

Anglia Baroque

Sunday 14th April 2024

at 3.00 pm

in

St George's Church

Great Bromley

“Bach - a family business!”

*A programme of beautiful and unusual
music from the 17th & 18th centuries*



Rosy Payne ~ violin & viola

Stephen Cheek ~ viola & organ

Andrew Spencer ~ violin & viola

Rachel Fulcher ~ cello

Christopher Dexter-Mills ~ harpsichord & organ

Donations in aid of St George's repair fund

Programme

~~~~~

**Johann Bernhard Bach** (1676-1749)

Ouverture No 4 in D major:

*Ouverture ~ Caprice ~ Marche ~ Passepied 1/Passepied 2*

*Caprice ~ Air ~ La Joye ~ Caprice*

**Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750)

Pastorale in F major BWV590 (organ)

**Johann Michael Bach** (1648-1694)

Sonata a 4:

*Sonata ~ Capriccio*

~~~~~ Tuning break ~~~~~

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

Concerto B-A-C-H:

Allegro ~ Adagio ~ Vivace

Johann Sebastian Bach? (1685-1750)

Prelude & Fugue in G minor BWV558 (organ)

Johann Ludwig Bach (1677-1731)

Suite in G major:

Overture ~ Menuet ~ Gavotte ~ Air ~ Bourrée

Programme notes

The Bachs are probably the most extended family in music history, as you can see from the accompanying family tree Johann Sebastian himself compiled. He regularly performed music by his cousins, uncles, etc, including Johann Bernhard and Johann Ludwig and some of their music was once attributed to Johann Sebastian. Everyone mentioned in the following notes is called 'Bach' unless otherwise stated. Most of them are also called 'Johann'.

Johann Bernhard was Sebastian's older cousin and each were godparents to the other's children. 'Overture' is what composers sometimes called a suite of French dances and other tunes, preceded by a 'French overture' (think the opening of Handel's *Messiah*). 'Caprice' (or 'Capriccio') referred to a piece that didn't have to follow a set format, allowing composers to exercise their imagination.

Johann Sebastian

Surprisingly little is known about the piece by Johann Sebastian Bach entitled *Pastorale* or *Pastorella*. The music is Italianate in style and includes drones which represent the charm of rustic instruments such as the bagpipes, possibly a reference to biblical passages concerning shepherds on hillsides. All of this would suggest that the piece was intended for the Christmas period with a lightness of style appropriate to the season.

Johann Michael was both an elder cousin of Sebastian's and his father-in-law. The term 'sonata' just meant 'instrumental piece of music' in the 17th century and the *Sonata a 4* is in a more old-fashioned style than today's other music.

Telemann was a good family friend, a colleague of Johann Bernhard's for several years, and godfather to Sebastian's son, Carl Philipp Emanuel. This piece is thought to have been written when he was working at the ducal court in Eisenach, Sebastian's birthplace, while Sebastian himself was down the road in Weimar, at a time when the two musicians were in close regular contact. The scoring for two solo *violas* is very unusual and may have inspired Sebastian's own 6th Brandenburg Concerto. The first viola starts the second movement with the notes B flat – A – C – B natural, which in German music notation comes out as B-A-C-H, homage to his friend, but also a little in-joke and a good excuse for us to include it in our programme.

[Continued overleaf]

[Programme notes - continued]

Johann Sebastian (?)

This Prelude and Fugue comes from a collection of organ works known as the “Eight Short Preludes and Fugues” BWV 553-560. Although originally attributed to Johann Sebastian, modern research makes it more likely that these pieces were not written by him, but by one of his contemporaries or pupils. Members of the Krebs family have been suggested, but there is even some doubt about this. Whoever the composer, these little pieces are a useful addition to the repertoire of baroque organ music.

Johann Ludwig was another of Sebastian’s highly regarded cousins. He called his piece a ‘Suite’, and it’s in much the same format as the Johann Bernhard piece, a French overture followed by a sequence of French dances.

Anglia Baroque

forthcoming recitals

Saturday 1st June 2024

2.30 pm

“Rich and Strange”

Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House



Tuesday 1st October 2024

1.10 pm

“Music for Court & Theatre”

St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich



*For more information visit our website angliabaroque.net
or contact us on info@angliabaroque.net*