

March 2014
Edition 6

B-A-C-H - STAGE NEWS & SOUNDS

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach—300 years

Dear friends and Bach enthusiasts,

I am writing this on 8 March 2014, the day J.S. Bach's second-eldest son Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach was born 300 years ago. 'Weekend Breakfast Music' on ABC Classic FM this morning has music by both father and son on the program. Delightful! I am also delighted to hear an announcement of Frank Pam and his Melbourne Musician's concert tonight at St. Johns Southgate aptly called 'CPE Bach 300'. 'Friends of the Bach Society' in Germany have invited me to a range of events celebrating the birth of another Bach genius, an important and often underrated composer.

Your Bach Society for 2014 has assembled a program which showcases Bach and his music from very different angles: From 'The Art of Fugue' and two contemporary Australian composers interpretation of Bach's universal composition style to a 'Bach Guitar Festival' with a world-premiere of 'The Guitarist's Bach', followed by more CPE Bach and an exciting Melbourne Bach Forum in July.

You can read more about all these events in this issue of our Newsletter. Enjoy!

Hans Schroeder

Not to be missed:



Ann-Helena Schlüter is an outstanding young pianist with many international awards to her credit. She has explored many music genres and her artistic talents include writing lyrics, poems and even painting. The music of J.S. Bach has fascinated Ann-Helena for many years. She is currently working on her Ph.D. at Leipzig University on 'The Art of Fugue' and recently recorded a double-CD which will be released in Australia during her upcoming visit.

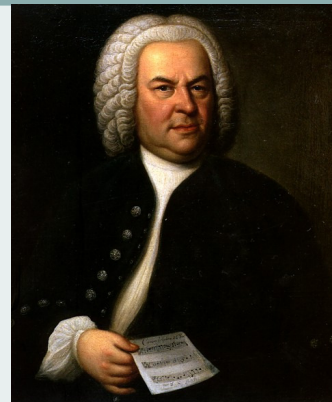
Concert dates:

Wednesday 26 March 7 pm St. Johns Southgate: **Piano Poetry** (J.S. Bach Goldberg Variations, L.van Beethoven Waldstein Sonata and more)

Tickets: \$ 35 and \$ 25 (concession) Bookings: www.trybooking.com/EFBK

Saturday 29 March 7 pm Trinity College Chapel: **Bach Inspirations**, in partnership with QUARTZ String Ensemble (J.S. Bach The Art of Fugue and works for strings by J. Haydn, E. Kats-Chernin and G. Koehne)

Tickets: \$ 35 and \$ 25 (concession) Bookings: www.trybooking.com/EFBQ



Australian Bach Society Inc

Founded in 2011 as an initiative of the German Lutheran Trinity Church East Melbourne.

Our **mission** is to cultivate and disseminate a local appreciation of the music of J.S. Bach, his family and contemporaries, as well as sacred/classical music in general by arranging performances, lectures and other activities.




Information & Contact



Australian Bach Society Inc.
22 Parliament Place
East Melbourne VIC 3002
www.bach.org.au
info@bach.org.au

President: Hans Schroeder
Mob. 0425 802 046
Publicity: Thomas Bell
Mob. 0432 227 563

CPE Bach - 300th Anniversary - A Genius Musician



March 8, 2014, marked the anniversary of Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's birthday. Johann Sebastian Bach's second eldest son is the most important representative of the sentimental movement in music. The sentimental movement finds itself at home in between the baroque epoch and the classical movement from Vienna. C. P. E. Bach's body of work is incredibly diverse. It includes a variety of musical styles of instrumental music, including symphonies, chamber music, piano sonatas, pieces for solo instruments as well as ecclesiastic and worldly vocal music of all genres. For more information: <http://www.cpebach.de/en> and <http://www.bach-leipzig.de>

CPE Bach's work will be the centre of **Bachfest Leipzig** from 13 – 22 June 2014. The motto **'The True Art'** is a reference to CPE Bach's famous textbook *'Essay on the True Art of Playing Keyboard Instruments'*.

But you don't have to travel all the way to 'Bach country'. In country Victoria near Seymour you'll find **Peter Hagen's Broadford Salon** – a venue for chamber music, small and intimate. **'Storming CPE Bach'** is the title of the Tricentenary Concert on Sunday 30 March 4:00 pm, *Peter Hagen* playing the harpsichord. More information: www.peterhagen.com.au

This photo from Broadford Salon depicts Peter and wonderful oboist *Jane Downer*. As ensemble **Austral Harmony** they will be presenting an all CPE Bach concert in our 2014 Program Series on Saturday 4 October 3:00 pm at La-bassa Mansion in Caulfield.



The German Church East Melbourne is the venue for a **'Hamburg Bach'** concert on Saturday 24 May 3:00 pm with *Anthony Halliday* (organ) and *Geoffrey Payne* (trumpet). They will be exploring the musical relationship between the great masters of 18th century Hamburg church music, CPE Bach and his godfather Georg Philipp Telemann.

HOMAGE TO BACH—COMPOSITION COMPETITION FOR GUITAR

The Classical Guitar Society of Victoria in collaboration with the Australian Bach Society launched the 2013 Composition Competition 'Homage to Bach'. More than 30 works were received but there can only be one winner. *Michelle Nelson* (VIC) was awarded first prize. Runner Up was *Tom Adeney* (QLD).

We invited *Michelle* to write about her piece:

'**The Guitarist's Bach**' is a homage to the so-called 'Lute Suites' of JS Bach, composed for the modern classical guitar. It is modeled on the forms and musical style of those eponymous works and uses two well-known motifs as the starting point for the whole suite. It also features several structural, harmonic and textural references that experienced guitarists and lovers of Bach's music will recognize.

