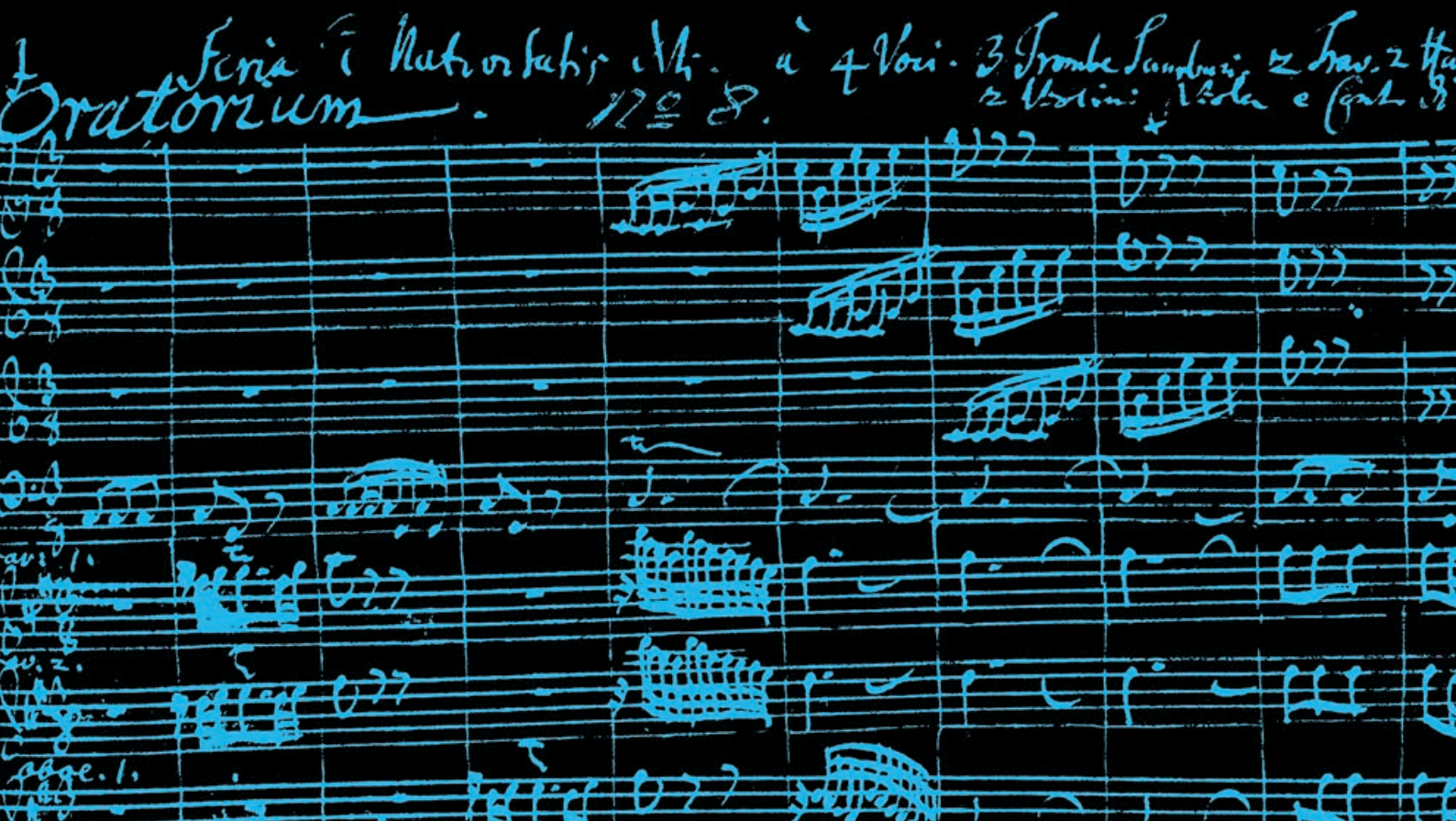


Bach

AKADEMIE
AUSTRALIA

2024

BACH – MIND, BODY AND SOUL



Bach

AKADEMIE AUSTRALIA

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We hope that you are as excited by our program for 2024 as we are! As has always been the case, running an arts organisation requires support from many different sectors and presents huge financial challenges, especially at this time.

