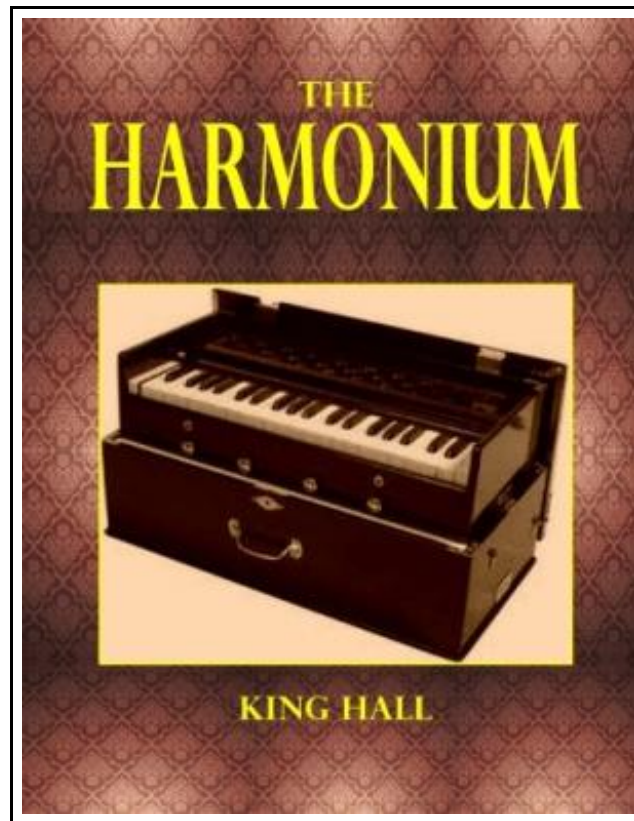


The Harmonium



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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.A excerpt from the beginning of the first chapter: SKETCH OF THE FREE REED. The harmonium is one of a large family of instruments owing their origin to the invention or, more properly speaking, the revival of the free reed. The production of sound by the vibration of an elastic tongue has many claimants to its invention; foremost among whom may be mentioned Kratzenstein, a German, living at St. Petersburg in the reign of Catherine II., and Grenie, a Frenchman. The former applied the free reed to certain organ stops; the latter constructed two free reed instruments, called by him Orgues expressives in the year 1810, which were sent to the Conservatoire des Arts. But the free reed, in various forms, notably in those of the Chinese organ and the Jew s harp, was in existence long before its application by Kratzenstein and Grenie. The Jew s harp (many years ago known by the name of crembalum, also called biambo by the Greeks of Smyrna), is an early form of the free reed, and was known as far back as the year 1619, possibly earlier even than that. The cheng, or Chinese organ, which is still in use, claims precedence in point of age; and it is even asserted by the Chinese that in the time of Confucius, who died about 479 B.C., the cheng was used in the religious rites which were performed in his honor. Be this. as it may, the instrument is undoubtedly of high antiquity, and its original form has undergone very slight modification. The cheng contains a number of tubes of bamboo reed (generally 13, 17, 19, or 24), placed upright in af...

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