



THE GLOBAL BACH COMMUNITY

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Winter 2007

The 45th Conference on Organ Music at University of Michigan

By Samuel T. Swansen

Excerpted from *The Diapason*, May 2006

During the conference, attendees were invited to join a lunch-time discussion with leaders of the Global Bach Community: President Samuel T. Swansen, vice president Marilyn Mason, secretary Toni Vogel Carey, and advisory board member Christoph Wolff.



Christoph Wolff, Marilyn Mason, Samuel Swansen, Toni Vogel Carey

The Community was founded in 2000 with the following mission: to recognize and foster the common spirit that exists universally among lovers of Bach's music, to facilitate Bach-centered projects worldwide – artistic, educational, social and spiritual, to help the Bach community flourish, in part through the ability to raise funds not normally available to individual Bach organizations. In cooperation with The Bach Festival of Philadelphia's website, the Global Bach Community has emerged as a central resource for Bach organizations worldwide (www.bach-net.org).

Global Bach Community Welcomes New Board Member



Stephen Hamilton, virtuoso concert organist, recently joined the Board of the Global Bach Community. Stephen has long been prominent on the American organ scene. The New York Times recently wrote of Hamilton's performance of the Bach "Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor:" "Hamilton, as minister of music at the church, obviously knew the instrument's sonorous capabilities and brought them powerfully to bear in a rousing account." The Charleston Daily Mail reviewed: "This performance had to be one of the supreme moments of music making in this year's or any other year's Orgelfest offerings." For the past thirty years, such consistent critical acclaim has earned Hamilton a reputation as a thoroughly engaging and popular artist and has firmly

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The Global Bach Community

www.bach-net.org

Bach Anniversaries and Celebrations

By Samuel T. Swansen

This is a year of significant anniversaries immediately past and soon to come. During 2006 our member, the Boulder (CO) Bach Festival has celebrated its 25th anniversary. This year marked the start of a new Artistic Director, Lawrence Golan, upon the retirement after 13 years of Robert Spillman from the post. In addition, the Festival has a new Executive Director, Carol Bartel, since your reporter last looked in on the Festival in 2001.

Last Fall, on October 14th, The Bach Festival of Philadelphia marked the 30th Anniversary of its founding by Michael Korn who had previously traveled to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and come away with the determination to found a festival like that celebrated in Bethlehem each year. The anniversary concerts included some of the same works, the Philadelphia Singers (also founded by Michael Korn) and some of the original orchestral players from the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia (now the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia with Ignatz Solzhenitsyn its Artistic Director). The memorial festival was under the direction of Jonathan Sternberg, Artistic Director of the Festival. Executive Director Dr. Guido Houben is the Executive Director who is planning for an international collaborative, Bach Festival Week from March 16-25, 2007, including some 25 events.

This year will also mark two further American Bach anniversaries. One grows out of the determination of members of the Riemenschneider Family, also inspired by the Bach Festival in Bethlehem, who founded a similar festival in the Cleveland area 75 years ago in the form of the Riemenschneider Bach Institute at Baldwin-Wallace College. This Festival was directed for many years by Global Bach Community Board Member Elinore Barber. The Bach Choir of Bethlehem will join with the Institute's Chorus on April 29, 2007 for a celebratory concert at Severance Hall in Cleveland. Then on the second and third weekends in May, the same Bach Choir, the oldest Bach organization in the United States, founded in 1898, will celebrate its 100th annual festival which promises to offer several memorable events.

From The American Bach Society

In recent years, the American Bach Society has published five books with in-depth studies of Bach and Baroque Era topics being debated in the scholarly community.



