



 victoria @10
baroque

BACH'S TENOR ARIAS

ISAIAH BELL, TENOR

CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE

NOVEMBER 20 & 21, 2020

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Programme

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Aria *Ich traue seiner Gnaden* from Cantata BWV 97

Aria *Wo wird in diesem Jammertale* from Cantata BWV 114

Cantabile, ma non poco Adagio from Violin Sonata BWV 1019a

Aria *Ermuntre dich* from Cantata BWV 180

Largo from Organ Trio BWV 526 transcription

Aria *Ich eile, die Lehren* from Cantata BWV 148

Aria *Benedictus* from the Mass in B minor BWV 232

Aria *So schnell ein rauschend Wasser fließt* from Cantata BWV 26

Isaiah Bell, tenor

Soile Stratkauskas, flute Chloe Kim, violin

Christina Mahler, cello David Stratkauskas, organ & harpsichord

VICTORIA BAROQUE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: SOILE STRATKAUSKAS

Now in its tenth season, the Victoria Baroque presents dynamic, personal, and engaging performances of music from the Baroque and Classical periods. Playing on the instruments of the 18th century Victoria Baroque brings audiences closer to the sound world of the period. Victoria Baroque brings together early music specialists from Vancouver Island and beyond for explorations of chamber, orchestral, vocal and choral works. Invitations for guest performances have included Early Music Vancouver, Early Music Society of the Islands, Cowichan Symphony

Society, Artspring, Denman Island Concerts, and Vancouver Island Chamber Music Festival. Victoria Baroque's debut CD, *Virtuosi of the Baroque* on Marquis Classics, was nominated for a Western Canadian Music Award in 2014.

Education and nurturing of emerging talent is close to Victoria Baroque's heart. Victoria Baroque has inspired local students and the public with baroque performance through concerts in schools, workshops and masterclasses, and the Baroque Summer Academy at the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

BWV 97

Ich traue seiner Gnaden,
Die mich vor allem Schaden,
Vor allem Übel schützt.
Leb ich nach seinen Gesetzen,
So wird mich nichts verletzen,
Nichts fehlen, was mir nützt.

I trust His grace,
which protects me from all harm,
from all evil.
If I live according to His laws,
then nothing will harm me,
nothing will be missing that I need.

BWV 114

Wo wird in diesem Jammertale
Vor meinen Geist die Zuflucht sein?
Allein zu Jesu Vaterhänden
Will ich mich in der Schwachheit wenden;
Sonst weiß ich weder aus noch ein.

Where, in this valley of suffering,
is the refuge of my spirit?
Only to Jesus' fatherly hands
will I turn in my weakness;
otherwise I know neither out nor in.

BWV 180

Ermuntre dich: dein Heiland klopft,
Ach, öffne bald die Herzenspforte!
Ob du gleich in entzückter Lust
Nur halb gebrochne Freudenworte
Zu deinem Jesu sagen mußt.

Stir yourself: your Saviour knocks.
Oh, quickly open the gates of your heart!
Even if, in rapt desire,
you have only half-broken words of joy
to speak to your Jesus.

BWV 148

Ich eile, die Lehren
Des Lebens zu hören
Und suche mit Freuden das heilige Haus.
Wie rufen so schöne
Das frohe Getöne
Zum Lobe des Höchsten die Seligen aus!

I hurry to hear
the teaching of life
and I joyfully seek the holy house.
What a beautiful summons
in joyful sounds
the blessed make in praise of the Almighty!

MASS IN B MINOR

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.

Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.

BWV 26

So schnell ein rauschend Wasser fließt,
So eilen unser Lebenstage.
Die Zeit vergeht, die Stunden eilen,
Wie sich die Tropfen plötzlich teilen,
Wenn alles in den Abgrund schießt.

As quickly as rushing water flies,
so the days of our lives hasten.
Time disappears, the hours rush
as drops suddenly separate,
when everything plunges into the abyss.

ISAIAH BELL, TENOR

Isaiah Bell is a Canadian-American tenor, composer, and writer. He recently created the role of Antinous, lover of the Roman emperor Hadrian (Thomas Hampson) in the world premiere of Rufus Wainwright's *Hadrian* at the Canadian Opera Company. He also starred opposite Stephanie Blythe in Mark Morris' production of *Curlew River / Dido & Aeneas* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, giving "a performance of exquisite poignancy" (*The New York Times*) as the Madwoman in Britten's *Curlew River*. This season Isaiah appears at Carnegie Hall in the premiere of *A Nation of Others* by Paul Moravec, at Vancouver Opera as Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville*, in Mozart's arrangement of Handel's *Messiah* with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and with Opera Atelier for Handel's *The Resurrection*.

