. Taskin’s harpsichords

were among the most revered harpsichords of their day, renowned for their refined sound and innovative features like knee levers for controlling stop combinations. Sadly, there are only seven Taskin harpsichords left in the world. The term “double” refers to the existence of two keyboards. The lower keyboard controls two sets of strings (also known as “choirs”) at 8’ and 4’ pitch; the upper keyboard controls one set of strings.

