



**Akademia  
Muzyczna  
w Poznaniu**

Aula Stuligrosza

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***Bachian Elegies:  
Musical Meditations***

Capriccios, Fantasias, Fugues  
and Dances by J.S. Bach and  
C.P.E. Bach

A Program with Biographical  
Musical Vignettes

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Środa, 21 maja 2025  
godz. 18.30

Opieka merytoryczna  
**Katedra Historycznych Praktyk  
Wykonawczych**

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## PROGRAM

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### **1. J.S. Bach (1685-1750) – *Erbarm dich mein, O herre Gott*, BWV 721**

#### **EVENT IN THE LIFE OF J.S. BACH**

c. 1704. Allegedly the Capriccio in B-flat major, BWV 992 was composed to honour Johann Sebastian's elder brother Johann Jacob, upon his departure to join the Swedish army as an oboist.

### **2. Capriccio in B-flat major "*sopra la lontananza del suo fratello diletissimo*", BWV 992**

1. *Arioso: Adagio* – 'Friends Gather & Try to Dissuade Him from departing'

2. (*Andante*) – 'They Picture the Dangers Which May Befall Him'

3. *Adagiosissimo* (or *Adagissimo*) – 'The Friends' Lament'

4. (*Andante con moto*) – 'Since He Cannot Be Dissuaded, They Say Farewell'

5. *Allegro poco* – 'Aria of the Postilion' (*Aria di postiglione*)

6. 'Fugue in Imitation of the Postilion's Horn' (*Fuga all'imitazione della cornetta di postiglione*)

#### **EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF J.S. BACH**

c. 1710-15. Happy days in the Court of Weimar. Birth of his sons Wilhelm Friedmann (1710-1784) and Carl Phillip Emmanuel (1714-1788), but also death of infant twins Johann Christoph and Maria Sophia (1713).

### **3. Keyboard Concerto in G major, BWV 973, after a violin concerto by Antonio Vivaldi.**

I. (*Allegro*)

II. *Adagio*

III. *Allegro*

#### **EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF J.S. BACH**

Summer 1720. Sudden death of his first wife, Maria Barbara. There is a claim that the *Chaconne* from Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004 (composed between 1717 and 1720) was written as a long, heart-felt *tombeau* or lament for his wife. D minor was a key of tragedy and profound lamentation. The *Chaconne* is very unusual as it is a set of variations and four times longer than any of the other movements in the Partita. For the recording I will employ the transcription of Jacques Drillon for harpsichord from the 1950s.

### **4. *Chaconne* from Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004, transcription by Jacques Drillon**

#### **EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF J.S. BACH**

1721-1740. Despite the loss, J.S. Bach continues with his work as Kapellmeister at the Court of Köthen. He remarried in 1721 soprano Anna Magdalena Wilcke (1701-1760), who helped him continue the musical education of his children. Book I of *Das Wohltemperierte Klavier*, completed in 1722, was certainly used by Wilhelm Friedmann and Carl Phillip Emmanuel, whereas Book 2, completed twenty years later in Leipzig, was probably used to educate Johann Christian (1735-1782), Bach's youngest son.

### **5. Prelude and Fugue No. 24 in B minor from *Das Wohltemperierte Klavier*, Book I, BWV 893**

## **DEATH OF J.S. BACH**

1750. C.P.E. Bach was deeply affected by the passing of his father. In this dramatic fantasia, composed one year prior to his own death, contrasting motivic elements organize the structural framework of the work. This is one of the longest, most virtuosic and imaginative fantasias by the composer, in which he explores the expressive possibilities of the new Sensitive Style or *Empfindsamkeit*.

## **6. C.P.E. Bach (1714-1788) – Fantasia in F-sharp minor, Wq. 67**

**MUSICAL TESTAMENT OF J.S. BACH** 1750. Left incomplete at the time of the composer's death, *Die Kunst der Fuge*, BWV 1080, consists of fourteen fugues and four canons all based on a single musical subject in D minor. The final unfinished Contrapunctus XIV—probably meant to be a four-voice fugue with four different expositions (Bach only completed three of them)—has long been interpreted as the musical testament of the composer and an invitation for musicians to solve a contrapuntal musical riddle. In the first printed edition of 1751—prepared largely under the supervision of C.P.E. Bach—the composer's son chose to include as a finale to the work the organ chorale prelude of his father "Vor deinen Thron tret ich hiermit" ("Herewith I come before Thy Throne"), purportedly dictated to him by J.S. Bach on his deathbed.

## **7. Contrapunctus XIX from *Die Kunst der Fuge*, BWV 1080, followed by "Von deinen Thron tret ich hiermit" ("Herewith I come before Thy Throne"), BWV 668a.**

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