As a composer and writer, Isaiah has written four original operas, and scored the confessional drag-cabaret show *Cocktails with Maria*. He is currently touring a solo theatre piece that combines his roles as performer and creator; the Tapestry Opera premiere of *The Book of My Shames* was described as "impossibly beautiful", a "comic, wrenchingly personal tour-de-force", and "poignant, thoughtful, raw and honest". Further performances are planned elsewhere in Canada — including Victoria — and in Europe.



Photo Credit: Chelsea Brooke Roisum

SOILE STRATKAUSKAS, FLUTE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF VICTORIA BAROQUE

Finnish-born Soile Stratkauskas moved to Victoria in January 2010 with her husband David, and quickly established herself in the West Coast early music scene. Her solo and orchestral appearances include performances for the Early Music Society of the Islands, Pacific Baroque Festival, Early Music Vancouver and Pacific Baroque Orchestra concerts. After finishing her undergraduate degree at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester she continued her studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she gained her Master's Degree with distinction. Soile has played with many prominent period instrument orchestras in the UK, including the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Gabrieli Consort and Players. Soile is the founder and driving force behind the Victoria Baroque and is passionate about making music happen in Victoria. She is the baroque flute instructor for the Early Music Vancouver Baroque Orchestra Mentorship Program, and the artistic director of the Summer Baroque Instrument Academy at the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

CHLOE KIM, VIOLIN

Violinist Chloe Kim has performed in soloist and principal capacities in prominent concert venues around the world, sharing the stage with internationally celebrated figures such as Rachel Podger, Pablo Heras-Casado, and Richard Egarr. The recipient of the 2020 Mercury-Juilliard Fellowship and

the 2016 Early Music America Scholarship among others, Chloe was most recently nominated for Canada's prestigious Sylva Gelber Music Foundation Award. Chloe's most memorable engagements include a Vivaldi women's tour led by the inspirational Monica Huggett, as well as two recent trips to France for collaborations with William Christie and Les Arts Florissants. Last summer, Chloe served as concertmaster of Juilliard⁴¹⁵ for several sold-out productions of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in London's Holland Park and the Versailles Royal Opera. With her European tour engagements cancelled due to the pandemic this summer, Chloe pivoted to create and direct Victoria's Music for the Pause series, presented with her beloved West Coast colleagues. She was recently featured in the CBC's 30 under 30, as well as in the Juilliard Journal for her achievements. Chloe is looking forward to a concerto debut and teaching residency with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Spring 2021, and is especially indebted to her mentors Elizabeth Blumenstock, Robert Mealy, and Heilwig von Königslöw.

CHRISTINA MAHLER, CELLO

Dutch cellist Christina Mahler immigrated to Canada in 1981 to serve as principal cellist of the Tafelmusik Orchestra, a position she held until June 2019. Reviews often praise her rich sound, energetic playing, and insightful musicianship. Christina has played and recorded numerous concertos with Tafelmusik, including works by Boccherini, Haydn, Vivaldi, C.P.E. Bach, and Leonardo Leo. She is very fortunate to own a beautiful baroque cello made by José Contreras, the "Stradivarius" of Spain. Christina is a very devoted and gifted teacher, and students have come from around the world to study with her, not only through the Tafelmusik Summer and Winter Institutes, but also at the University of Toronto and in her private studio. After 38 years as principal cellist of Tafelmusik, Christina has moved to Victoria where she is focusing on chamber music, teaching, and pursuing her hobbies, such as pottery.

DAVID STRATKAUSKAS, HARPSICHORD AND ORGAN

David Stratkauskas is a native of Vancouver, where he completed his MA in Music Theory at the University of British Columbia. In 2003, inspired by his particular love for organ and choral music, David moved to London, where he was organist at St. Michael's Battersea and St. Mary Stoke Newington. David returned to Canada in 2010 to take the position of Organist at the Church of Saint John the Divine, Victoria, where he has helped build a vibrant music programme with several choirs and a thriving Choral and Organ Scholarship programme, performing works from the sacred choral canon, but also championing new music. David has directed the St. John's Chamber Singers and the Victoria Baroque in numerous performances of great Baroque works, including several of Bach's cantatas and motets, Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, and Bach's *St John Passion*. David has also worked with the Victoria Children's Choir since 2011. David is married to Soile Stratkauskas.

VICTORIA BAROQUE MUSIC SOCIETY

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Those who donated the value of their tickets for the cancelled Victoria Baroque Spring 2020 concerts.

Those who donated towards the “Music for the Pause” online concert series, presented in collaboration with Early Music Vancouver, the Early Music Society of the Islands, and Christ Church Cathedral.

SUPPORT OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON!

As our ticket sales are limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, your support is more important than ever! Your donations enable us to make beautiful music happen, and support local musicians during this difficult time.

You can donate:

- by cheque made out to the 'Victoria Baroque Music Society', 1611 Quadra St, Victoria BC V8W 2L5
- online through CanadaHelps.ca

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