

The composer **George Lloyd**, **Lady Emma Hamilton**, and her violin.

Violin believed to have belonged to Lady Emma Hamilton discovered in the George Lloyd Music Library, in Kendal, Cumbria.

Lady Emma Hamilton (1765 - 1815) had a truly extraordinary life. The daughter of a Welsh blacksmith she rose to keep company with the highest in the land, married a lord, was mistress of Lord Nelson, England's greatest hero and celebrity, but was ostracised after Nelson's death and died in poverty in France, hounded by her creditors.

Emma was known as a great beauty and an experienced dancer. She was certainly an accomplished musician - a fine operatic singer and proficient at the harp. Elisabeth-Louise Le Brun painted her playing the tambourine, Joshua Reynolds painted her at the keyboard, and George Stubbs made drawings of her playing the cymbals and the lyre. Her husband, Sir William Hamilton, was a particularly good violin player, and there is a painting of him playing chamber music with Mozart in Naples. It now appears that Emma herself may also have been a violinist.

The violin in question belonged to the English composer **George Lloyd** (1913 – 1998) The fine instrument is believed to be made by **John Betts** in about 1800 and was purchased for George Lloyd at the age of 16, when he was taken on as a pupil by England's leading violinist, Albert Sammons, (famous for the first recording of the Elgar violin concerto.)

With the Betts violin came a letter, written by someone calling herself '**Black Auntie**' and the letter sets out the path by which the violin came into her hands. The letter states that it was given to her father by one **John Tanner**, who was grandson of **Lady Emma Hamilton's** butler, a **Mr John Jefferies**, who had married Lady Hamilton's maid, and '*between them they were given a good many things.*'

The letter of course proves nothing, and **The George Lloyd Society** is now appealing for information about Mr Jefferies the butler and Mrs Jefferies the lady's maid, to try to verify the story. The letter states that the Jefferies came from Brighton or Hove, where they had a 'house agency' and newsagent shop, called **Jefferies and North**, and where Mrs Jefferies had a hat shop.

The violin itself has been appraised by various experts and dealers since it was given to George Lloyd in 1929 and although not signed, the attribution to John Betts has been confirmed. Any information which sheds light on this mystery will be much appreciated:

- Did Emma Hamilton play the violin?
- Did she have a butler and maid called Mr & Mrs Jefferies from Brighton?
- Did the Jefferies have a grandson called John Tanner?
- Who is Black Auntie?
- Was the violin made by John Betts?

For the full story and background information, click here:

[Lady Emma Hamilton's Violin](#)

PRESS NOTICE: Embargoed until 13th May 2019

The composer George Lloyd, Lady Emma Hamilton, and her violin.

**THE
GEORGE LLOYD
SOCIETY**

Ends/



The '*Lady Hamilton*' violin, by John Betts.

Background:

Link: The George Lloyd Society: www.georgelloyd.com

Link: [David Shepherd plays Emma Hamilton's violin](#) (Facebook Video)

Link: [George Lloyd – Music for Violin](#), Violin music by George Lloyd, played by Tasmin Little. (Audio download)

Link: [The Swing of the Pendulum: George Lloyd and the crisis of Romanticism.](#) (Download PDF)

A new article by musicologist Peter Davison

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION including high resolution photographs and interviews
please contact William Lloyd. lloydmusicltd@gmail.com



**THE
GEORGE LLOYD
SOCIETY**