

Bach, the Universe and Everything

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

Choir of the Age of Enlightenment

Meganne Christian *special guest speaker*

Steven Devine *director*

Pittville Pump Room

Sunday 7 July

Matthias Weckmann	Organ Prelude: Toccata in D minor	4'
Johann Crüger	Opening Chorale: Es ist das Heil uns Kommen her	4'
Chorale		5'
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina	Polyphony: Regina Caeli a 4	3'
Readings	<i>Extracts from Concordia W.O. Participants' Guide Book</i> followed by... <i>A Galaxy of Her Own</i> by Libby Jackson	5'
Johann Sebastian Bach	Cantata BWV 9 "Es ist das Heil uns kommen her"	20'
Talk by Meganne Christian		15'
Georg Philipp Telemann	Postlude: from Concerto for Viola d'amore, Flute, Oboe d'amore & strings TWV 53:E1 (Andante & Allegro)	9'

Artist Biographies

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

In 1986, a group of inquisitive London musicians took a long hard look at that curious institution we call the Orchestra and decided to start again from scratch. They began by throwing out the rulebook. Put a single conductor in charge? No way. Specialise in repertoire of a particular era? Too restricting. Perfect a work and then move on? Too lazy. The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment was born. And as this distinctive ensemble playing on period-specific instruments began to get a foothold, it made a promise to itself. It vowed to keep questioning, adapting and inventing as long as it lived. Residencies at the Southbank Centre and the Glyndebourne Festival didn't numb its experimentalist bent. A major record deal didn't iron out its quirks. Instead, the OAE examined musical notes with ever more freedom and resolve. That creative thirst remains unquenched.

The Night Shift series of informal performances are redefining concert formats. Its former home at London's Kings Place has fostered further diversity of planning and music-making. The ensemble has formed the bedrock for some of Glyndebourne's most ground-breaking recent productions. In keeping with its values of always questioning, challenging and trailblazing, in September 2020, the OAE became the resident orchestra of Acland Burghley School, Camden.

The residency – a first for a British orchestra – allows the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment to live, work and play amongst the students of the school. Now more than thirty years old, the OAE is part of our musical furniture. It has even graced the outstanding conducting talents of Elder, Rattle, Jurowski, Iván Fischer and John Butt with a joint title of Principal Artist. But don't ever think the ensemble has lost sight of its founding vow. Not all orchestras are the same. And there's nothing quite like this one.

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Performers

Orchestra

Steven Devine harpsichord/director
Margaret Faultless violin
Daniel Edgar violin
Rodolfo Richter violin/viola d'amore
Anne Sophie van Riel viola
Andrew Skidmore cello
Christine Sticher double bass
Lisa Beznosiuk flute
Leo Duarte oboe d'amore
Stephen Farr organ

Choir

Zoe Brookshaw* soprano
Daisy Walford soprano
Frances Gregory* alto
David Clegg alto
Jonathan Hanley* tenor
John Bowen tenor
Malachy Frame* bass
Philip Tebb bass

*soloists

Meganne Christian *Speaker*

Born in the UK, Meganne grew up in Australia and holds British, Italian, Australian and New Zealand citizenship. Renowned for her skills across multiple science areas, she received a doctorate at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, following her thesis on the design, synthesis and advanced characterisation of nanomaterials for hydrogen storage applications. Both during her studies and after graduation, she received national awards for outstanding research in the field of engineering and industrial chemistry.

With training in science, industrial chemistry, atmospheric physics, meteorology and engineering, Meganne's dynamic career has taken her across the globe, from observing weather patterns at the Concordia station in Antarctica with the National Research Council (CNR) of Italy, to undertaking parabolic flights to test graphene coatings in satellites with research institutes. From these expeditions Meganne was also trained in firefighting, medical aid, rescue and survival in extreme conditions.

Meganne made international headlines when she was selected to join ESA's new astronaut cohort alongside UK Career Astronaut, Rosemary Coogan, and world-first Parastronaut, John McFall. They were among the first astronauts to be unveiled by ESA since 2009 out of more than 22,500 candidates.

Outside of science, Meganne has a range of talents, including languages, knitting, climbing, and scuba diving, and she also holds a black belt in Hapkido, a Korean martial art.