6th International Viola da gamba Competition
Bach-Abel 2015
in Köthen/Anhalt

July 12 to 19, 2015

M. Theuerjahr: "Das Schloss von Osten", pen and ink drawing

Host: Landkreis Anhalt-Bitterfeld
Introduction

The state of Saxony-Anhalt offers a tremendous variety of baroque musical history. Köthen, the former residential city of the prince which is situated in the center of this state, was graced by Johann Sebastian Bach whom the prince employed as the conductor of the court orchestra.

The International Viola da gamba Competition as well as the Köthen Bach Festival pay homage to Köthen's golden age of court music.

During his tenure as the court music director in Köthen from 1717 to 1723, Johann Sebastian Bach created significant works. However, according to current knowledge it is debatable whether his three sonatas for viola da gamba and harpsichord (BWV 1027-1029) were also composed during this period.

Karl Friedrich Abel, who was born in Köthen in 1723 and whose father was a cellist and violin player in the court orchestra under Bach's conducting, belonged to the most recognized viola da gamba players at that 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 Bach's youngest son Johann Christian in the famous concert series „Bach-Abel-Concerts“ in London.

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

The International Viola da gamba Competition, now taking place for the 6th time, makes a tremendous contribution to the maintenance of the musical tradition in Saxony-Anhalt and aims to consistently draw excellent emerging viola da gamba players.

6th International Viola da gamba Competition Bach-Abel 2015

President: Prof. Siegfried Pank (D)

Panel of judges: Prof. Paolo Pandolfo (I) (Chairman), Prof. Wendy Gillespie (USA), Prof. Siegfried Pank (D), Prof. Hille Perl (D), Prof. Pete Ros (E)

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. Legal action against the judges' decision cannot be taken.

The competition will take place from July 12 to 19, 2015.

Arrival and registration occur on opening day July 12. Registration must be completed by 7 PM.

The competition is open to musicians of all nationalities born after March 1, 1983.

Harpsichords are tuned to 415 Hz.

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

- 1st prize: 6,000 Euro
- 2nd prize: 4,500 Euro
- 3rd prize: 3,000 Euro
- Audience award: 500 Euro

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

The application and enclosed form must be submitted by May 15, 2015.

Please include: • identification document • contact information including address and email • biography • certificate/evidence of musical training • one digital submission and high-gloss print of a 9x12 photograph for programme and press release.

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

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

Ideally, reprints or 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 at what point of the alphabet the competition will start by means of a drawing. The order of appearance will be
announced after the opening event on July 12 and remains consistent for all 3 rounds.

Participants must pay a registration fee of 30 Euro submitted with their application by May 15, 2015.

Account holder: Landkreis Anhalt-Bitterfeld
BIC (bank code number): NOLADE21BTF
IBAN (account number): DE72800537220302006907

Intended purpose:
Bach-Abel-Wettbewerb SK: 2.8.1.201.432102

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

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. Their performance will not be judged.

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

Participants of the second round will be granted 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 which may be used for promotion.

Competition 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
Wettbewerbsbüro „Bach-Abel-Wettbewerb“
Am Flughafen 1
D-06366 Köthen
Ph. +49(0)3496/601810
Fax +49(0)3496/601812
Email: baw@anhalt-bitterfeld.de

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**Competition Repertoire**

**First round**

1. **Alfonso Ferrabosco II** (1575 – 1628)
   „Sound out my lyre“ - to Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 – 1594)
   Diminutions for viola da gamba,
   • optionally as “Recordare senza basso“ or
   • accompanied by harpsichord: either with Palestrina – Madrigal “Festa in canti“ or Basso seguente

2. **Karl Friedrich Abel** (1723 – 1787)
   Sonata in G major No. 39 (WK - catalogue No.149) for viola da gamba and Basso continuo, Adagio – Allegro – Allegro

3. Contemporary piece of own choice, maximum duration: 10 minutes (Please send a copy of the score along with your application.)

**Second round**

1. **Christoph S[chaffrath]** (1709 – 1763)
   Sonata in A major for harpsichord obligato and viola da gamba
   Allegretto – Adagio – Allegro

2. **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685 – 1750)
   from „Neunbischützen für Anna Magdalena Bach“ BWV 508 – 518 and/or
   „Sinf., Spiel und Generalbass – Übungen“
   freely chosen songs/arias for soprano and Basso continuo
   (Execution of Basso continuo: viola da gamba solo) max. 10 minutes (Please nominate selected songs/arias at registration.)

3. **Karl Friedrich Abel** from „27 pieces for viola da gamba solo“
   No. 9 D major („Preludio“, both parts) (WK - catalogue No. 9)
   No. 26 A major Allegretto (WK - catalogue No. 26)
   No. 27 A major Allegro (WK - catalogue No. 27)

4. **Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770 – 1827)
   from „Missa solemnis“ BWV 577
   „Fugue in G major“ BWV 578
   „Sonata in A major“ BWV 533

**Final round**

1. **Johann Sebastian Bach**
   Sonata in A major for viols da gamba and harpsichord BWV 1027
   Adagio – Allegro ma non tanto – Andante – Allegro moderato

2. **Karl Friedrich Abel**
   „Preludes avec la Basse Continuo“ op. 2
   Fantaisie über das Thema „Vivace“ (WV 614)
   Aria from „Allegro moderato“

3. **Johann Gottlieb Graun** (1702/3 – 1771)
   Concerto D major for viola da gamba, 2 violins, viola and Bc
   Grafted WV. 8.A, Wilber 77 (Hessische Landes- und Hochschulbibliothek Darmstadt Mus. inv. 326) Vivace – Adagio – Allegro

Participants who are unable to obtain scores of the required repertoire can contact the competition office for assistance. Memorization is not required. Vocal, harpsichord and ensemble accompaniment will be provided free of charge.