Book Number 6 represents half (to be continued in Book 7) of the writings about Bach's concerted ensemble music. Of particular interest is the article "The B-Minor Flute Suite Deconstructed: New Light on Bach's Overture BWV 1067" by Joshua Rifkin, which speculates about the instrumental origins of various pieces, such as Bach's concerto for flute BWV 1067. Since Bach often transcribed and adapted earlier works often written for different instruments, it is instructive to find manuscripts of the transcriptions/transpositions with the title, clef, time signatures and, most significantly, key signature in the Master's hand at the top of the page. Then a copyist would take it from there. A frequent occurrence, apparently, were mistakes in handling accidentals in the original in the process of transposing it, with signs that Bach generally proofread and corrected the copyist's work.

Letters to the Editor are Welcome.
Please address them to:

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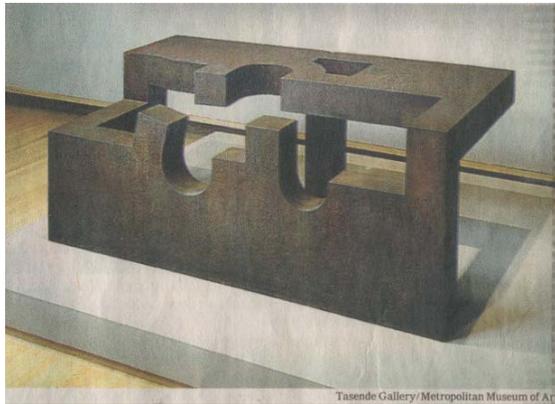
Met Yields to Donor, Canceling Sculpture Sale of “Silent Music II, Homage to Bach”

By Michael Kimmelman

From *The New York Times*, Saturday, January 14, 2006

Acceding to a request from an angry donor, the Metropolitan Museum of Art yesterday canceled plans to sell a large steel sculpture by the Spanish artist Eduardo Chillida – the only work in its collection by that artist.

The work, “Silent Music II” (1983), a seven-foot-long table-like abstraction with moon-shaped and toothy cutouts, had been scheduled to be auctioned by Sotheby’s in London on Feb. 9, 2006.



“Silent Music II” (1983) by Eduardo Chillida was to be sold.

“I’m still appalled,” he said, adding: “Yes, I’m relieved. But I told her they now have six years before they can legally dump it, by which time they will thank me for having kept them from letting it go now.”

Chillida (1924-2002) was one of the more admired European sculptors of the mid-20th-century and a hero in his native Basque region in Spain. Building on the legacy of ironworks by Picasso and Julio González, he devised weighty, blocky abstractions made of complex interlocking shapes, often knotted or spiky, the rhythm of their forms offsetting their mass.

The Met’s “Silent Music II” is subtitled “Homage to J.S. Bach.” Chillida has been quoted as saying that he wished to convey “the might of his music and its ability to spread throughout time and space.”

Of the Chillida, Mr. Ribelin said: “This was the finest example of forged iron work by him in any museum in the United States. If it were a second-rate

artist, then fine. That’s normal for museums to sell off second-rate stuff. But who do they think they’re kidding?”

GBC Welcomes New Board Member...

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established his reputation as a leading and much sought-after personality.

Stephen Hamilton is Minister of Music at the historic Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal), in New York City, where he conducts the semi-professional Holy Trinity Choir and is Artistic Director of Music at Holy Trinity, the church’s subscription concert series. The New York Times acknowledges that Hamilton’s concert series “is an important venue for week-end presentations.” Highlights of Hamilton’s career include the premiere performance of Kenton Coe’s “Concerto for Organ, Strings and Percussion” in France, a performance with the Detroit Symphony with conductor David Zinman, and appearances with numerous regional orchestras. Hamilton has been heard in hundreds of solo recitals and on the nationally broadcast radio program Pipe Dreams as well as WETS-FM’s Pipes, Pedals and Pistons. His compact disc release of Marcel Dupré’s “Le Chemin de la Croix” met with exceptional reviews from a number of magazines and trade journals including *The American Organist* and *The American Record Guide*.

