

# Bach Marathon

01.04.2013  
Royal Albert Hall  
[www.bachmarathon.com](http://www.bachmarathon.com)

10.30-12.30 St John Passion – BWV245

Monteverdi Choir/ English Baroque Soloists  
Sir John Eliot Gardiner  
Soloists to be announced.

To open this special Easter day, the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque soloists perform Bach's expressive and intimate oratorio.

Written by Bach both as work of art and an act of worship, it has a subtle balance between narrative and contemplative, juxtaposing vivid re-enactment and dramatic scene-setting in the ariosos and arias. The music is in turns evocative, stirring, exultant and profoundly moving. It forces the listener to contemplate the complexities of the Passion story. Regardless of one's religious view, it captures our attention from beginning to end.

13.00 Panel discussion: "Bach's Long Shadow"

Why is Bach special and what gives his music such a universal appeal? A panel of experts from different walks of life attempt to answer this question in a short conversation.

Panel members will include  
Antonio Damasio, neuroscientist  
Raymond Tallis, doctor and philosopher  
Robert Levin, performer, musicologist and composer  
And more

13.30 Cantata BWV 66 "Bleib bei uns"

The Royal Academy of Music/ Kohn Foundation Bach Cantata Series  
Ian Ledingham, conductor

This performance is part of the Royal Academy of Music and Kohn Foundation's ambitious project to cover all of JS Bach's cantatas over the next eight years. Since its beginning in 2009, it has seen distinguished professionals and the Academy's most talented students perform side-by-side in a happy blend of both young and experienced artists.

The series has been endorsed by an array of influential musicians — including Sir John Eliot Gardiner, who has conducted the students on several occasions.

14.00 Cello Suite no 6 BWV 1012

Alban Gerhardt, cello

Alban Gerhardt has established himself in the past decade among the great cellists of our time. His sound is unmistakable, and his interpretations distinguish themselves with great originality. His approach to bring new life to known and unknown pieces alike allows him to open classical music to new and younger audiences

Bach's Six Suites for unaccompanied cello are some of the best known compositions ever written for cello. The beautiful no 6 is written in a much more free form than the others, with more cadenza-like movements and virtuosic passages.

14.45 Bach Concertos

Britten Sinfonia  
Robert Levin, keyboards

Britten Sinfonia is one of the world's most celebrated and pioneering ensembles. The orchestra is an Associate Ensemble at the Barbican, has residencies in Norwich, Cambridge and Brighton, and a chamber series at Wigmore Hall. Britten Sinfonia enjoys a growing international profile, and is frequently heard on disc, BBC Radio 3 and commercial radio.

15.30 The Woven Gold choir sings Cantata BWV 100  
"Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan"

Woven Gold choir  
Howard Moody, choirmaster

Let's talk about no borders  
Let's sing about no borders  
We are all human  
And this is our world

The Helen Bamber Foundation music group, Woven Gold, includes people from Algeria, Burma, Chechnya, Iran, Kurdistan, Pakistan, many African countries as well as professional UK musicians. These musicians and refugees from around the world come together to tell audiences about their different cultures and music, and expressing themselves freely without fear of repression.

Conductor and composer Howard Moody is well known for his involvement in creative projects that bring the highest calibre of musicians to audiences that may never have such an experience of live music. He often works with young people and schools. In this project he invites the Woven Gold singing group to create a new piece based on the themes of Bach's cantata.

16.00 Chaconne from Partita no 2 in D min. for solo violin BWV 1004

Viktoria Mullova, violin

Known the world over as a violinist of exceptional versatility and musical integrity, Viktoria Mullova appears regularly with most of the world's greatest orchestras and conductors and at the major international festivals. Her curiosity spans the breadth of musical development from baroque and classical right up to the most

contemporary influences from the world of fusion and experimental music.

The Chaconne is a test of ultimate mastery for the soloist – part prayer, part pyrotechnic, a high wire balancing act of musicality and technique.

The Chaconne – test of ultimate master, part prayer, part pyrotechnics  
High wire balancing act of musicality and technique, Brahms said of it that it was the “most wonderful and most incomprehensible piece of music.”

17.00 Bach's keyboard works

A look through Bach's diverse works for keyboard.  
Programme to be confirmed.

18.30 Join in and sing Easter Cantata BWV 4

Audience members are invited to join in, as we the chorale of Easter Cantata BWV4  
“Christ lag in Todesbanden”.

19.00 Easter Cantata BWV 4 “Christ Lag in Todesbanden”

Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists,  
Sir John Eliot Gardiner

Sir John Eliot Gardiner leads the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists in  
an early  
cantata which is remarkable for its extreme emotional intensity.

19.30 Organ music

Cameron Carpenter, organ

Extraordinary and controversial organist Cameron Carpenter performs organ music  
like no one else. Programme to be confirmed.

20.30- 22.30 Mass in B Minor BWV 232

Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists  
Sir John Eliot Gardiner  
Soloists to be announced.

Sir John Eliot Gardiner leads the Monteverdi Choir and

English Baroque Soloists in one of  
musical history's towering masterworks, the B Minor Mass.