

ORGAN GIANTS

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

Samuel Bristow

Sunday 16th May 2021, 4.30 pm

Live-stream only



Complete Organ Works of Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

Recital V

Allegro in B flat

was originally composed in December 1844 for inclusion in the Organ Sonata No 4. Its joyous, energetic character is determined by a melodic dialogue between soprano and tenor voices, complimented by pianistic syncopated chords between right and left hands.

Andante in D

While this delightful miniature was written at the age of fourteen, it displays a prodigious sophistication and an early proficiency for contrapuntal writing.

Sonata in D minor (Op. 65, No 6)

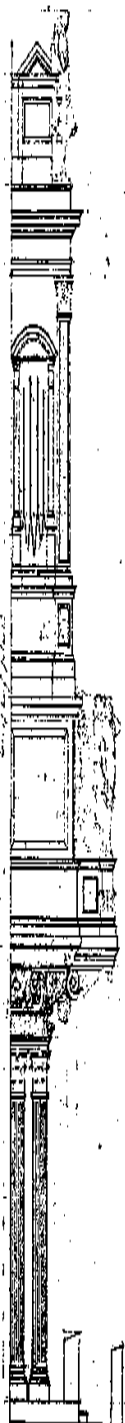
- i. Chorale with Variations
- ii. Fuga: Sostenuto e legato
- iii. Finale: Andante

The accomplished first movement is founded on *Vater unser im Himmelreich*, the Lutheran paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer. The colourful variations convey the character of each stanza; the fervent final toccata reflecting the earthly tension between right and wrong in the text, "deliver us from evil". A fugue follows, derived from the same chorale. The finale is a tender movement based on a theme reminiscent of the English hymn *When I survey the wondrous cross*; concluding this intense sonata with dignified tranquility.

Trio in F major

harks back to the genre mastered by J. S. Bach. While the piece displays influence from Bach in its delicate interplay between lyrical quavers and flowing semiquavers, its harmonic language is a product of its time: a compositional style exclusively Mendelssohn's own.

Allegro, Chorale and Fugue in D minor



Though underrated, this epic triptych was originally intended to be included in the Organ Sonatas. The fiery opening toccata gives way to an original, poised chorale. The stately fugue subject is borrowed from the *Theme with Variations in D*; this majestic conclusion evokes the *Amen* from Handel's *Messiah* and the *Dona Nobis Pacem* from Bach's *Mass in B minor* (BWV 232) in both its elegance and grandeur.

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 Ledington 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 23rd May 2021 at 4.30 pm

William Fox | The Complete Organ Works of J.S. Bach Recital X: Pentecost

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