

BachNetworkUK



FIFTH J. S. BACH DIALOGUE MEETING

EDINBURGH 12-14 AUGUST 2011

***BACH, HANDEL and the FRONTIERS of the
BAROQUE***





Bach Network UK was founded in 2004 to increase worldwide knowledge and appreciation of the music of Johann Sebastian.

Our web journal *Understanding Bach* is published annually as an important means of disseminating Bach research presented and discussed at the Dialogue Meetings. Following the success of four J. S. Bach Dialogue Meetings based in Oxford, BNUK has exchanged the annual pattern for a biennial pattern of Dialogue meetings with additional cultural opportunities. As before Bach scholars, Baroque specialists, performers students and enthusiasts are all welcome.

Bach Network UK has obtained a historic base for the fifth Dialogue Meeting at one of Edinburgh's leading private schools, Loretto (illustrated on the front cover). The Dialogue Meeting as currently planned will coincide with the 2011 Edinburgh International Festival. We anticipate being able to offer well-priced accommodation with on-site collegiate-style rooms for up to five nights, so as to allow Dialogue participants also to enjoy the Festival, which features a rich programme of classical music, theatre and exhibitions in the historic Scottish capital.

Since space will be at a premium you are encouraged to pre-Register for this event by emailing our Administrator, Yael Sela on:

yael.sela@web.de

The inclusive dates for accommodation are from arrival on Thursday August 11th 2011 to departure on Monday August 15th, with the J. S. Bach Dialogue Meeting itself from the afternoon of Friday 12th to lunchtime on Sunday 14th August.

Further details on Bach Network UK can be found on www.bachnetwork.co.uk and there is also the link www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk where general background on coming to Edinburgh can be found. There is also the link www.eif.co.uk which is specific to the Edinburgh International Festival.

FRONTIERS of THE BAROQUE

Provisional Synopsis of Programme

Among the themes of the *Fifth J. S. Bach Dialogue Meeting* will be the discovery and reception of compositions by Bach and Handel in the United Kingdom, which includes the Calvinist frontier of Scotland.

The influence of local pioneers such as Handel's contemporary **John Frederick Lampe** (buried in the Canongate, Edinburgh) and the theorist **Alexander Malcolm** will be covered. The influence of emblemata on imagery in Bach's world will also feature among our themes, suggested by the magnificent painted ceiling in Loretto's Pinkie House of 1621.

The location will allow a number of exciting cultural experiences.

We anticipate that the **NATIONAL LIBRARY of SCOTLAND** will make available a special display of the Handel collection assembled by a Handel Society founder, Prime Minister Arthur James Balfour (1848-1930). This was last exhibited in 1948.

St. Cecilia's Hall in the **UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH** will be open for a tour of the famous Russell Collection of Harpsichords. It is planned also to hold a Dialogue Dinner with keynote address in the beautiful *Playfair Library* of the University,

There will also be the opportunity to see the Hymnbook of the Bohemian Brotherhood, the only extant hymnbook from Bach's library, which made the journey over many years from Leipzig to nineteenth century Scotland (Glasgow University).

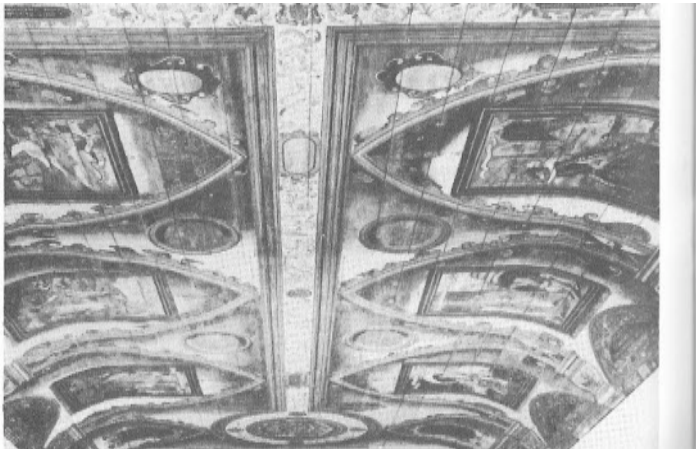
There will be time to visit exhibitions and concerts of the 2011 **EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** (programme announced Spring 2011). Edinburgh has recently been playing its part in Baroque revival, with the performance of over twenty Cantatas of J S Bach in 2009 and the staging of C H Graun's *Montezuma* in 2010. BNUK's Fifth Dialogue Meeting will mark another sign of increased attention to Bach and the Baroque, in 2011.

LORETTO SCHOOL and PINKIE HOUSE

The Conference will be based at **LORETTO**, the private school founded in the mid nineteenth century and situated on the site of a demolished medieval monastery.

In 1621 the Chancellor to King Charles I built Pinkie House nearby, “in honour of Peace and the Arts”. Richly decorated with late Renaissance symbols, it is now part of Loretto.

Thanks to a rearrangement of the school’s estate, Pinkie House has been restored to use for cultural activities after many decades as a boarding house. In addition, the Chapel and music theatres will provide lecture and concert venues.



As with previous conferences, most accommodation will be single college-style rooms with shared facilities.

