

THE FIRM 2017
J.S. BACH



CONCERT 1

The Firm's annual concert seasons
are conceived, programmed, curated and directed by
composers Quentin Grant and Raymond Chapman Smith.

The Firm was founded in 1996.

This is our 115th concert.

*"Bach is like an astronomer who, with the help of
ciphers, finds the most wonderful stars."*

Chopin

Elder Hall provides wheelchair access via the side (eastern) doors.

Toilets can be accessed in the foyer.

Parking: can be accessed in the University car park to the east of
Bonython hall.

The Firm

presents

Simon Cobcroft, violincello

and

Michael Ierace, piano

Partita in B flat Op.1 no.1 BWV825

Johann Sebastian Bach

Suite for solo cello BWV1008 JS Bach

Fragments for Piano Anne Cawrse

Knock on the Door Quentin Grant

Glasperlenklavier, Teil 1

Raymond Chapman Smith

The last Chorale Prelude BWV668

Johann Sebastian Bach

Partita in B flat Op.1 no.1 BWV825 (1731)

Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Praeludium
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Menuet I
6. Menuet II
7. Gigue

Bach's Opus 1, a collection of six partitas, appeared in 1731 under the title *Clavier-Übung*. Although not yet designated as Opus 1, Bach's collection had previously been issued in single installments of the six partitas. The first came out in the autumn of 1726, along with the following announcement: "The Capellmeister to the Prince of Anhalt-Cöthen and Director Chori Musici Lipsiensis, Herr Johann Sebastian Bach, intends to publish a collection of clavier suites of which the first Partita has already been issued, and, by and by, they will continue to come to light until the work is complete, and as such will be made known to amateurs of the clavier. Let it be known that the author himself is the publisher of his work." As the publisher, Bach acted at his own financial risk, so it was prudent for him to invest in the project gradually so that expenses would largely be recovered by sales; after the first installment of 1726, the other five were issued over the next four years. For distribution, Bach recruited six colleagues in well-chosen locations who agreed, on a commission basis, to serve as sales agents in the areas of Dresden, Halle, Lüneburg, Brunswick, Nuremberg and Augsburg. When Bach had tested the market and determined that the individual partitas sold well, he arranged to reprint all six partitas in one volume.

"Playing and studying Bach convinces us that we are all numskulls."

Robert Schumann

Suite II for solo cello in D minor BWV1008 (ca.1720)

Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Prelude
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Menuett I
6. Menuett II
7. Gigue



Fragments for Piano (2016)

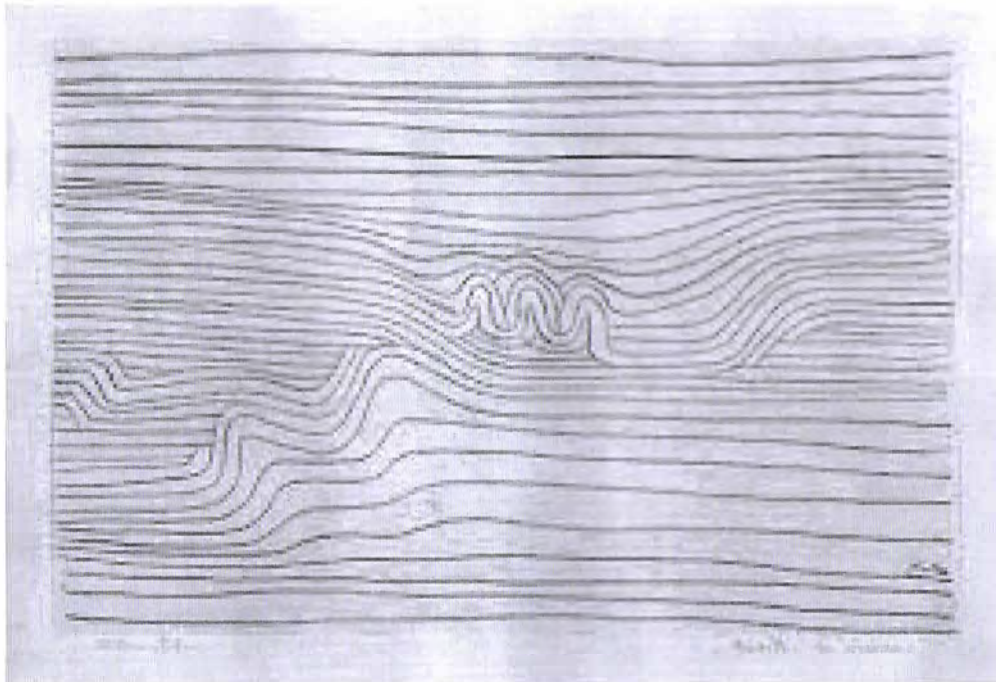
Anne Cawrse

1. Before
2. During
3. After

Fragment

*And it seemed to me those fires
Were about me til dawn.
And I never learnt-
The colour of those eyes.
Everything was trembling, singing;
Were you my friend or enemy,
And winter was it, or summer?*

Anna Akhmatova



Knock on the Door (2017)

Quentin Grant

And she had said to me that on the evening after her mother's death a persistent wind had struck up, and that the house which, as you know, is ancient, squeaked and creaked the whole night through. She said that she didn't have a minute of repose, as the elm's twigs ("like fingers" she said) scraped at the windows, and its massive limbs swayed and creaked the entire time. And throughout the dark hours there was a continual *knocking* ("a knock, knock, knocking" as she put it) - on the walls, on the windows, at the doors and in the corridors. The knocking was not loud, she insisted, and often was almost imperceptible, but it was constant and so oppressive to her that she felt she was going to lose her mind. It was as if (she said) her mother was trying to get back into the house; that she (the mother) was refusing to leave life, and was doing everything in her power to return to the earthly plain.

While she was telling me all this, as we sat taking tea at the reading rooms the morning after, she was still distraught and as white as a sheet, and kept looking around every time there was any sort of sound: any chair scrape, pencil scribble, and, especially, any *knocking* sound.

"Virginia Woolf, Letters, 1923"



Glasperlenklavier, Part1(2017) Raymond Chapman Smith

1. Molto lento e ritenuto
2. Intimo
3. Andante cantabile e poco con adagio
4. Largo e mesto
5. Vivace, ma non troppo
6. Andantino
7. Allegretto
8. Poco vivace
9. Molto tranquillo
10. Moderato e grazioso
11. Allegretto compiacevole
12. Grazioso ed intimo
13. Lento ma scorrevole



Vor deinen Thron tret' ich BWV668 (1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Transcribed for cello and piano by Raymond Chapman Smith

The Deathbed Chorale – Bach's final work?

When eminent biologist and author Lewis Thomas was asked what message he would choose to send from Earth into outer space in the Voyager spacecraft, he answered, "I would send the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach." After a pause, he added, "But that would be boasting."



You are warmly invited to join us after the
concert for complimentary drinks and a
selection of Tortes by Gabriele.

Please join our email list to be informed of
all Firm events and concerts: send an email
with 'subscribe' to:

info@firmmusic.com.au

Next concert:

Monday, August 21st, 8pm, Elder Hall

Simone Slattery and Ashley Hribar

www.firmmusic.com.au

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the firm

and

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