



Tilford Bach Society



Sean Shibe & Petra Poláčková

Classical Guitars



Sponsored by Countess of Munster Musical Trust

29 January 2016

www.tilbach.org.uk

**This concert is kindly sponsored by Countess of Munster Musical Trust
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Programme

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Selection from the Goldberg Variations arranged for 2 guitars

The Goldberg Variations, BWV 988, is a work written for harpsichord, consisting of an aria and a set of 30 variations. First published in 1741, the work is considered to be one of the most important examples of variation form. The Variations are named after Johann Gottlieb Goldberg, who was known to have played for Count Kaiserling formerly Russian Ambassador at the court of the Elector of Saxony.

Bach's specified a two-manual harpsichord and indicated in the score which variations ought to be played using one hand on each manual. The piece is often performed on the piano although with greater difficulty on the single keyboard. The piece starts with an aria, a sarabande in 3/4 time with a heavily ornamented melody. The Variations are built on a plan of simplicity: the Aria is followed by thirty variations, and the marking *Aria da capo* at the end indicates the reprise of the Aria. Every third variation is a canon at an increasing interval; thus Variation 3 is a canon at the unison, Variation 6 is a canon at the second, and so forth. The exception to this is the final variation (30) which is titled *Quodlibet*, and is a more extensive piece involving variations in an almost extempore style on popular tunes. In between the canons are movements of various types including baroque dances and arias.

Mikhail Johann Kaspar Mertz (1806-1856)

An Malvina, Capriccio, Abendlied, Tarantelle

Solo: Petra Poláčková

Johann Mertz was born in Pressburg in the Hapsburg kingdom of Hungary, now Bratislava, Slovakia. A noted guitarist, active in Vienna and central Europe, his music is noted for its romantic pianistic style, possibly related to the fact that he married a concert pianist, Josephine Plantin in 1842. He composed a number of pieces for guitar. The pieces performed today are from the most frequently played collection named *Bardenklänge* (Bardic Sounds) Op13 of 1847, which feature pieces based on stories and folk tales from the area.

Interval

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Nocturnal after John Dowland.

**Musingly, Very agitated, Restless, Uneasy, March-like, Dreaming,
Gently rocking, Passacaglia-slow and quiet.**

Solo: Sean Shibe

This piece was completed in 1963. It was written for Julian Bream for the 1964 Aldeburgh Festival. It is a set of variations on a song "Come, heavy sleep" by John Dowland published in his first book of songs of 1597. It is actually written in the reverse of the usual order with the 8 variations first and the theme at the end of the piece. As the piece progresses each movement comes closer to the original melody which finishes the final movement.

Brahms: Theme and Variations from Sextet Op.18

Arranged for 2 guitars by John Williams

Brahms string sextet op.18 was published in 1862 but he had already arranged the second movement theme and variations for piano at the request of Clara Schumann in 1860, despite his rather tense relationship with her at the time. The theme is a sombre melody in the minor key and the six variations include complex harmonic and romantic elements in their composition. The string sextet form provides a very rich texture to the work which has been adapted to enable the two guitars to bring out the melodic and harmonic elements of the variations.

Friday 26 February: 7-30pm: Farnham Methodist Church, GU9 7RN

The Goldberg Ensemble

JS Bach's Goldberg Variations arranged for string trio

Saturday 19 March: 7-30pm: St Andrews Church, GU9 7PW

Stephen Lacey – Organ recital

Bach, Dvorak, Elgar, Satie, Walton etc

Saturday 26 March: 7-30pm: Farnham Methodist Church, GU9 7RN

MAIASTRA Concert: Mozart and Mendelssohn 2-Violas Quintets

Saturday 16 April 7-30pm: St Andrews Church, GU9 7PW

Guildhall Ensemble: Baroque evening

Saturday 14 May: 7-30pm; St Andrews Church, GU9 7PW

Pegasus Chamber Choir: Monteverdi Vespers

Tilford Bach Festival

10 June: JS Bach - Art of the Fugue, London Handel Players

11 June: JS Bach - Cantatas 9 & 132 + instrumental pieces

12 June: JS Bach - Mass in B Minor

Sean Shibe

Sean Shibe was born in Edinburgh in 1992. He graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in July 2012 with first-class honours, the youngest musician to have ever entered the establishment, and continues his studies with Paolo Pegoraro in Italy. Sean has been a trailblazer for his instrument: he is the first guitarist to be admitted to the prestigious BBC New Generation Artists Scheme, and the only solo guitarist to have received a Borletti-Buitoni Fellowship. He has just been accepted onto the YCAT Scheme.

In 2009 Sean won first prize in the Ivor Mairants Guitar Award of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and in 2011 he became only the second guitarist ever to win the Royal Over-Seas League first prize and gold medal following the competition final at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Sean gave his Wigmore Hall solo recital debut in February 2014, later reviewed by Classical Guitar Magazine: "*From the very first note he plays, Sean Shibe immediately draws in the attention of the audience... Sean Shibe created a magical atmosphere; he seems to intimately understand the meaning behind every note which he plays.*"

Highlights of 2015 include his debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra performing the Villa-Lobos Guitar Concerto, performing the Arnold Guitar Concerto with BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Sean took part in the Britten celebrations in Aldeburgh, and the Marlboro Summer Music Festival & Academy in the USA on the invitation of Mitsuko Uchida.

Petra Poláčková

Petra Poláčková began her guitar studies at the age of six at the Elementary Art School in Roznov pod Radhostem where she worked with Mr. Bohuslav Faltus and Mrs. Miroslava Pavelkova. She also studied with Zdenek Dvorak at the Elementary Art School Lounskych in Prague. In 2010 she completed her studies at the School of Music in Pardubice (Czech Republic) with Prof. Petr Saidl. Currently, she studies with Prof. Paolo Pegoraro at Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Graz (Austria).

Ms. Poláčková has participated in master classes throughout Europe presented by internationally acclaimed classical guitarists. In 2011 she received the Merit Diploma at the Chigiana Academy of Siena in Maestro Oscar Ghiglia's Class.

Since 2002 she has won three first prizes in Czech Republic national competitions in Opava, Ceske Budejovice and Pardubice and six first prizes at international competitions in Dolný Kubín (Slovakia), Kutna Hora (Czech Republic), Bratislava (Slovakia), Krzyżowa (Poland) and Krynica (Poland). In 2011 she won second prize at the International Guitar Festival Rust (Austria), second prize (first not assigned) at the International Guitar Competition „Stefano Strata" Pisa (Italy) and first prize at the 36th International Guitar Competition Gargnano (Italy).

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