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# Newsletter Spring 2007

## Richard Egarr to conduct St Matthew Passion twice

In the Netherlands, in the classical music scene, Easter time means Passion time. Around this time of the year, music life seems entirely devoted to Bach's *St Matthew* and *St John's Passion*. Amongst the many performances — including those of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra — the Netherlands Bach Society holds a special and long lasting tradition, with their annual *St Matthew Passion* series culminating in the Easter performances in Naarden.

This year, the Netherlands Bach Society has invited Richard Egarr to direct their *St Matthew Passion*. Egarr, always eager to surprise, will however not conduct the 'normal', all too well known version, but the early version (1727), which was premiered by Bach himself on Good Friday 11 April 1727 in the Thomaskirche in Leipzig. This version is different in many ways, most particularly in the scoring,

ornamentations and instrumentation.

So this year, Passion time promises the surprising comeback of Bach's own premiere.

Richard Egarr, who lives in Amsterdam, has recently been appointed as Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music. In 2005, he conducted the Netherlands Bach Society in Handel's *Esther, My Queen*.

### **JS Bach: St Matthew Passion Orchestra and Choir of the Netherlands Bach Society Richard Egarr, Dir.**

Gerd Türk, evangelist; Bas Ramselaar, Christ; Maria Cristina Kiehr, Wilke te Brummelstroete, Andrew Tortise, Giles Underwood

29 March, Tilburg Concertzaal

30 March, Naarden Grote Kerk

31 March, Aardenburg St Baafskerk

1 April, Amsterdam Concertgebouw

3 April, Utrecht MC Vredenburg

4 t/m 7 April, Naarden Grote Kerk

information & tickets:

[www.bachvereniging.nl](http://www.bachvereniging.nl)

### **JS Bach: St Matthew Passion (staged) Glyndebourne Festival Opera Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Glyndebourne Chorus**

**Richard Egarr, Conductor**

Katie Mitchell, Director

Mark Padmore, evangelist; Henry Waddington, Christ; Ingela Bohlin (Soprano), Sarah Connolly (Alto), Andrew Tortise (Tenor), Christopher Purves (Bass)

performances: Jul 1,5,7,14,18,22, 27;

Aug 2,4,9,16,19,24,26; information

and tickets: [www.glyndebourne.com](http://www.glyndebourne.com)

### **Other projects coming up:**

- 20-30 April USA Tour with Academy of Ancient Music (Handel Concerti grossi, Water Music Suite, Telemann Water Music Suite, Concerti)
  - 7 May, Mülhausen, Academy of Ancient Music (chamber music concert)
  - 9 May, Weimar, Academy of Ancient Music (Bach St John's Passion)
- [www.moens-artists.nl](http://www.moens-artists.nl)



In the Summer, Richard Egarr moves on to the Glyndebourne Festival Opera, where he will conduct the *St Matthew Passion* again — but in a staged version this time. This is a dramatised version by Katie Mitchell (who makes her Glyndebourne directing debut), making use of the dramatic and theatrical strength of the *St Matthew Passion* — where narrative sections are combined with solo arias and choruses. Bach never composed an opera, but with the *St*

*Matthew Passion*, he came very close. This is Egarr's debut at Glyndebourne, conducting the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Mark Padmore will make his house debut as the Evangelist, a role for which he is internationally acclaimed; Sarah Connolly returns to Glyndebourne following her triumphant portrayal of Cesare in *Giulio Cesare* in 2005.

## Rachel Podger co-directs joint forces of OAE and Freiburger Barock

Following earlier successful collaborations with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Rachel Podger will direct the OAE in two different projects this Spring. In April, the OAE meets the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, where they will share and experiment with their traditions and practices in performing baroque music. The players will form a unique side-by-side orchestra in rehearsals, workshops, discussions, lectures and concerts, with an education project running alongside these activities. In a series of open rehearsals and talks, players and audience will explore

the role of the musician in baroque and modern society, the philosophy of performance for today's period instrument players and the importance of differing national traditions.

In May, Podger and OAE will continue their journey of baroque music, featuring music from Bohemia, during a European tour.

### **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment**

#### **Rachel Podger, Violin & Director with Freiburg Baroque Orchestra,**

Gottfried von der Goltz, Violin  
Corelli, Zelenka, Purcell, Handel)  
Aldeburgh (22 and 25 Apr),  
Nottingham (26 Apr), Poissy (28  
Apr), Birmingham (29 Apr), Berlin (30  
Apr), Frankfurt (2 May), Freiburg (3  
May);

23 Aug BBC Proms (with Ian  
Bostridge/Kate Royal)

#### **Baroque Journeys: Bohemia**

#### **Rachel Podger director/violin**

Schmelzer Balletto a 4; Fechtschule;  
Sonata No.6; Muffat Sonata No.2;  
Mayr Passacaglia-Grave; Biber Sonata  
a 6; Die pauern-Kirchfarth; Muffat  
Sonata No.5 from Armonico Tributo

Bristol (19 May), Oswestry (20 May),  
Brussels Palais des Beaux Arts (22  
May), Amsterdam Concertgebouw  
(23 May), London QEH (24 May),  
Anvil Basingstoke (25 May), Bradford  
on Avon (26 May)



## Jaap ter Linden records Sonatas by Vivaldi and Geminiani



Last year Brilliant Classics released a new recording of the Bach Cello Suites by dutch cellist Jaap ter Linden, 10 years after his first recording of this magnum opus (Harmonia Mundi USA). Ter Linden continues his new collaboration with recordings of the complete Cello Sonatas by Vivaldi (2 cd's) and Geminiani. For these recordings he will be accompanied by his colleague from the Buxtehude Trio, harpsichordist Lars Ulrik Mortensen, and Cellist Judith-Maria Becker. The recordings will take place in April; release is expected later this year.

Previous recordings for Brilliant Classics:

