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*D*iscussing *BACH*

Issue 7 (September 2024)

Bach for the Future: The Future of Bach Performance

Editorial Introduction

Editors

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Bach for the Future: The Future of Bach Performance

A discussion with John Butt, Michael Maul, Margaret Urquhart,
and Mark Seow, moderated by Michael Marissen

Live from the Bachfest Leipzig 2023

Recorded on Wednesday 14 June 2023



BachNetwork

JOHN BUTT | MICHAEL MAUL | MARGARET URQUHART | MARK SEOW
discuss

Bach for the Future: The Future of Bach Performance

Live from the Bachfest Leipzig 2023

CHAIR: MICHAEL MARISSSEN

Welcome to this seventh issue of *Discussing Bach*, featuring an edited conversation on the topic of 'The Future of Bach Performance', recorded live at the Bachfest Leipzig in June 2023, as part of the Bach Network session on the 2023 festival theme, 'Bach for [the] Future'.

As with previously published issues of *Discussing Bach*, the presentations were unrehearsed, with none of the panellists knowing what the others would say. This time, the presentations and questions from the audience caused the conversation to move in many different directions. When we reviewed the live recording, we

decided reluctantly to edit out some of the formal programme in order to facilitate the flow and clarity of the video discussion.

We are very grateful to Larry Molinaro and Philipp Marx for stage-managing the recording in Leipzig and for their technical assistance, and to John Harrington for expertly editing the video. We also thank the Bach-Archiv Leipzig for supporting Bach Network's platform at the Bachfest, and for granting permission to use the audio materials. Most of the presenters are pursuing further work based on the research discussed here: as always, the *Discussing Bach* web and respective YouTube pages will be kept updated with new publications on this topic as they appear.

Another panel discussion from the Bach Network session in June 2023, on 'The Future of Bach Sources', was published in December 2023 as the sixth issue of *Discussing Bach*. Planned future issues of *Discussing Bach* include recordings of two live panel discussions, 'Analytical Perspectives on the Bach Cantatas', and 'Church Cantatas after Bach', from the Bachfest Leipzig 2024 with its theme of 'Choral Total'. The festival celebrated the 300th anniversary of Bach's chorale cantata cycle and the 500th anniversary of the first Lutheran hymnal.

We hope that you will enjoy the presentations and discussion in this current issue, together with their accompanying written materials. Our aim is that it will be a catalyst for you to engage in deeper discussion with others, and that it will help you gain a richer understanding of what lies behind the performance of Bach's music and all it implies about his life and world, and ours today.

Ruth Tatlow (Danderyd, Sweden)
Andrew Frampton (Oxford, UK)

17 September 2024

Contributors



John Butt holds the Gardiner Chair of Music at the University of Glasgow and is music director of the Scottish-based Dunedin Consort with whom he has made award-winning recordings. His numerous scholarly publications have focused on the works of Johann Sebastian Bach and on the complexities of performing historical works today.



Michael Maul is head of the research archive at the Bach-Archiv Leipzig and has served as the artistic director of the Leipzig Bachfest since 2018. His numerous publications include several monographs on Bach and musical life in Leipzig, many scholarly essays on 17th- and 18th-century music history, and the audio biography 'Universum Johann Sebastian Bach' on Deutschlandfunk Kultur Radio.



Margaret Urquhart performs and teaches on the 16-foot double bass/violone, the Viennese double bass, and the eight-foot violone in various tunings. She has performed with many leading international baroque ensembles in addition to her activities as a chamber musician. She teaches at The Hague Conservatory, the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, and at the University of Salamanca, and coaches at the European Baroque Orchestra training courses.



Mark Seow is a violinist, musicologist, writer, and broadcaster from London, UK. In 2022, he finished his PhD dissertation on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach at the University of Cambridge, where he was also the AHRC DTP1 Fellow in Music in 2023. Since January 2024, he is a research musicologist at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien (mdw) in Vienna.