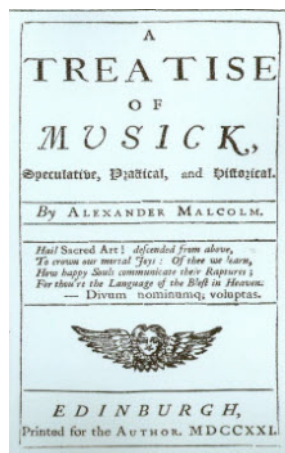
Loretto is situated on the eastern edge of Edinburgh in the adjoining royal burgh of Musselburgh. It is c. 25 minutes by taxi from Edinburgh Airport (to the west of the city), reached directly by the A720 City By-pass. There are frequent buses to and from central Edinburgh (c. 20 minutes). For those driving or hiring a vehicle, parking will be available in the school grounds. Additional travel arrangements will be developed in 2011.

A 360° overview of Loretto’s facilities is available on http://www.lorettoschool.co.uk/suppliers_and_services

NATIONAL LIBRARY of SCOTLAND

The National Library of Scotland has indicated support for access to Baroque materials associated with Scotland, principally its Handel Collection bequeathed by the Founder of a Handel Society, Arthur James Balfour M.P, who was also Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1902 to 1905.

The collection was last exhibited in 1948 and includes amongst many early manuscripts and records, contemporary accounts of the first performance of *Ester*, the Edinburgh performance of *Deborah* in 1754, and the production of *Acis and Galatea* conducted by John Frederick Lampe in 1751.



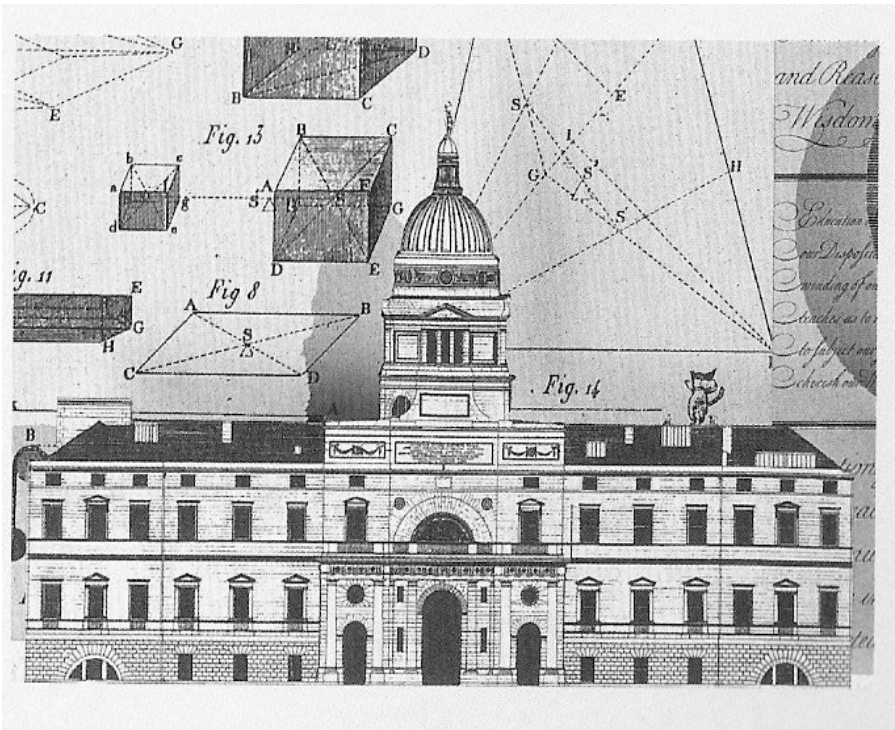
On the Bach side is the 1537 Hymnbook of the Bohemian Brotherhood, which came to the United Kingdom and thence to Glasgow via the meeting of Dr. Burney and C P E Bach. This very early hymnbook is generally considered to have been in J S Bach's library and includes the chorale, "Christus der uns Selig macht" which opens Part II of the St John Passion BWV 245.

Also on display is the 1721 Treatise of Music by the Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh University, Alexander Malcolm, which deals extensively with the question of unequal temperament. Malcolm emigrated to the United States and died at Annapolis, Maryland. His work was known to Bach's close contemporary J G Walther, via Mattheson at Hamburg.

UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

The Dialogue Dinner will be held in the magnificent Playfair Library which forms part of the Old College, located in central Edinburgh.

The plan is for our keynote speaker to address a wide audience of Baroque enthusiasts and scholars on the progress which has been made in expanding knowledge of, and appreciation for, Baroque musicianship in recent years.



The Dinner will be preceded by a lecture on recent scholarship regarding the intellectual links between Edinburgh and Leipzig at the time of the Enlightenment, and particularly between the Law faculties of the two cities. Most of Bach's sons attended Leipzig University as law scholars, as had all the competitors for the post of Capellmeister. This new aspect further develops understanding of the broader intellectual frontiers in which baroque musicianship developed.

THEY CAME TO EDINBURGH.....



Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline and Chancellor to King Charles I, builder in 1621 of Seton House, Musselburgh by Edinburgh, where the Conference is to be held (illustration on front cover)

Frederick John Lampe, bassoonist to G F Handel and composer of several satirical operas; theoretician and conductor. Buried in the Canongate , Edinburgh



Domenico Dragonetti, the virtuoso double bassist, came to Edinburgh in 1843 and was photographed (by calotype) here in old age (engraving shown is earlier). Born in 1760, he performed transcriptions of Bach's organ works on the double bass.

On the right, Sir Donald Francis Tovey, Professor of Music at Edinburgh in the 'thirties; with Pablo Casals and Albert Schweitzer. Tovey's completion of the Art of Fugue remains a masterpiece and his edition of the "48" is still in general use.



..... BNUK would love to see you there!

ARTHUR BALFOUR

1848- 1930



Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
1902-1905;
Handel Society Founder

Portrait by John Singer Sargent