

8. Internationaler Viola da Gamba Wettbewerb Bach-Abel 2021

Köthen (Anhalt)



WETTBEWERB

16. bis 23. May 2021

Introduction

The state of Saxony-Anhalt is home to a tremendous variety of baroque musical history. For the former princely residence of Köthen, a small town in the heart of Saxony-Anhalt, Johann Sebastian Bach's appointment as court director of music turned out to be a fortunate coincidence.

The International Viola da gamba competition seeks to pay homage to this golden age of court music in Köthen.

During his tenure as the court music director in Köthen from 1717 to 1723, Johann Sebastian Bach wrote many important compositions, especially of his instrumental music (for instance the *Brandenburgischen Konzerte*, the first part of his *Wohltemperirtes Clavier*, and the *Sei Solo / Sonatas and Partitas* for unaccompanied violin). It has long been assumed that his three Sonatas for Viola da gamba and Harpsichord, BWV 1027-1029, were also composed during this time; however, more recent research situates their creation during Bach's later tenure in Leipzig.

Karl Friedrich Abel, who was born in Köthen in 1723 and whose father was a cello and viola player in the court orchestra under Bach's conducting, was among the most renowned viola da gamba players at the time. A great number of works for this instrument penned by him testify to his artistry. As of 1764, he worked closely together with Johann Sebastian Bach's youngest son Johann Christian in the famous concert series "Bach-Abel-Concerts" in London.

The Köthen castle, which used to be the centre of music at that time, will serve as the competition venue.

The International Viola da gamba Competition, now presenting its 8th edition, makes a valuable contribution to the maintenance of the musical tradition in Saxony-Anhalt and continues to attract the most excellent emerging viola da gamba players from around the world.

8th International Viola da gamba Competition Bach-Abel 2021

President: Prof. Siegfried Pank (D)
Panel of judges: Prof. Paolo Pandolfo (chairman) (I)
Prof. Wendy Gillespie (USA)
Prof. Masako Hirao (J)
Prof. Hille Perl (D)
Dr. Peter Reidemeister (CH)

Terms and Conditions

The district of Anhalt-Bitterfeld invites viola da gamba players to participate in its international competition.

The competition is open to the public. The competition will take place from October 16 to 23, 2021.

Legal action against the judges' decisions cannot be taken.

The competition is open to musicians of all nationalities born after May 1, 1987.

Arrival and registration occur on opening day May 16. Registration has to be finished by 6.30 PM.

Harpsichords are tuned to 415 Hz.

A first, second and third prize as well as potential special prizes will be awarded.

1 st prize	6.000 Euro
2 nd prize	4.500 Euro
3 rd prize	3.000 Euro
Audience award	500 Euro
Special Prize of the Viola da Gamba society	

If the quality of the entries is not deemed appropriate, the panel of judges reserves the right to not award prizes.

The application and the attachments have to be submitted by March 22, 2021 (postage stamp).

Please include:

- Copy of identification document
- Contact information including address and email
- Biography
- Certificate/evidence of musical training
- One and high-gloss photograph for programme and press release (9x12 cm, digital or printed)

Applications that do not fulfil the aforementioned requirements cannot be accepted. In this case, the registration fee will be refunded.

Upon arrival, be prepared to present an identification document and specify the editions of scores used for rehearsing the required repertoire.

Ideally, reprints of facsimiles of original manuscripts should be used.

Participants will appear in alphabetical order based on the first letter of their surname. The Competition Management will determine the

beginning letter by drawing a lot. The order of appearance will be drawn anew for each round.

Participants must pay a registration fee of 30 Euro along with their application.

Account holder: Landkreis Anhalt-Bitterfeld
BIC (bank code number): NOLADE21BTF
IBAN (account number): DE728000537220302006907

Intend purpose:
Bach-Abel-Wettbewerb 21 (Produkt: 28120100 SK: 432102)

The application fee will not be refunded in case of cancellation of the participant.

Participants who require the assistance of a harpsichordist should indicate so on their application.

Accompaniment will be provided free of charge. Participants who bring their own accompanist are responsible for covering their travel and living expenses.

The competition will provide vocal and ensemble accompaniment free of charge.

Participants of the second round get supplementary funds to offset part of their expenses.

The competition will not offer instrument and accident insurance.

The participants consent to audio and visual recording of their performances, some of them may be used for promotion.

Competitors must be willing and available to participate in any performances during the time of the competition including but not limited to the concert of the award winners. They will not receive payment for these performances.

Living and travel expenses are covered by the participants.

Registration and inquiries:

Landkreis Anhalt-Bitterfeld

Competition Management „8. Bach-Abel-Wettbewerb“

Head of competition office: Silvia Bier

OT Bitterfeld

Lindenstraße 12 a

D-06749 Bitterfeld-Wolfen

Phone: +49(0)3493/338315

Email: baw@anhalt-bitterfeld.de

Competition Repertoire

First round

Carl Friedrich Abel (1723 – 1787)

from the Maltzan collection:

Sonata A minor A2:57A for Viola da Gamba and Basso continuo

<https://polona.pl/item/28-utworow-na-viole-da-gamba,Njg1MzE0OTM/29/#item>

Jean Schenck (1660 – after 1712)

L'Écho du Danube

from Sonata III for Viola da Gamba and Basso continuo:

Allemanda, Corrente, Sarabanda, Giga

Tobias Hume (around 1569 – 1645)

From „The first part of ayres“ (1605):

A Pavan A minor (Nr.42), Good again (Nr. 14), A Souldiers Galiard (Nr. 48)

2. Round

Vestiva i colli (Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, around 1525 – 1594)

Diminutions by **Francesco Rognioni** (after 1570 – after 1626) from

Selva di Varii Passaggi, Venezia 1620

OR: an improvised Bastarda

Christian Wilhelm Podbielski (1741 – 1792)

Sonata G Major for Viola da Gamba and Basso continuo

(published by Edition Walhall – EW 514)

Antoine Forqueray (1672 – 1745)

From *Piecès de Viole avec la Basse Continue, IVth Suite*:

La Marella, La D'aubonne (Sarabande), *La Bournonville*

Final round

Carl Friedrich Abel

From Drexel MS: Allegro

A1:18

Andante

A1:10

Tempo di Menuet

A1:31

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

Sonata for Viola da Gamba and Cembalo G minor BWV 1029

Carl Friedrich Abel

Concerto a Viola da Gamba Concertata G major A9:2

for Viola da Gamba, two violins, viola and basso

(published by Ed. Güntersberg G331)

If problems with the acquisition of scores arise, please contact the competition office for assistance. Playing by heart is not a requirement. Harpsichord and ensemble accompaniment will be provided by the competition. Performances are expected to be based on historical sources.