
About the performers

Robert Macfarlane was born in Hamilton (VIC) and is now residing in Leipzig as his 'European headquarters' pursuing an exciting career in his genre extending beyond the music of J.S. Bach.

Robert studied at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide and the Hochschule für Musik Leipzig 'Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy' where he studied as recipient of the prestigious Thomas Elder Overseas Scholarship. He was the winner of the Adelaide Critic's Circle Award for best individual performance in 2012 (Bach – *St. John Passion*), a finalist in the Lortzing Competition in Germany in 2013, and winner of the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria competition in 2009.

Robert is known internationally for his performance of Bach, particularly the Evangelist of the *St. John* and *St. Matthew Passions*, and was the 2008 and 2009 Bach Scholar in the St Johns Bach Cantata Program in Melbourne. He made his debut at St. Thomas Church Leipzig in 2013 as the tenor soloist in Bach's *Mass in B minor* with the Gewandhaus Orchestra and Thomanerchor under the direction of Thomaskantor Georg Christoph Biller.

John O'Donnell is Monash University Organist, Founder/Director of Ensemble Gombert and Director of Music at All Saints', East St Kilda. He was educated at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and later held senior appointment at the Victorian College of the Arts and the University of Melbourne.-

John performs regularly as conductor, organist, harpsichordist and pianist and is also active in music research and editing. He has undertaken 21 concert tours of Europe and 12 of North America, principally as organist and choral conductor.- He is the first person ever to perform Bach's complete keyboard works (organ and harpsichord) in public, a total of 29 recitals in all. His recording of organ works of Bach was nominated for "Recording of the Year" in 2000 by *International Record Review*.

Laura Vaughan is gaining a reputation as Australia's most exciting viola da gamba and lirone player. Following her return to Australia from studies at the Royal Conservatorium in the Hague Laura has established a busy schedule of teaching and performing from her base in Melbourne and performs a wide range of solo and chamber repertoire across Australasia, Europe and the United States.- Laura has a particular love of 17th century repertoire and records regularly for ABC Classic FM as a soloist and chamber musician, also appearing on numerous CD recordings. She performs with most major early music ensembles within Australia, and is a founding member of the multiple ARIA award nominated trio Latitude 37.



Australian Bach Society Inc.

In association with

German Lutheran Trinity Church

presents



The Path to Bach

The Schemelli Songbook and the Liturgical Music of Weimar and Leipzig

Robert Macfarlane (tenor)

John O'Donnell (harpsichord)

Laura Vaughan (viola da gamba)

Saturday 7 May 2016, 3:00 pm

German Lutheran Trinity Church, 22 Parliament Place East Melbourne 3002

Tickets: \$35 (regular), \$25 (concession)

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/KUWP or at door

Information: www.bach.org.au - mob 0425 802 046

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The Path to Bach

The Schemelli Songbook and the Liturgical Music of Weimar and Leipzig

Program:

J.S Bach – from Schemelli Gesangbuch:

Kommt, Seelen, dieser Tag (F-Major)

Mein Jesu, was für Seelenweh (D-minor)

Brunnquell, aller gutter (G-Minor)

Dir, dir, Jehova will ich singen! (Bflat-Major)

August Kühnel – Arie: “Herr Jesu Christ, du höchstes Gut”

G-Minor

(Weimar, 1698)

J.S Bach – from Schemelli Gesangbuch:

Liebster Gott, wann werd' ich sterben (Eflat-Major)

Komm. Süßer Tod (C-Minor)

Es ist nun aus mit meinem Leben (Eflat-Major/Minor)

Johann Kuhnau – Biblical Sonata Nr. 4

“Der Todtkrancke und wieder gesunde Hiskias”

C-Dorian

(Leipzig, 1700)

J.S Bach – from Schemelli Gesangbuch:

So gehst du nun, mein Jesu, hin (G-minor)

J.S Bach – Jesu, lass durch Wohl und Weh

B-Minor

(From ‘Himmelskönig, sei Willkommen’ BWV182 – Palm Sunday, Weimar 1714)

from Schemelli Gesangbuch

Es ist vollbracht! Vergiss ja nicht dies Wort (B-minor)

Telemann – Ouverture TWV32.5 for Harpsichord

G-Minor

J.S Bach – from Schemelli Gesangbuch

Bflat-Major

Seelenbräutigam, Jesu, Gottes Lamm (Bflat-Major)

J.S Bach – Hasse nur, hasse mich recht

A-minor

(From ‘Die Himmel erzählen die Ehre Gottes’ BWV76 – second Sunday

after Trinity, Leipzig 1723 (2nd Cantata for the Thomaskirche)

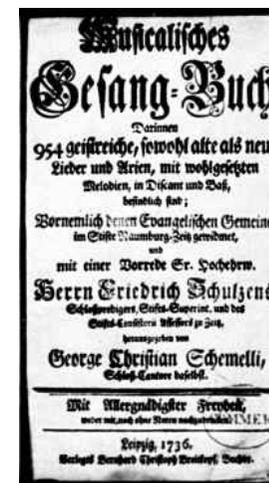
- from Schemelli Gesangbuch

C– major

Jesus ist das schönste Licht

O finstre Nacht, wann wirst du doch vergehen

B-minor



Program Notes:

To what extent Bach was involved in the composition and publication of the so-called **Schemelli's Songbook** is hard to know for certain. A collection of 950 selected sacred Lieder and arias advertised in fair catalogues from Frankfurt and Leipzig in 1736 - a comprehensive panoply of tunes, from old Lutheran pot-boiling chorales to effusive a la mode pietist 'arias' - represented a cradle-to-grave project administered from **Zeitz Castle** and edited by **Georg Christian Schemelli** the Music Director at the castle.-

Bach's involvement centres around 69 chorales with figured bass, though how many he merely revised and how many he actually composed is still open to some debate. What can be ascertained, however, is that Bach's stamp is often marked indelibly on the most simple line. Even in pieces where his authorship is uncertain, the sentiment of the text is quietly irradiated by an unobtrusive and effortless poise: gracious bass-lines provide the individual assurance of the texts, joined by apt motivic and harmonic inflexions and well-timed suspensions.

(From Bach Cantata's Website)
