

# Basic Detail Report

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## Harpsichord

### Date

1607

### Primary Maker

Andreas Ruckers

### Description

This harpsichord underwent a process known as "petite ravalement", a common practice in late 18th-century France in which harpsichords were altered to accommodate more keys. In extreme instances ("grand "ravalement"),

the case of the harpsichord was enlarged, and the original keyboard was disposed of. In a less obtrusive "petite ravalement", the case was left intact, and the original keys were replaced with slightly narrower keys in order to increase the compass. Original disposition C/E to c3 (45 notes) 1x8' + 1x4' Buff stop divided at f1/f#1. Current disposition C to d3 (51 notes) 2x8' + 1x4' Buff stop simultaneously affecting both sets of 8' strings, divided at b/b, controlled by rotating knobs at the front of the nameboard. Plugged holes in the wrestplank, 8' nut, and 8' bridge indicate an early alteration in which a second set of 8' strings was added in place of the 4'. The compass remained C/E to c3, and the 4' bridge and nut were left in place. Soundboard with painted decoration including the date "1607." Although the case was redecorated during the 18th and/or 19th century, it is essentially unaltered, retaining its original dimensions, internal construction, bottom board, and tool compartment with a door in the spine. The original bridges, nuts, and key frame were retained in the petit ravalement during which the keys and action were replaced. Soundboard and wrest-plank veneer decorated with painted arabesques and flowers in the typical early Andreas Ruckers style.

### Dimensions

Length: 1812 mm Width: 720 Height of case: 245 (max.) with bottom, 230 mm without bottom The longer 8' c2 string is now 363 mm long.