In addition to his duties at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Dr. Hamilton is a member of the artist faculties at Hunter, Mannes and Queens Colleges. Dr. Hamilton is in demand as a clinician for master classes and workshops, frequently lecturing on issues related to church music as well as organ teaching, playing and interpretation. He presented classes on various aspects of church music at the University of the South in the summer of 2001 and has presented church music repertoire classes for the 2002, 2004 and 2006 National Conventions of the American Guild of Organists in Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Hamilton was Dean of the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists from 1998-2004, is President of the Alain Association in America and is the program chairman of the Region II AGO convention scheduled in New York City for July of 2007. He brings to the GBC a wealth of background and ideas.

Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity

Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity is a musical ministry of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan which regularly presents Bach's cantatas and many other early works in the living Lutheran tradition implemented by Bach himself three centuries ago as Cantor in Leipzig, Germany. Bach Vespers has been named "A Cultural Landmark" by the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and features the professional Bach Choir and Bach Players on baroque period instruments, under the direction of Cantor Rick Erickson.



Cantor Erickson began organ study at the age of fourteen following in his mother's and grandmother's footsteps. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wisconsin, Superior, and a Master's from the Eastman School of Music, in addition to the Performer's Certificate. He has performed as organist, conductor, and hymn-festival leader throughout the United States and Europe. In New York, Erickson founded BachWorks in 1994, leaving it to focus on Bach Vespers in 1998. Recently, he has conducted "Bach events" in Seattle, Tulsa, and Minneapolis. He served as co-editor for the new choral edition of *Bach for All Seasons*, and has recorded for Augsburg Fortress, Naxos and JAV, among others. His choral arrangements are published by Augsburg Fortress and Kjos Publishers, and he appeared in the acclaimed film "13 Conversations About One Thing". This past year he arranged and directed music for the play *The*

Orphan Singer. Prior to coming to New York, Erickson served at Incarnate Word Lutheran in Rochester, NY, and at the Eastman School of Music, where he continues to teach in the summer Organ Improv Fest.

In 1994 *Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity* implemented the performance of Bach on historic instruments (modeled on those known to Bach in the Baroque period) thus creating a unique and accurate staging of Bach's cantatas and other sacred works. Peter Kupfer was formally named concertmaster in 2000. The string ensemble has recently completed a recording project of Buxtehude sacred cantatas with Countertenor. Individually, the renowned ensemble members are in great demand and perform throughout the United States and beyond.

The *Vespers* have produced two notable CD releases: *Bach for All Seasons*, featuring the Bach Choir and a variety of instrumentalists performing music from cantatas and other works (in new English translations); and *Joining Hearts and Voices*, featuring hymns from the Lutheran hymn book *With One Voice*, which is made up of hymns drawn from many sources and traditions. Both CDs were nominated for a Grammy.

The current 39th season, continuing through April, 2007, features a series of cantatas entitled "Cantata Libretti", including:

- Bach Cantata 100 – Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan
- Bach Cantata 67 – Halt' im Gedächtnis Jesum Christ
- Bach Cantata 80 – Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott
- Bach Cantata 157 – Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich denn
- Bach Cantata 89 – Was soll ich aus dir machen, Ephraim
- Bach Cantata 139 – Wohl dem, der sich auf seinen Gott
- Bach Cantata 26 – Ach wie flüchtig, ach wie nichtig
- Bach Cantata 140 – Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
- Magnificat, BWV 243
- Bach Cantata 92 – Ich hab in Gottes Herz und Sinn
- Bach Cantata 126 – Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort
- Bach Cantata 22 – Jesus nahm zu sich die Zwölfe
- Bach Cantata 131 – Aus der Tiefen rufe ich, Herr, zu dir
- Bach Cantata 4 – Christ lag in Todesbanden

(For more information, please see <http://bachvespersnyc.org/CantataLibretti.dsp>.)

For more information, see the website at bachvespersnyc.org or write to Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity, 3 West 65th Street, New York, NY 10023 (tel 212-877-6815).