7th International Viola da gamba Competition
Bach-Abel 2018
Köthen (Anhalt)

October 07 to 14, 2018
**Introduction**

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

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 cello and viola 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 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 taking place for the 7th time, makes a tremendous contribution to the maintenance of the musical tradition in Saxony-Anhalt and aims to consistently attract excellent emerging viola da gamba players.

---

**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’ decisions cannot be taken.

The competition will take place from October 07 to 14, 2018.

Arrival and registration occur on opening day October 07. Registration has to be finished by 7 PM.

The competition is open to musicians of all nationalities born after September 1, 1984.

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 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 August 12, 2018.

Please include:
- Copy of identification document
- Contact information including address and email
- Biography
- Certificate/evidence of musical training
- One 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 at what point of the alphabet the competition will start by principle of chance.

---

**7th International Viola da gamba Competition Bach - Abel 2018**

**President:** Prof. Siegfried Pank

**Panel of judges:**
- Prof. Paolo Pandolfo (chairman) (I)
- Prof. Wendy Gillespie (USA)
- Prof. Masako Himoi (J)
- Prof. Siegfried Pank (D)
- Prof. Hille Perl (D)
The order of appearance will be drawn new each round.

Participants must pay a registration fee of 30 Euro submitted with their application by August 12, 2018.

Account holder: Landkreis Anhalt-Bitterfeld
BIC (bank code number): NOLADE21B1F
IBAN (account number): DE728000537220302006907

Intend purpose:
Bach-Abel Wettbewerb SK: 2.8.1.2.01.432102

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
Wettbewerbsbüro „7. Bach-Abel-Wettbewerb“
c/o Köthen Kultur und Marketing GmbH
Schlossplatz 05
D-06366 Köthen
Phone: +49(0)3496/7009916
Fax: +49(0)3496/7009929
Email: BAW@bachstadt-koethen.de

**Competition Repertoire**

**First round**

1. Christopher Simpson (um 1605 – 1669)
   One of the first four divisions upon a Ground for the Practice of Learners, Additionally one of the preludes or an own interpretation ‘upon a ground’ in the style of Simpson

2. Georg Philipp Telemann (1681 – 1767)
   from „12 Fantasien für Viola da gamba“ solo (Ledenburg-Sammlung): Fantasia II D-Dur TWV 40:27 Hamburg 1735

3. Karl Friedrich Abel (1723 – 1787)
   from „den drei Ledenburg-Sonaten“ Sonata II A-Dur A2:53

**Second round**

1. August Kühnel (1645 – 1700)
   from „Sonate ô Partite“:
   Nr. VIII A-Dur

2. Roland Marais (um 1685 – 1750)
   Pieces de viole - deuxieme Livre, Paris 1738
   From the Suite in c-moll: Prelude - Allemande (1) - Sarabande

3. Carl Pilipp Emanuel Bach (1714 – 1788)
   Sonata for Viola da Gamba und Cembalo g-Moll Wq 88

**Final round**

1. Karl Friedrich Abel
   from Drexel MS: Prelude Nr. 9
   Allegro Nr. 11
   Adagio Nr. 4
   Tempo di Menuet Nr. 3

2. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)
   Sonata for Viola da gamba und Cembalo D-Dur BWV 1028

3. Georg Friedrich Händel (1685 – 1759)
   „Tra le Fiamme“ HWV 170
   for Soprano, Viola da gamba obligato, 2 recorders, Oboe, 2 violins und Bc

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