Making Music Speak – Bach Akademie Australia's 2022 Season Launched

Bach Akademie Australia has announced its towering 2022 concert series "Bach and the Art of Dialogue" featuring four touring concert series covering seven different City and Greater Sydney venues.

Directed by Bach doyen and international violin virtuoso **Madeleine Easton** – and featuring some of Australia's finest instrumental and vocal interpreters of early music, supported by an all-star orchestra and choir – the Bach Akademie is widely regarded as one of the brightest stars in Australia's musical firmament.

The joy, power and passion begins in April with three Sydney performances (Paddington, Penrith and Chatswood) of an all-Bach program named for the universally adored **Easter Oratorio.** Also featured are two of his best and most beautiful cantatas, written especially for Easter. Of his five cycles written whilst serving as cantor for the Thomaskirche in Leipzg, BWV 42 and BWV 6, although completely contrasting in tone and mood, are some of his most heartfelt and joyful with their messages of hope and comfort for all. Then follows arguably Bach's best-loved and most jubilant work: the *Easter Oratorio*. In this wonderful, thrilling piece, the composer utilises a full choir and orchestra to amplify his message of pure joy and celebration. The Easter Oratorio continues to uplift, inspire and comfort us all these many hundreds of years later.

The ***Weapons of Rhetoric*** concerts in June (Sydney Conservatorium and Wahroonga) takes its name from famed writer and performer Judy Tarling who says in her book of that title, "To 'make music speak 'is the ultimate aim of both composers and performers alike". The ideas and concepts of rhetoric have produced music of unrivalled beauty, depth, and intelligence by many; however, the sheer inventiveness of Bach's music separates him from all others. From his miraculous G minor *Fuga* for solo violin, showing how polyphonic music could be written on a monophonic instrument, to the 6 part *Ricercar* from his Musical Offering, ending with his much loved Double Violin Concerto, no other composer in history wielded the weapons of rhetoric with as much skill, grace and heart as J.S. Bach. This sumptuous concert – featuring Madeleine Easton with **Neal Peres Da Costa, Daniel Yeadon** (right) and **Julia Fredersdorff** – also includes the *Brandenburg Concerto No. 6* and a selection of chamber favourites.

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September's Spring series (Darlinghurst and Chatswood) is titled ***In Bach's Orbit*** and features the work of JC Bach, Buxtehude, Vivaldi, Pachelbel and Telemann – as well as a magnificent Cantata by the master J.S. Bach himself. "The question of what makes true genius is one many artists and scholars have contemplated," says Madeleine, "and cannot be answered without debating the argument of nature versus nurture. These concerts explore the key figures in Bach's life who inevitably influenced and guided him throughout his life, both personally and musically." They feature renowned Australian countertenor **Max Riebl** (pictured right) and explore music by J.S. Bach's much-cherished father-in-law Johann Christoph Bach, his great hero Dieterich Buxtehude (whom he famously walked 280 miles to hear) as well as Pachelbel, Vivaldi and Telemann - all of whom were greatly admired by Bach. Their music is inevitably woven together, orbiting, influencing and ultimately producing the great art we celebrate today.

Finally, in November, ***Grazie in Grazia*** – ***In Thanksgiving***: two concerts (City Recital Hall and Wahroonga) showcasing great work of Italian and German composers, with the centrepiece: Monteverdi's great mass of thanksgiving, written in 1631 after plague had once again ravaged Europe. "Great art comes from great hardship, and in presenting this work," says Madeleine, "we acknowledge the great hardship we as the human race have collectively endured over the last two years of our lives. We give thanks to Monteverdi whose selfless act of composition has given us this heartfelt and consoling work."

Part 1 begins in Italy with Monteverdi, interposed with works by other titans of the Venetian Renaissance, Marini and Gabrieli. Part 2 is a journey to Germany through the music of Heinrich Schütz, Monteverdi's great pupil and teacher of J.S. Bach. The Akademie ends the year with the one composer whose ability to console and bring joy surpasses all others. J.S. Bach's mighty Christmas Cantata 'Christen, ätzet diesen Tag 'BWV 63 is a true celebration of the spirit of Christmas and thanksgiving.

BOOKINGS **www.bachakademieaustralia.com.au** **1300 785 377**

Media: the full concert schedule follows.
For more information, great images, interviews, PDF season brochure, review tickets and more, contact: Geoff Sirmai Arts Publicity (02) 9345 0360 m: 0412 669 272 e: geoff@sirmai.com.au

BACH AKADEMIE AUSTRALIA 2022 SEASON – *Bach and the Art of Dialogue*

EASTER ORATORIO

Friday 8th April 7:30pm - St Francis of Assisi Church, Paddington
Saturday 9th April 7:30pm - Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith
Sunday 10th April 2:30pm -Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood
J.S. Bach Cantata 'Am abend aber desselbigen Sabbats' BWV 42
J.S. Bach Cantata 'Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend werden' BWV 6
J.S. Bach Easter Oratorio BWV 249

THE WEAPONS OF RHETORIC

Saturday June 11th 7pm - Verbruggen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music
Sunday June 12th 2pm - Parish of the Holy Name Church, Wahroonga
J.S. Bach Sonata No. 2 for Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord in D major BWV 1028 (Neal Peres Da Costa, Daniel Yeadon)
J.S. Bach 6 part Ricercar from Musical Offering BWV 1079
J.S. Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 BWV 1051
J.S. Bach Adagio and Fugue from Sonata No.1 in G minor BWV 1001 for solo violin (Madeleine Easton)
J.S. Bach Canons from Musical Offering
J.S. Bach Concerto for 2 Violins in D minor BWV 1043 (Madeleine Easton, Julia Fredersdorff)

IN BACH'S ORBIT

Wednesday 21st September 7:30pm - The Cell Block Theatre, National Arts School, Darlinghurst
Thursday 22nd September 7:30pm - The Cell Block Theatre, National Arts School, Darlinghurst
Sunday 25th September 2:30pm - Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood

J.C. Bach Lamento 'Ach, dass ich Wassers gnug hätte'
Buxtehude Passacaglia in D minor BuxWV 161 (Nathan Cox)
Vivaldi Nisi Dominus
Telemann Concerto for 4 violins in G major TWV 40:201
Pachelbel Toccata in E minor P. 462 (Nathan Cox)
Pachelbel Suite No. 4 in E minor from Musikalische Ergötzung P. 373
J.S. Bach Cantata 'Geist und Seele wird verwirret' BWV 35

GRAZIE IN GRAZIA – In Thanksgiving

Sunday 13th November 2pm - Parish of the Holy Name Church, Wahroonga
Monday 14th November 7pm - City Recital Hall

<u>PART I: ITALIA</u>

Monteverdi Messa a quattro voci da cappella 'Selva morale e spirituale'
Introitus Chant
Kyrie – Gloria
Marini Per ogni sorte di strumenti musicale, Op. 22: Passacaglio
Credo
Merula Canzoni da suonare, Book 4, Op. 17: Canzon decima settima, 'La Monteverde'
Sanctus – Benedictus
Gabrieli Canzona due a quattro 1608
Agnus Dei
Monteverdi Cantate Domino

<u>PART II: GERMANY</u>

Heinrich Schütz Alleluja! Lobet den Herren
J.S. Bach Cantata 'Christen, ätzet diesen Tag' BWV 63

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