

Virtual Press Night: Roderick Williams sings a selection of baroque cantatas with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

After recording a haunting and melancholic programme of Bach and Handel with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE) in October, Roderick Williams reunites with the Orchestra to sing a selection of baroque works by J.S. Bach, Telemann, Bruhns and Graupner. This concert is directed by Roderick Williams and OAE Leader, Kati Debretzeni.

Katharina Spreckelsen, OAE Principal Oboe, describes how the OAE put this programme together:

‘Roderick and I started off by choosing the Bach cantata, simply because it’s one of the most wonderful ones we know. I thought about the fact when Bach was appointed to his job in Leipzig at the Thomas Kirche, he wasn’t actually a part of their plan A. They offered the job to Telemann first, who declined because he got a better offer in Hamburg. They then offered the position to Graupner, but he got offered more money in Darmstadt. It actually seems as though Bach was plan C!

The Bruhns was chosen as I just love the piece. Legend has it that Bruhns performed it by himself; apparently he played the fiendish violin part whilst playing the bass with the organ pedals and singing the vocal part. If it is true, he must have been a very clever chap. Not totally believable, but the story is good anyway!’

Chosen for its countryside setting and picturesque interior, this concert was filmed in beautiful Ayot St Lawrence church. The Orchestra thought that the remote setting would provide the perfect silent backdrop for filming. Ironically, the recording was occasionally interrupted by the local sheep who decided they wanted to record their bleating for posterity. Thanks are given to the Church and Christine Stevenson for kindly allowing the OAE to use the space for free and for being so welcoming.

This performance will premiere on OAE Player at 8pm BST on Tuesday 8 June. If you are interested in reviewing this performance, please contact anna.bennett@oae.co.uk to receive your free access pass.

Notes to Editors

REPERTOIRE

Graupner *Fahre auf in die Höhe*

Telemann Concerto for 3 oboes & 3 violins in Bb

Bruhns *Mein Herz ist bereit*

JS Bach Cantata BWV 56 *Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen*