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/ Bach Birthday Bash

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The Sonatas and Partitas for Unaccompanied Violin, Parts I and II

Featured Speaker: Victoria Martino

In a special two-part presentation, Baroque violinist and scholar Victoria Martino will perform J.S. Bach's Six Sonatas and Partitas for unaccompanied violin and will discuss these seminal works in the context of the composer's life and legacy. It is a unique opportunity to hear these celebrated works performed from the autograph manuscript on an original period instrument.

Bach's sonatas and partitas for violin solo are among the most challenging compositions in the entire repertoire, with a dazzling virtuosity and haunting beauty that have enthralled audiences for nearly three centuries. These remarkable works, composed in 1720, represent the apotheosis of violin literature, due to their daunting musical and technical demands. Hearing them in concert, one can scarcely believe that such rich harmonic complexity and profound emotional depth can be evoked by a single melodic instrument. Thematic, rhythmic, spatial, timbral, and tonal textures are conveyed within a panoply of musical forms, ranging from dramatic preludes and polyphonic fugues to lively dance suites. None other than the great Johannes Brahms wrote of Bach's majestic and monumental *Chaconne* (the crown and centerpiece of the entire cycle), "On one stave, for a small instrument, the man writes a whole world of the deepest thoughts and most powerful feelings. If I imagined that I could have created, even conceived the piece, I am quite certain that the excess of excitement and earth-shattering experience would have driven me out of my mind."

Presenter Biography

A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University and the University of California, Victoria Martino studied Baroque violin and early-music performance practice with Robert Koff in Boston (Brandeis University, Harvard University). For over a decade, she toured internationally with her own ensemble, the Albertina Soloists, giving concerts throughout Europe, North America, Australia, and Japan. Her extensive early music orchestral experience includes: associate concertmaster of Capella Academica Wien for nearly 10 years and principal second violin of the Wiesbaden Bach Orchestra, the Carmel Bach Festival Orchestra, and the Los

Angeles Baroque Orchestra (now Musica Angelica). Whenever possible, she performs all early music from the autograph manuscript, in order to be completely faithful to the composer's intentions. She plays an original (unmodified) Baroque violin by Michael Andreas Bartl (Vienna, 1760).

Coordinator: Steve Clarey

8/1/2022 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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8/8/2022 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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Included with membership, no registration required.

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