We invite you to consider joining our generous family of individual donors by either purchasing a ticket to one of our forthcoming events, or making a donation to support our work and help us to bring the wonderful music of J.S. Bach to life. Unless you wish to remain anonymous, your contribution will be acknowledged on our website and in our concert programs.

All donations of \$2 or over are fully tax deductible.

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Few figures in history enjoy a global popularity and longevity that has endured for over three centuries. Perhaps Shakespeare. J.S. Bach must surely win on sheer breadth and volume of output and the unending wonder of hearing his music which stokes the intellect as well as the passions. The Bach Akademie Australia is pivotal in keeping these riches alive.

– *Limelight*, November 2023

BACH – MIND, BODY AND SOUL

Welcome to our 2024 season *Bach – Mind, Body and Soul*. What is it that makes Bach so special amongst musicians? What is it that elevates him far above his peers and those who have come before and after? After much contemplation on the subject, I concluded that this year's program must act as a musical deep dive into those aspects of the man which define his genius, still leaving us in awe. Our aim is to explore Bach in mind, body and soul.

In our first program, we delve into Bach as a benefactor. Throughout his life, he mentored many students including his own children, but was also passionate about those in his community who needed help. Thus, we present his cantata "Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot" (Bring the hungry your bread) BWV 39, written to encourage the people of Leipzig to help those less fortunate, and his timeless cantata "Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben" (Heart and mouth and deed and life) BWV 147 which embodies Bach's deep commitment to his faith and people.

But what about his mind? His unique intellect gave him the ability to create works of staggering complexity, beauty and perfection which we will explore in our second concert series of the year titled 'Bach – The Mind of a Genius'. Featuring selections from his Goldberg Variations, Das Wohltemperierte Klavier, his Violin Concerto in A minor, and his

Musical Offering, we explore what it is that elevates Bach's music to the realms of genius.

That mind served to enable his body to cope with extraordinary feats of stamina throughout his life, including completing a journey on foot of over 400kms to learn from his idol Dietrich Buxtehude. This incredible feat of endurance is explored musically in our third program of the year 'In the Steps of Bach – The Road to Lübeck'. Australian organist Marko Sever will take us on a journey from Arnstadt to Lübeck through the works of composers Bach took with him on his journey, culminating in his masterpiece, the cantata 'Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust' BWV 170.

However, it is his soul and deep generosity of spirit that frames and inspires our final program of this year. The Christmas Oratorio is nothing short of a musical miracle. It tells the Christmas story over 6 cantatas, representing the 6 feast days of the Christmas period, containing some of Bach's most touching but joyful music. In this music, Bach's unique mind, body and spirit combine. Through the precious notes he wrote, he has given us a gift of immeasurable delight and wonder for all generations to come.

Madeleine Easton
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Madeleine Easton
Artistic Director



The Bach family spent their lives in service. After four generations of practicing musicians, J.S. Bach was no different. He was a passionate educator, pedagogue, school master and mentor to his own many children and those of the Thomasschule of which he was Cantor. With a strong social conscience, he composed music to enrich, instruct and inspire the lives of all. Bach Akademie Australia presents a program featuring Bach's cantata 'Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot', dubbed the 'refugee cantata', thought to have welcomed the arrival into Germany of Protestant refugees banished from Salzburg. Composed in Cöthen, his Harpsichord Concerto in E arranged for violin is a shining example of clever adaptation, which he used later in his career as a tool for teaching his students. We end with his famous cantata 'Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben' BWV 147, which perfectly encapsulates Bach's desire that our hearts, mouths, deeds and lives be in service to humanity and to God.

BACH – THE BENEFACTOR

BOOKINGS

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PROGRAM

J.S. Bach Cantata 'Brich dem
Hungrigen dein Brot' BWV 39

Harpichord Concerto in E arranged
for Violin in D (after BWV 1053)
arr. K. Debrezeni