The suite, in E Major, comprises a Prelude, Courante, Sarabande, Bouree and Gigue. The two phrases that it is built on appear within the first 4 bars.

The first is a 5/4 adaptation of the opening to Bach's prelude in the prelude of BWV 1006a, and the second is a clear reference to the opening of Suite, BWV 997.

In response to the competition requirement for entries to offer clear pedagogic value, two versions of the **Prelude** have been composed; one a short piece with no development, the other a longer work with a middle section that features further harmonic references to the BWV 1006a Prelude.

The following movements all feature clear stylistic referencing to JS Bach. The **Courante** evokes the French style, especially in rhythm but contains an almost bluesy ending. The **Sarabande** is a slow example of the style with the melodic emphasis on the 2nd beat of each bar, and recalls the abstract style of the Sarabande from Suite BWV 995.

The **Bouree** is modeled structurally on the famous example from Bach's Suite BWV 996. It employs the same classic binary structure and guitarists will recognize the contrary-motion of the opening phrase of each section as being a reference to the Bach model (the opening of the second half especially recalls the manner in which the Bach work opens in the guitar version).

The **Gigue** is in the classic Bach style; tonic major opening leading to dominant harmony concluding the A section, then repeating. The B section opens with dominant harmony and finds its way back to the tonic via short modulations to related keys, ala Bach. Fittingly for the style, a fair tempo is expected but players will find this gigue very 'guitaristic' as it has been written for the modern finger-board.

THE COMPOSER

Michelle Nelson is a composer, guitarist and creative educator committed to developing instrumental works that are contemporary but also draw inspiration from traditional composition practice. Her popular works *Brolga Dances*, *Capricorn Light* and *Pacifica* (2009), and *Amorevolezza*

(2005) reflect these aims.

Michelle is driven by the belief that, in a world of cut-and-paste computer-generated music, the art of written music composition is more vital than ever, and that in depth study of the works of JS Bach, and other acknowledged masters, is essential to safeguard, promote and extend the art of composed music during the 21st century.

Michelle's 2013 CD of original compositions '*After The Fire*' is available through MOVE Records [move.com.au]



You can be part of the World Premiere of *Michelle's* winning piece at the upcoming **Bach Guitar Festival**, a collaborative effort between the **Australian Bach Society** (Mission: To cultivate and disseminate a local appreciation of the music of J.S. Bach) and the **Classical Guitar Society of Victoria** (Mission:... Fostering the growth of Classical Guitar). You will experience the best of the best in Guitar playing in Victoria:

Tonié Field + Daniel McKay + Melbourne Guitar Quartet + CGSV Guitar Orchestra + Peter Huf (guitar) and Rod Junor (organ)

When: Sunday 6 April 2014 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Where: Toorak Uniting Church 603 Toorak Rd Toorak VIC 3142

Tickets: \$ 40 and \$ 25 (concession) Bookings: www.trybooking.com/ELQF





From The Artistic Director of London Bach Society 11 March 2014

To the Australian Bach Society

Dear Friends and Fellow Bach Enthusiasts

It is with great pleasure that I send warm greetings from all of us in the **London Bach Society**. It is so good to know that Bach's music is being lovingly and energetically promoted in Australia and we hope that you go from strength to strength in the years to come. The country has a rich history of Bach performances, especially the St. Matthew Passion, as I heard in Poland last July at the Bach Network Dialogue Meeting. Meeting *Jan Stockigt*, *Samantha Owens*, *Jula Szuster* and *Alan Maddox* in Warsaw and listening to their marvellous papers was a real joy.

We see our greatest responsibility now is to provide a key that opens the door to Bach's fabulous treasury of music for the new generations, creating opportunities for them to perform and study it and for new audiences to be enriched by listening to it.

I look forward to receiving a report of your July Forum with *Christoph Wolff*, which we shall publish in our Journal in September.

Please accept my personal good wishes for your future success.

Yours very sincerely

Margaret Steinitz

Visit www.bachlive.co.uk for more information



STOP PRESS: Eminent Bach scholar Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c.mult *Christoph Wolff* (Harvard/Leipzig) will be the **Key Note Speaker** at **Melbourne Bach Forum** 25 and 26 July 2014.

UPCOMING BACH EVENTS IN MELBOURNE

This year Melbourne is blessed with three different events presenting J.S. Bach's monumental works:

Video: 'St. Matthew Passion'

Berliner Philharmoniker (Sir Simon Rattle) – and a stellar cast of soloists and two choirs: Rundfunkchor Berlin and Knabenchor des Staats- und Domchors Berlin, Ritualization: Peter Sellars (in German, with English subtitles)

Wednesday 2 April, 6:30 – 10:00 pm Toorak Uniting Church 603 Toorak Rd

Presented by Australian Bach Society in collaboration with Toorak Lenten Studies Group
Free entry – Please register your attendance via www.trybooking.com/EIQF

'St. Matthew Passion'

Melbourne Bach Choir and Orchestra, conductor: Rick Prakhoff

Saturday 5 April 7:00 pm and **Sunday 6 April** 2:30 pm

All Saint's Anglican Church 2 Chapel Street East St.Kilda

Bookings: www.trybooking.com.au/EBNG or 0422 617 690

'St. John Passion'

The Choir of Trinity College and The Bach Orchestra, conductor: Jonathan Grieves-Smith

Saturday 12 April 7:30 pm St. Paul's Cathedral Melbourne

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/76174