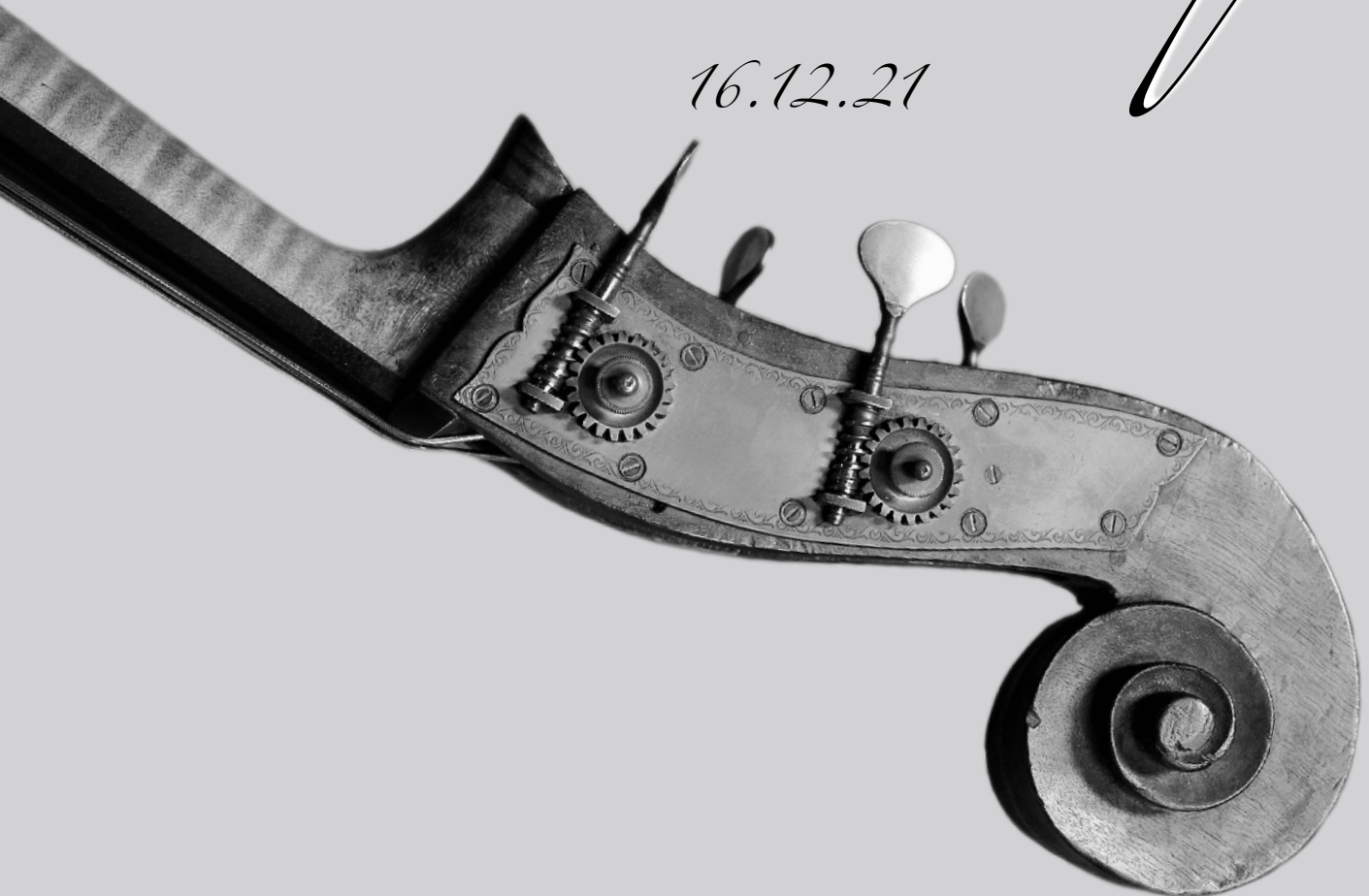


Christmas Baroque

16.12.21



DEAR GUESTS,

We are delighted and so excited to welcome you to Echor's first Christmas concert! We have carefully selected festive works by seven different Baroque composers which we will perform for you in what will be a wonderfully atmospheric concert.

The timeless appeal of music from the Baroque period is down to more than its superficial beauty. The extraordinary variety in the creations of the Italian, German and French styles make it difficult to define in simple terms what makes this music Baroque - on one hand we have the vivid drama and affect of the Italians, on the other the intellectual genius and searing beauty of the Germans, and on the third hand the grace and mystery of the French. And let's not forget our own Purcell!