J.S. Bach Cantata 'Herz und Mund
und Tat und Leben' BWV 147

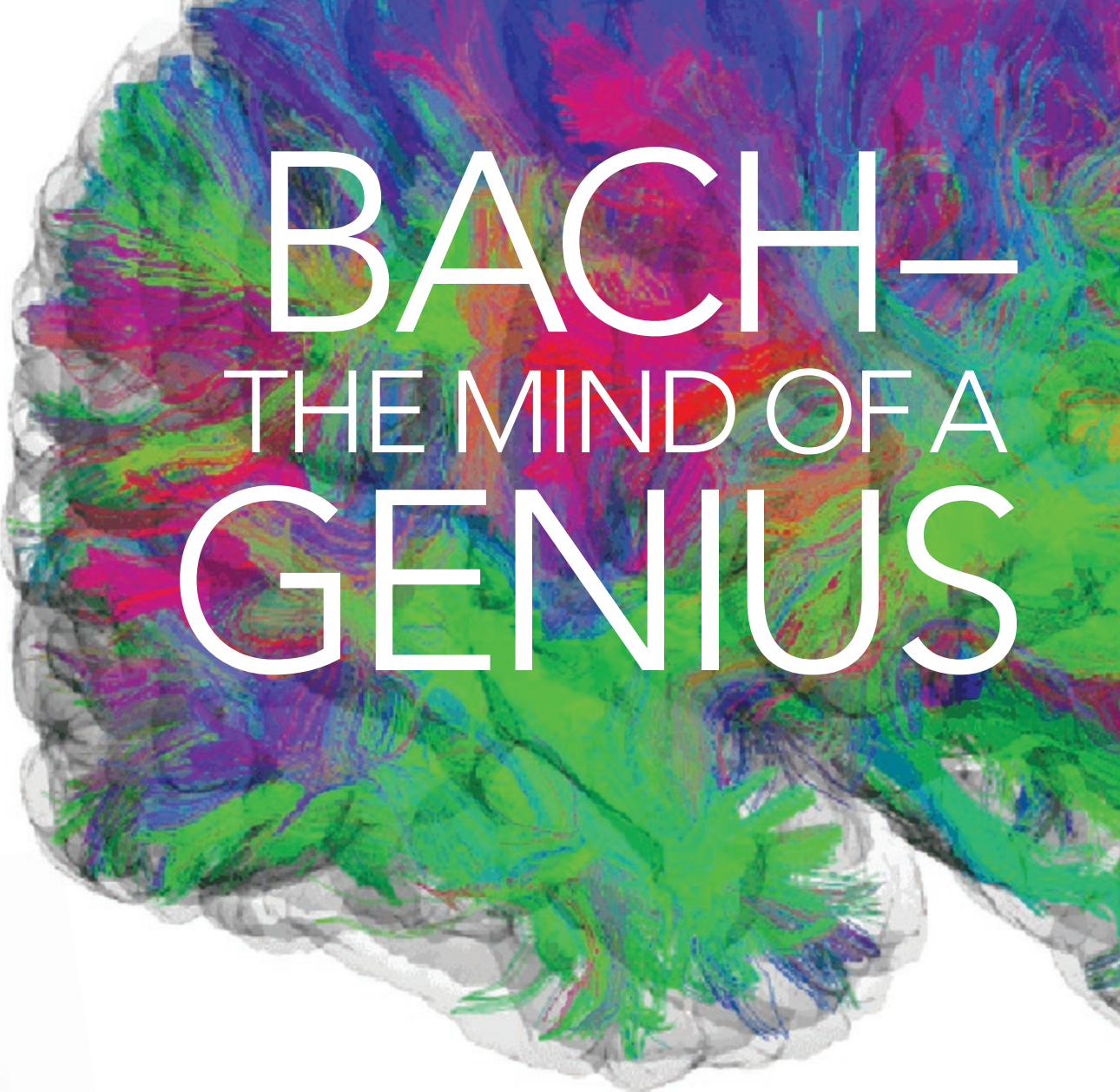
DATES

Friday 12th April, 7.30pm
St Francis of Assisi Church,
Paddington


Sunday 14th April, 2.30pm
Our Lady of Dolours Church,
Chatswood



TOR



BACH— THE MIND OF A GENIUS



What defines a genius? Genius is described as one who has exceptional intellectual or creative power, a statement that applies to many a great composer. However, even amongst geniuses, Bach stands apart from his contemporaries. No one before or after him reached his level of excellence relative to their own field. His contributions to the art of music far outweigh those of his predecessors and successors, resulting in him almost single-handedly developing Western music to its peak. In this program, we delve into the mind of a genius through his music, demonstrating beyond his creative genius that shines so brightly today and changed western civilisation forever.

