

J. S. BACH

Soprano Cantatas

Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten "Wedding Cantata"
Non sa che sia dolore • Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut

Friederike Wagner, Soprano
Capella Istropolitana
Christian Brembeck



Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut, BWV 199

Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten, BWV 202 "Wedding Cantata"

Non sa che sia dolore, BWV 209

The career of Johann Sebastian Bach, the most illustrious of a prolific musical family, falls neatly into three unequal parts. Born in 1685 in Eisenach, from the age of ten Bach lived and studied music with his elder brother in Ohrdruf, after the death of both his parents. After a series of appointments as organist and briefly as a court musician, he became, in 1708, court-organist and chamber-musician to Duke Wilhelm Ernst of Weimar, the elder of the two brothers who jointly ruled the duchy. In 1714 he was promoted to the position of Konzertmeister to the Duke, but in 1717, after a brief period of imprisonment for his temerity in seeking to leave the Duke's service, he abandoned Weimar to become court Kapellmeister to Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Cöthen, a position he held until 1723. From then until his death in 1750 he lived in Leipzig, where he was Thomaskantor, with responsibility for the music of the five principal city churches, in 1729 assuming direction of the university collegium musicum, founded by Telemann in 1702.

At Weimar Bach had been principally employed as an organist, and his compositions of the period include a considerable amount written for the instrument on which he was recognised as a virtuoso performer. At Cöthen, where Pietist traditions dominated the court, he had no church duties, and was responsible rather for court music. The period brought the composition of a number of instrumental works. The final 27 years of Bach's life brought a variety of preoccupations, and while his official employment necessitated the provision of church music, he was able to provide music for the university collegium musicum and to write or re-arrange a number of important works for the keyboard.

The cantata for soprano, oboe, strings and basso continuo, Mein Herze

schwimmt im Blut, BWV 199, was written in 1714 for performance on 12th August, the 11th Sunday after Trinity. In that year Bach had been appointed Konzertmeister in Weimar and here set words by G.C. Lehms, as he had a month earlier in *Widerstehe doch der Sünde*. The year saw the composition of eight church cantatas, as did the following year, a fraction of what Bach was later to write in Leipzig.

In addition to the 200 or so surviving church cantatas Bach wrote a number of secular cantatas for a variety of occasions. *Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten*, BWV 202, scored for soprano, oboe, strings and basso continuo, was seemingly written during the composer's contented stay in Cöthen, a period brought to an end by the marriage of Prince Leopold to a woman that Bach later described as "amusica". The work is a wedding cantata, a composition intended for performance during a wedding banquet, its text a poem about spring and love, the author of which remains unknown, but might have been Salomo Franck, court poet and librarian at Weimar. One of the arias from this cantata was later used to provide the subject of a movement of the sixth of the sonatas for violin and harpsichord.

Two Italian cantatas by Bach survive, the second, *Non sa che sia dolore*, BWV 209, for soprano, flute, strings and basso continuo, conjecturally dated to 1734, with words in occasionally curious Italian perhaps by Johann Matthias Gesner, who became Rektor of the Leipzig Thomasschule in 1730, and therefore Bach's immediate superior. The text deals with the desired return of an Italian from Germany to his own country, after years spent at Anspach, but the identity of the subject, if the words reflect real circumstances, is unknown. The music is Italianate in character, introduced by a Sinfonia that, it has been suggested, resembles the D minor violin concerto.

Friederike Wagner

Friederike Wagner was born in Plochingen/Neckar. She studied at the Würzburg Musikhochschule with Hanno Blaschke, with whom she continued her studies at the Munich Musikhochschule. She was awarded the Special Prize in the 1986 International Singing Competition in Vienna and in 1988 was a prize-winner in the Song and Oratorio Competition of the Bavarian Artists' Union. She has appeared as a soloist in oratorio and as a Lieder singer in Berlin, Hamburg, Mainz, Salzburg, Paris, Lyon and elsewhere, with regular Lieder recitals in Stuttgart, Frankfurt and Munich.

Capella Istropolitana

The Capella Istropolitana was founded in 1983 by members of the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, at first as a chamber orchestra and then as an orchestra large enough to tackle the standard classical repertoire. Based in Bratislava, its name drawn from the ancient name still preserved in the Academia Istropolitana, the orchestra works in the recording studio and undertakes frequent tours throughout Europe. Recordings by the orchestra on the Naxos label include The Best of Baroque Music, Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, fifteen each of Mozart's and Haydn's symphonies as well as works by Handel, Vivaldi and Telemann.

Christian Brembeck

Christian Brembeck was born in 1960 in Munich, where he studied organ, piano and conducting at the Musikhochschule, and in 1981 won the organ prize of the city of Würzburg, continuing a career as organist, harpsichordist, recitalist, and later as conductor. He has not confined his attention to Baroque organ music in North and South Germany but is also a sensitive interpreter of the French and German romantic repertoire. He has appeared with orchestras and choirs of the greatest distinction, including the Munich Philharmonic, the Munich Radio Orchestra, the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, the Collegium Aureum and the Tölz Boys' Choir. He has performed in most of the major cities of Western Europe and in Israel.

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STEREO

DDD

Playing
Time :
62'53"

NAXOS

J. S. BACH

Soprano Cantatas

Friederike Wagner, Soprano
Capella Istropolitana
Christian Brembeck

J. S. BACH: Soprano Cantatas

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Cantata 'Mein Herz schwimmt im Blut', BWV 199

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|---|----------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Recitativo | (1:45) |
| 2 | Aria | (7:22) |
| 3 | Recitativo | (1:00) |
| 4 | Aria | (7:33) |
| 5 | Recitativo | (0:15) |
| 6 | Chorale con viola obligata | (1:35) |
| 7 | Recitativo | (0:44) |
| 8 | Aria
Jozef Cejka, Oboe | (2:00) |

Cantata 'Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten', BWV 202 ("Wedding Cantata")

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|----|------------|--------|
| 9 | Adagio | (6:18) |
| 10 | Recitativo | (0:25) |

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|----|------------|--------|
| 11 | Aria | (3:16) |
| 12 | Recitativo | (0:38) |
| 13 | Aria | (2:48) |
| 14 | Recitativo | (0:44) |
| 15 | Aria | (4:48) |
| 16 | Recitativo | (0:22) |
| 17 | Aria | (1:29) |

Cantata 'Non sa che sia dolore', BWV 209

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--------|
| 18 | Sinfonia | (6:46) |
| 19 | Recitativo | (0:42) |
| 20 | Aria | (7:40) |
| 21 | Recitativo | (0:33) |
| 22 | Aria
Vera Rasková, Flute | (5:23) |

Recorded at the Moyzes Hall of the Slovak
Philharmonic from 3rd to 5th May, 1991.

Producer: Karol Kopernický

Engineer: Hubert Geschwandtner

Music Notes: Keith Anderson

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J. S. BACH: Soprano Cantatas

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