

ORGAN GIANTS

J.S. BACH • MENDELSSOHN • SCHUMANN • BRAHMS • B-A-C-H

Samuel Bristow

Sunday 14th February 2021, 4.30 pm

Live-stream only



Complete Organ Works of Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

Recital II

Nachspiel in D major

was written during a visit to Rome in 1831. Opening with an optimistic march, the piece gives way to a stately fugal section which appears to be inspired by the grand contrapuntal works of Handel and Bach, such as the *Amen* from *Messiah* and *Dona Nobis Pacem* from the *Mass in B minor* (BWV 232), both of which were well known to Mendelssohn.

Prelude and Fugue in G major (Op. 37 No 2)

Mendelssohn is documented to have played Bach's 'St Anne' Fugue (BWV 552) and the *Prelude and Fugue in A minor* (BWV 543) on his visits to England. It was during this period that he composed his Op. 37 set; dedicated to Thomas Attwood, Organist of St Paul's Cathedral. This tender Prelude is a quasi-pastorale movement with three interplaying voices and an unassuming pedal line providing harmonic support. The skilfully-constructed Fugue shares common characteristics with the fugal section from the 1831 *Nachspiel*.

Passacaille in C minor

is hugely indebted to Bach's masterwork of the same name; an imposing ostinato theme is stated at the outset followed by a series of imaginative variations, fully displaying the fourteen-year old Mendelssohn's early mastery of the form.

Andante con moto in G minor

is a delicate miniature composed in 1833 at the request of the English publisher Vincent Novello, who had published Mendelssohn's first volume of *Songs Without Words* for piano solo the previous year.

Sonata in C minor (Op. 65 No 2)

- i. Grave — Adagio
- ii. Allegro maestoso e vivace — Fuga



One of the most popular of the Op. 65 set, this sonata is split into two sections, the first a dramatic introduction followed by a lyrical song without words. The second section opens with a grand march, a reworking of the 1831 *Nachspiel*, followed by a fugue which gains momentum towards a sparking conclusion.

Notes by Samuel Bristow

Samuel Bristow

Samuel Bristow is a versatile young musician based in London, currently working as the Organ Scholar of St Paul's Cathedral. As one of the full time organists there, he gives recitals on the world-famous organ and regularly accompanies and conducts services, working with the eminent Cathedral Choir in the daily liturgy. Samuel studied at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, graduating with first class honours in 2019 and was a recipient of the John Campbell Keyboard Prize. His teachers were Daniel Moulton and Henry Fairs. Other influences were Kerry Beaumont, Paul Leddington Wright and Paul Spicer. He has held organ scholarships at Coventry and Birmingham Cathedrals, followed by a year at Salisbury Cathedral. He has performed in many high-profile venues throughout the United Kingdom, including St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol; University of St Andrew's, Scotland and the cathedrals of Bristol, Truro, Blackburn and Glasgow. He has broadcasted regularly for BBC Radio and made an appearance on BBC One's 'Songs of Praise'. He holds associateship diplomas from the Royal College of Organists and Trinity College London.

For more details, please visit www.samuelbristoworganist.com.

Next recital | Live-stream only

Sunday 22nd February at 4.30 pm

William Fox | Complete Organ Works of J S Bach Recital IV: works for Lent I

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