Scan of a child's brain
listening to Bach.
— University of
Southern California /
Viterbi Magazine



Bach loved to engage in musical puzzles – this Musical Cross was his signature. If you read a note (German notation) on the musical cross by starting from the left then go clockwise, it spells BACH:

B: Left (Treble clef)
A: Top (Tenor clef)
C: Right (Alto clef)
H: Bottom (Treble clef)



PROGRAM

J.S. Bach Das Wohltemperierte Klavier, Prelude and Fugue No. 1 in C major BWV 846
Neal Peres Da Costa

J.S. Bach 'Sonata sopr'il sogetto Real' from Das Musikalische Opfer BWV 1079

J.S. Bach Final 5 variations of 'The Goldberg Variations' BWV 988 *Neal Peres Da Costa*

J.S. Bach Violin Concerto in A minor BWV 1041
Madeleine Easton

J.S. Bach Aria No. 3 'Wie zittern und wanken der Sünder Gedanken' from Cantata BWV 105
Bonnie de la Hunty

J.S. Bach Die Kunst der Fuga, final 3 Contrapunctus

J.S. Bach 6 part Ricercar from Das Musikalische Opfer BWV 1079

DATES

Friday 21st June, 7.30pm
Paddington Uniting Church, Paddington

Sunday 23rd June, 2.30pm
Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood

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IN THE STEPS
OF BACH –

THE ROAD TO

LÜBECK

It was the autumn of 1705. A young 20 year old Bach began a journey on foot of almost 400 kilometres from Arnstadt in the heart of Germany, to Lübeck near the Baltic coast. Who would undertake such a gruelling expedition? Only one such as J.S. Bach, whose desire to study the art and craft of the famous organist Dietrich Buxtehude, drove him to complete a journey most would baulk at – such was his desire to learn from his idol and better himself as a musician. Buxtehude’s music proved to be a beacon of inspiration for Bach, changing the course of music forever. Featuring the Australian organist Marko Sever and Baritone Andrew O’Connor, we chart the journey to Lübeck through music of the great masters Bach took with him, ending with Bach’s Cantata BWV 170 which so perfectly encapsulates the results of such inspiration on the mind of a genius.

PROGRAM

Johann Christoph Bach Chorale zum praeludium ‘Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott’

Marko Sever

Pachelbel Musicalische Ergötzung Suite in C major

Pachelbel Chaconne in F minor for organ P.43

Marko Sever

Nicholas Bruhns ‘Der Herr hat seinen Stuhl im Himmel bereitet’

Andrew O’Connor

Georg Böhm – Chorale Prelude ‘Christ lag in Todesbanden’

Marko Sever

J.S. Bach Prelude and Fugue in E flat major BWV 552

Marko Sever

Buxtehude Toccata in F major BuxWV 156

Marko Sever

J.S. Bach Cantata ‘Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust’ BWV 170

Russell Harcourt

DATES

Friday 20th September, 7.30pm

St James Church, King Street

Sunday 22nd September, 2.30pm

Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle



‘Talking Bach’ is back next year in a new format of an episode each month showcasing artists, festival directors, collaborators,

scholars, and covering topics ranging from the history of Bach in Australia, to how mathematics and music go together, why we still bother with performing on baroque instruments, how Bach still influences music and popular culture today and much, much more! Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts!

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www.bachakademieaustralia.com.au 1300 785 377

*Jena (Katholische Kirche) 1713
Oratorium*



BACH'S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

BOOKINGS

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For us, Christmas without the music of Bach is not Christmas. No other composer before or since has been able to capture the joy of the Nativity and the hope and renewal that springs forth from it so perfectly. Over 6 Cantatas, Bach takes us on a journey through the Christmas story from the birth of Jesus, the adoration of the shepherds, the new year and finally, the epiphany. Join us in a blaze of trumpets, timpani, our full choir and orchestra to celebrate this truly special season and ring in the new year with joy.

PROGRAM

- Part 1: 'Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage'
- Part 2: 'Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend'
- Part 3: 'Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen'
- Part 4: 'Fallt mit Danken, fallt mit Loben'
- Part 5: 'Ehre sei dir, Gott, gesungen'
- Part 6: 'Herr, wenn die stolzen Feinde schnauben'

DATES

Friday 8th November, 6:30pm
City Recital Hall

Sunday 10th November, 2.30pm
Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood *

* Cantatas 1, 2 and 5 only

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