This evening we present you with some extraordinary masterworks of the Italian and German schools. Torelli, Vivaldi, Manfredini and Albinoni representing Italy, and Bach, Handel and Praetorius, the Germans. You will hear Concertos, Sonatas, Sinfonias, Pastorales, a very familiar Air and an ancient carol.

We are joined tonight by several highly esteemed musicians from some of the most celebrated chamber ensembles in the world, with some returning from our inaugural concert back in October, and some new guests.

Over the coming years we hope that Echor's Christmas concert will become a tradition for families in the area to come and enjoy wonderful festive music before the holidays.

We hope you enjoy the performance!

Nicholas Bootiman

PROGRAMME

TORELLI CONCERTO GROSSO IN G MINOR OP. 8 NO. 6

- I. GRAVE - VIVACE
- II. LARGO
- III. VIVACE

VIVALDI 'PASTORALE' FROM SONATA IN A MAJOR OP. 13 NO. 4

MANFREDINI CONCERTO GROSSO 'CHRISTMAS' IN C MAJOR OP. 3 NO. 12

- I. LARGO
- II. LARGO
- III. ALLEGRO

BACH 'AIR' FROM ORCHESTRAL SUITE IN D MAJOR BWV 1068. NO. 3

ALBINONI CONCERTO FOR OBOE AND STRINGS IN D MINOR OP. 9 NO. 2

- I. ALLEGRO E NON PRESTO
- II. ADAGIO
- III. ALLEGRO

PRAETORIUS 'ES IST EIN ROS ENTSPRUNGEN' BWV 1068. NO. 3

HANDEL 'PIFA' FROM MESSIAH HWV 56

BACH CONCERTO FOR TWO VIOLINS IN D MINOR BWV 1043

- I. VIVACE
- II. LARGO MA NON TANTO
- III. ALLEGRO

TORELLI (1658-1709, VERONA, VIENNA, BOLOGNA)

Giuseppe Torelli was primarily known as an instrumentalist, having worked as both violist and violinist in court and church orchestras, which took him to Italy, Bavaria and Vienna before returning to Bologna to become part of the Capella Musicale di San Petronio, an institution which exists to this day. His most notable pupil was Francesco Manfredini, also featured in this concert.

VIVALDI (1678-1741, VENICE, VIENNA)

Known from his youth as the "Red Priest" (he remained in the priesthood until death), Antonio Vivaldi is celebrated as one of the great composers of the Baroque period. His writing was hugely influential, with composers such as Bach influenced by his considerable instrumental output. In all, Vivaldi wrote over 500 concertos and almost 100 operas, mostly while holding down a job as a music teacher at one of Venice's orphanages. He was famous as a thrilling virtuoso violinist, and taught the girls of the orphanage, building a school orchestra that became internationally renowned. Indeed, most of his works from this period were written for his students, amongst them some beautiful concertos and oratorios.

MANFREDINI (1684-1762, PISTOIA, BOLOGNA, MONACO)

As was usual at the time, Francesco Manfredini was primarily a violinist and church musician. Although he was known to have written a great deal, only a small number of his works remain. Much like his teacher Torelli's style, Manfredini contributed to the development of the Concerto Grosso (a piece of music where the main musical ideas are passed between a small group of soloists and the larger group), a genre perfected by their predecessor Arcangelo Corelli.

BACH (1685-1750, EISENACH, WEIMAR, KÖTHEN, LEIPZIG)

The significance of Johann Sebastian Bach's impact on the whole of classical music is impossible to overestimate. The date of Bach's death is seen to be the end of the Baroque era, such is the importance of his contribution. Bach was on one hand a chameleon capable of writing in so many styles, and on the other an unparalleled technical genius of composition. Many other great composers from Mozart to Mendelssohn to Brahms have attempted to mimic his use of the fugue and other contrapuntal devices, but none come close to the ease with which Bach weaves numerous independent lines together. It may not come as a surprise in that case that he viewed composition as a science, but the profound emotional impact of his music tells a different story.

ALBINONI (1671-1751, VENICE, VIENNA,)

Tomaso Albinoni is somewhat regrettably most famous for writing a piece he didn't write - his famous "Adagio", Giacomini's romanticised Fantasia on a shred of original music by Albinoni. Also a prolific opera composer, it's his concertos that have stood the test of time, particularly what you hear tonight, his D minor oboe concerto with its stunningly beautiful slow movement.

PRAETORIUS (1571-1621, CREUZBURG, FRANKFURT, WOLFENBUTTEL)

Perhaps including Praetorius in a Baroque concert is stretching it a little, but his setting of the old sacred tune "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" just about falls right at the start of the early Baroque period. Praetorius is considered an important figure in the development of the early Protestant hymn, this famous carol a particularly beautiful example.