Further reading and listening

Discussing Bach 1 (October 2020), 'Bach and Emotion: 'Zur Recreation des Gemüths', and *Discussing Bach* 4 (February 2022), 'Bach and the Corporeality of Emotions'.

John Butt, *Playing with History: The Historical Approach to Musical Performance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).

John Butt, 'Bach and the Dance of Humankind', in Davinia Caddy and Maribeth Clark (eds.), *Musicology and Dance* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), 19–48.

Mark Seow, 'Metaphors for Listening in Johann Sebastian Bach's Germany' (PhD thesis, University of Cambridge, 2022).

Bachfest Leipzig 2023, No. 26, 'Best of Kantaten-Jahrgang I/Best of the Annual Cycle of Cantatas I' (BWV 65, 73, 81 & 190), Aisling Kenny (soprano), Alex Potter (alto), Benedict Hymas (tenor), Johannes Kammler (bass), Collegium Vocale Gent, Philippe Herreweghe (conductor), 10 June 2023, <https://youtu.be/-edTAYkzqyo> (Bachfest Leipzig) and <https://youtu.be/46FTnX6gwg4> (Deutsche Welle) (accessed 15 August 2024).

Bachfest Leipzig 2023, No. 45, 'Best of Kantaten-Jahrgang I/Best of the Annual Cycle of Cantatas I' (BWV 4, 66, 37 & 104), Elisabeth Breuer (soprano), Maarten Engeltjes (alto), Tilman Lichdi (tenor), Klaus Mertens (bass), Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Choir, Ton Koopman (conductor), 11 June 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/live/HbEfPAHcTTM> (accessed 15 August 2024).

J.S. Bach-Stiftung, 'J.S. Bach Foundation', <https://www.youtube.com/@Bachstiftung> and 'Bachipedia', <https://www.bachipedia.org> (accessed 15 August 2024).

Netherlands Bach Society, 'All of Bach', <https://www.bachvereniging.nl/en/allobach> and <https://www.youtube.com/BACH> (accessed 15 August 2024).

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Editorial Team: Ruth Tatlow and Andrew Frampton

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Production Support: Larry Molinaro, John Harrington, and Philipp Marx

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About Bach Network and *Discussing Bach*

[Bach Network](#) was founded in 2004 to create a forum to talk about Bach's music. Early conversations evolved into [Dialogue Meetings](#), which became Bach Network's primary in-person means of discussion. From these meetings came our online journal *Understanding Bach*, where the fruit of new research discussions could be studied and enjoyed. What was missing from the written journal articles was the immediacy of the dialogue conversation and questions. This is where *Discussing Bach* enters the picture.

Discussing Bach is a multimedia, web-based publication superseding Bach Network's open access journal [Understanding Bach](#) (2006–17). Featuring scholars engaged in ground-breaking research, each issue of [Discussing Bach](#) comprises:

- Editorial Introduction;
- Link to the live video discussion with optional subtitles;
- Authorised Transcript of the live discussion;
- Further reading and listening;
- Topic-specific articles may also be published as part of the issue.

Citation style: Each of the above components will require a different citation style. Please follow carefully the instructions given in your preferred style guide.

Copyright: Bach Network holds the copyright to the discussion to protect the intellectual copyright of the researchers' ideas, some of which will be unpublished at the time of recording. Authorised subtitles are provided to facilitate accurate citation.

Future issues: The aim of *Discussing Bach* is to stimulate discussion of new research insights. Scholars are selected to contribute because of the impact of their latest research discoveries, as well as their peer-reviewed publications, whether already in press or under contract, and/or because they are sponsored by a competitive research programme.

BachNetwork

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Upcoming meetings

'Bach Network in Dialogue: Transformation', Bachfest Leipzig 2025, Saturday 21 June, 14:00–17:00

Bach Network at the Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music, Birmingham, UK, Wednesday 16 July–Sunday 20 July 2025

Find us as [@BachNetwork](#) on [Facebook](#)

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