

PHILADELPHIA
CHAMBER MUSIC
SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

Ruckus

February 4, 2022 @ 7:30pm
American Philosophical Society

PREVIEW
NOTES

Program includes:

Fly the Coop

Johann Sebastian Bach

Born: March 31, 1685 in Eisenach, Germany

Died: July 28, 1750 in Leipzig, Germany

Sonata in E Minor, BWV 1034

Composed: 1724

PCMS premiere

Duration: 14 minutes

Possibly written during his early Leipzig years (during which he also composed over sixty cantatas) this sonata has the weight of his larger musical sermons, and its technical sophistication shows the hand of a seasoned craftsman. The first movement, *Adagio ma non troppo*, features a constant push and pull between the treble and bass, reminiscent of Sisyphus and the rock, that unfolds into a tour de force *Allegro* of the second movement that features running 16th notes that do not let up until the ecstasy of the third movement arrives. This *Andante* is one of Bach's most sublime, simple, and beautiful movements, and the perfect respite from the intensity of the other three movements of the sonata - a welcome break before the roar of the fourth movement *Allegro* that features all of Ruckus at their most intense.

Prelude in G Major (BWV 884)

Prelude in E Minor (BWV 855)

Prelude in G Minor (BWV 847a)

Prelude in C Minor (BWV 999)

Prelude in C Major

Prelude in E Major (BWV 815a)

Composed: 1740, 1722

Duration: ~ 2 minutes each

Contrasting the three flute sonatas on the program are new arrangements of a variety of Bach's keyboard preludes, with selections ranging from the beloved *Well Tempered Clavier*, to alternate movements from keyboard suites that are rarely performed.

Sonata in E Major, BWV 1035

Composed: 1741

Last PCMS performance: 2017

Duration: 12 minutes

It is sensual, simple in form, and perfumed with luxurious harmony. There's a gallant breeziness throughout, yet the harmonic twists and melodic interplay between flute and bass reveal Bach's love for thorny, contrapuntal music. A delicate *Adagio ma non troppo*, the yin to the yang of the BWV 1034 movement of the same name, is followed by a bawdy *Allegro*. The third movement *Siciliano* features Bach's original melodic interplay between flute and cello/bassoon with a newly added bass line, unique to Fly the Coop, providing a rhythmic groove alongside dueling baroque guitars and fantastical harpsichord - a true Baroque rhythm section that takes the listener to an exotic land of unusual sights and sounds. This raucous nighttime music is followed by the morning light haze of the fourth movement *Allegro assai* that brings the sonata to a gentle conclusion.

Sonata in C Major, BWV 1033

Composed: 1736

Last PCMS performance: 2017

Duration: 8 minutes

The opening *Andante* is full of warm, almost romantic chord progressions that unfold into a Presto featuring a single pedal bass note with the flute dancing merrily above. The second movement of the C Major sonata bears uncanny similarities to the 6th variation from the Goldberg Variations, and so, we felt that a mashup of the two would show how Bach used material and instruments interchangeably and repeatedly throughout his career. We start with the A section of the flute sonata, transitioning to the Goldberg 6th variation then returning to the flute sonata for the final B to round things out and get us back home to C Major. A newly composed bass line accompanies the flute throughout. The third movement, *Adagio*, is a true aria in A minor, with the flute soaring above an intense and powerful bass line that mines the depths of the instruments on hand. Ending things are two spirited and joyful *Menuetts*. The first a more traditional dance, with the second borrowing its accent from French dances.