HANDEL (1685-1759, HALLE, HAMBURG, ROME, LONDON)

Händel, or Hændel as he is known to the French, or Handel here in his adopted home, was not only one of Baroque's most influential figures, but also tremendously commercially successful, due in no small part to the uptake of his large oratorios (especially The Messiah) by many choral societies in his day. His dramatic operas and concerto grossi, as well as his keyboard works are firmly established in the repertoire.

BIOGRAPHIES



JONATHAN STONE VIOLIN

Jonathan is predominantly known as a chamber musician. He spent thirteen years as a member of the Doric String Quartet and is a founding member and violinist of the Phoenix Piano Trio. He is a regular guest with the Nash Ensemble and appears at festivals around the world.

One of his happiest places is the recording studio, having released discs on labels such as Hyperion, Chandos, Decca, Stone Records, NMC, Champs Hill and Wigmore Hall Live. Recent projects include recordings of works by Bruch and Ries with the Nash Ensemble and, as leader of Le Cercle de l'Harmonie.

Jonathan's violin was crafted by Raffaele and Antonio Gagliano of Naples in 1830.



EVA ÞÓRARINSDÓTTIR VIOLIN

Eva is currently the associate leader of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and co-founder of Echor Music.

She has appeared as a soloist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra to a sold out Barbican Hall and won numerous prizes at international competitions including the Nordic Soloist Prize and Carl Nielsen International Violin Competition.

Eva first came to the UK from her native Iceland at the age of twelve when she was offered a place to study at the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey. She also has a keen interest in composing and discovering long lost folk tunes from her Nordic roots.

Eva plays on a 1845 Joseph Rocca violin previously owned by the great Alfredo Campoli.



MARIJE JOHNSTON VIOLIN

Marije Johnston grew up in the Netherlands where she studied at the conservatories of Utrecht and Amsterdam before coming to the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester aged 19.

At the RNCM, she founded the Navarra Quartet and fell in love with chamber music. The quartet went on to win prizes in major international competitions and awards such as a Borletti-Buitoni Fellowship, MIDEM Outstanding Artist of the Year award and the Kersjes Prize of €50,000.

Marije recently joined the Heath Quartet and is looking forward to playing with them at the Wigmore Hall, Boulezsaal in Berlin and Palau de la Musica Catalana in Barcelona in the coming months.

Marije is in much demand as a chamber musician and is frequently invited to perform with ensembles such as Kaleidoscope, Aronowitz, Schubert, Wigmore Soloists, London Bridge Ensemble and Fibonacci Sequence.

SARA WOLSTENHOLME VIOLIN

A Mancunian by birth, Sara studied in her home town before flying the nest to London, Spain and Germany. She has performed Concertos with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Hallé Orchestra and has given Duo recitals in the UK, Holland, Switzerland and Sweden.

As a chamber musician Sara enjoys collaborations through Wye Valley Chamber Music, Festival & Rencontres de Musique de Chambre du Larzac, Southwell Festival, IMS Prussia Cove and the Highgate International Chamber Festival.

Sara is joint Leader of the acclaimed Heath Quartet, joining in 2017. She lives in the Chilterns with her husband and daughter, with whom she enjoys exploring the countryside and growing things to eat.



NICHOLAS BOOTIMAN VIOLA

Formerly a principal player with the Philharmonia Orchestra for over a decade, Nicholas' career as violist has taken him to the most celebrated concert halls worldwide, and he is in great demand as a chamber musician and guest principal of the UK's foremost orchestras. Nicholas appears on countless recordings, including solo artist on the Grammy Award nominated C.D. "The Solent", and several Hollywood films and British television shows.

As a conductor, Nicholas has worked extensively in France and the UK as assistant on opera productions at the Aix-en-Provence Festival, Theatre des Champs-Élysées and the Edinburgh International Festival, and as co-director of the Reuleaux Ensemble. October 2021 saw the launch event of Echor Music, which Nicholas co-founded alongside fellow performers Eva and Jonathan.



NATHANIEL BOYD CELLO

As an internationally recognised chamber musician and soloist, Nathaniel appears regularly at the world's leading concert halls. Described as 'exceptionally gifted' by Musical Opinion magazine, he is a laureate of numerous prizes for his work with the Navarra Quartet, including the MIDEM Outstanding Young Artist Award, Cannes and a Borletti Buitoni Fellowship as well as being selected for representation by YCAT and as a soloist, by the Tillett Trust. His recordings of Vasks and Haydn quartets both received 5 star reviews from BBC Music Magazine.

Nathaniel appears as Principal Cellist with UK orchestras including the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Manchester Camerata, RSNO and Aurora Orchestra. He is a member of the Albion Quartet. Formed in 2016 the quartet have forged a busy international schedule with concerts at the Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw and at the Aldeburgh Festival.





