



Founder
Paul Steinitz † OBE D. Mus
(1909-1988)

Artistic Director
Margaret Steinitz Hon.ARAM

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London Bach Society to be a Patron of Leipzig Bachfest 2020
“BACH – We are Family”
11-21 June 2020

LBS is supporting recitals by two of the brightest stars in the Bach world today
Harpisichordist **Mahan Esfahani** and Dutch cellist **Pieter Wispelwey** give recitals in Bach’s city
LBS at Leipzig – a prominent marketing opportunity as a member of the global Bach community

For more information and online booking
www.bachfestleipzig.de

LBS is supporting two recitals

1. Recital Details:

No 57: Monday 14 June at 10.30pm. Mahan Esfahani (harpisichord) at the Bundesverwaltungsgericht
Works by J C Bach, Pachelbel, L. Marchand, G. Fresobaldi, William Byrd and J S Bach.
Tickets: Full Price €47.00 Reduced Price €37.00 Online Booking www.bachfestleipzig.de

Harpisichordist **Mahan Esfahani** is one of the most charismatic Bach recitalists on the musical landscape today. He is tireless in promoting his aims to restore the harpsichord to the mainstream of concert instruments and, with his imaginative programming and narration, is encouraging new audiences for the instrument and its extensive repertoire from pre-Bach years to the commissioning and performance of new works by today’s composers. He is no stranger to the London Bach Society’s Bachfest and is fast becoming a regular performer at the Leipzig Bachfest. This recital is the perfect late-night offering.

2. Recital Details:

No 106: Thursday 18 June at 5.00pm. Mahan Esfahani (harpisichord), Pieter Wispelwey (violoncello piccolo)
Altes Rathaus. Works by J S Bach and W F Bach.
Tickets: Full Price €47.00 or €34.00. Reduced Price €42.00 or €32.00. Online booking www.bachfestleipzig.de

Mahan Esfahani and the celebrated Dutch cellist **Pieter Wispelwey** made their London debut as a duo in a programme of Bach’s iconic Sonatas for Gamba and obbligato harpsichord BWV 1027-29 at the LBS Bachfest in 2018.

Their Leipzig debut enables the city’s international audience to hear the duo for the first time at this highly anticipated recital that includes the Sonatas for Viola da Gamba and obbligato harpsichord BWV 1027-29 performed in the historic Old Town Hall (Altes Rathaus). **Pieter Wispelwey** is equally at home playing the modern or the baroque cello. His original interpretations of Bach’s music and his brilliant technical skills have inspired a substantial audience following and critical acclaim whether he is playing Bach or Elliott Carter. Here in Leipzig Pieter will be playing a violoncello piccolo.

LBS and the Leipzig Connection and Artistic Directors’ statements on following page



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LBS and the Leipzig Connection

Timeline for Editors

- **1964:** Never an organisation to let a wall of any description get in the way, London Bach Society choir (1947-1989) directed by Paul Steinitz performed Bach and Purcell in Leipzig's Thomaskirche with a section of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. The Society was the first western cultural group to cross the infamous Berlin Wall.
- **1983:** Paul, LBS choir and Steinitz Bach Players with four British soloists (Wendy Eathorne, Paul Esswood, Michael Goldthorpe, John Noble) performed Bach's Mass in B minor in the same church under the auspices of the British Council.
- **1994:** The Fall of the Berlin Wall facilitated the UK debut in 1994 of 'Bach's Choir' the Leipzig Thomanerchor, hosted and promoted by London Bach Society and first links with Bach-Archiv, Leipzig
- **2000:** Bach scholar, author and lately Head of Bach-Archiv, Leipzig, Professor Christoph Wolff, heads up LBS Bachfest for Bach's 250th Anniversary
- **2006:** The Thomanerchor appeared as special guests at the LBS 60th anniversary concert at the Royal College of Music in November 2006.
- **2020:** LBS is to be a Patron of the Leipzig Bachfest

The Leipzig Bach Festival's Artistic Director Michael Maul says

"The Leipzig Bachfest 2020, in the company of the global Bach community, is set to be a celebration such as the historical Bach family used to hold: with music performed by the whole Bach family today as represented by guests from all over the world, including nearly 50 Bach choirs, who will be making the pilgrimage from every continent to Leipzig."

LBS Artistic Director Margaret Steinitz says

*"It is a signal honour for the London Bach Society to be a patron of the 2020 Leipzig Bachfest. Our participation enables us to enhance our profile and on-going friendship with Bach's city, enjoy an appropriate marketing platform ahead of our own 75th Anniversary in 2021, meet other Bach choirs and organisations, and celebrate the global Bach community of which we are a part. Our support for **Mahan Esfahani's** and **Pieter Wispelwey's** recitals demonstrates our continuing commitment to promoting Bach excellence in performance today....with the common touch!"*

For more information and to arrange interviews Email: lbs@lonbachsoc.demon.co.uk,

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www.twitter.com/bachlive Follow us on Facebook

Images:

- Leipzig Thomanerchor
- Mahan Esfahani
- Pieter Wispelwey
- Michael Maul (Leipzig Bachfest Artistic Director)

Stop Press:

London Bach Society's new website is now 'live'

www.bachlive.co.uk