JAN ZAHOUREK DOUBLE BASS

Jan Zahourek grew up in the United States where he started music as a guitarist in a little rock band. He then began playing double bass in a jazz band, which led him to "classical" music through orchestra.

After many years of following that dream, which he is still dreaming, he was introduced to the viola da gamba and the G violone in Bassano, Italy, by a friend of his, also a double bass player. Since then he has been involved in many activities stemming from those acquaintances, except, sadly, for the rock bands and the jazz bands. Maybe one day in the future!

Confronted by the total lack of work on offer during the Covid pandemic, Jan has decided to invent his own work. Founder of the Zarek Ensemble, Jan decided to revisit his beloved chamber music by putting together various projects (with the help of generous funding) involving the double bass or viola da gamba with the collaboration of his fantastic colleagues in the UK and throughout the world.



KATIE BENNINGTON OBOE

Katie Bennington enjoys a varied freelance career performing with orchestras around the country such as the Aurora Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra & English National Opera to name a few.

Katie is a dedicated chamber musician and often performs with the Berkeley Ensemble, as well as guesting as a soloist with the London Concertante who she has recorded and toured with on many occasions.

In 2009, she graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she studied oboe with Richard Simpson, Gordon Hunt and David Walter. During her time at the college she won numerous prizes including the *Needlemaker's Woodwind Prize* and the *Slaughter and May Musician of the Year Award*.



DAVID GORDON HARPSICHORD

Harpsichordist, jazz pianist and composer David Gordon trained as a mathematician at Bristol University before turning to music full-time, and he has since toured all over the world with the gypsy-tango band Zum, the baroque orchestra, The English Concert, the piano-led jazz group David Gordon Trio and the early music/jazz group Respectable Groove, and also violinists Nigel Kennedy, Christian Tetzlaff and Andrew Manze and singer Jacqui Dankworth.

A self-taught jazz player, he appears on countless CDs as composer, leader and sideman; many of his works have been broadcast worldwide, and he has compositions regularly commissioned by festivals, publishers and fellow musicians.



DAVID GORDON TRIO

The David Gordon Trio has a unique and individual sound world, a strong pedigree and a worldwide following. Their music is characterised by searingly beautiful melodies, free-flowing improvisation and quick-fire humour. All their recordings have received rave reviews in media in the US, Japan and Europe, where they have sold more than 10,000 CDs. Their latest recording, entitled *Pachyderm*, will be their seventh CD, released next year.

The trio has played festivals, radio and clubs in Europe and the UK, and collaborated with a wide variety of artists, from singer Jacqui Dankworth and saxophonists Andy Sheppard and Jerry Underwood, guitarist John Etheridge to tap-dancer/vocalist Lucy Dixon.

David is described by JazzFM's David Freeman like this: '*he doesn't play many notes, but the notes that he does play are almost the selection of a genius*'. He is also an award-winning composer and his tune 'Angel Feet' is published in *Sher Music's The European Real Book*.

He was commissioned to write a concerto for the trio together with the London Chamber Orchestra, entitled *Inspired by Bach*, which is based on the fifth Brandenburg Concerto. The piece was first performed to a sold-out Cadogan Hall in London.

Their latest CD, *Alexander Scriabin's Ragtime Band* was Mojo magazine's jazz CD of the year, and was also adapted for performance at Uppingham school to include 150 keyboard players.

The trio features two giants of the London jazz scene, bassist Oli Hayhurst and drummer Tom Hooper.



BECOME AN ECHOR FRIEND



We are so happy to announce the launch of **'Echor Friends'** which will give our audience the chance to be a part of our journey as we establish ourselves as one of the leading ensembles in the UK.

As a brand new 'Orchestra for the Chilterns,' we are currently finalising the remaining concerts for our first season and discussing our plans for the 22/23 concert season. As an 'Echor Friend' you will be the first to know! You will also enjoy the following benefits:

- **Advance booking for our events**
- **Discounted tickets**
- **Free concert programmes**
- **A newsletter with exclusive behind the scenes news and interviews with our musicians.**
- **The chance to sit in on one of our rehearsals to enjoy an exclusive musical experience.**

(If you've ever been to a performance by a major orchestra and wondered about the process of putting it together, this unique experience will offer a fascinating insight into our creative process.)

'ECHOR FRIEND' 2022 PRICE: £25

To purchase the 2022 membership for yourself or a friend, please speak to us today or get in touch with the team at echor@echormusic.com. You can also visit the 'Support' page on our website www.echormusic.com. We look forward to welcoming you as a part of our growing Echor family!

