The Academy of Ancient Music announces its 40th anniversary season which is celebrated in 2013/14

The AAM at 40
In September 1973, an impromptu orchestra gathered in London to make a recording under the leadership of the young director Christopher Hogwood. Meeting in a spirit of adventure and experimentation, the group took on the name of a pioneering eighteenth-century organisation: the Academy of Ancient Music was born. In its anniversary season the AAM looks back at four remarkable decades, characterised by tours to every continent except Antarctica, an array of Brit-and Grammy-award-winning recordings, but most importantly it looks to the future.

In some ways the AAM hasn’t changed since the early days. A love of baroque and classical music still lies at the heart of its work; the orchestra continues to relish using period instruments to bring performances to life; and it is still dedicated to championing neglected composers as well as shedding light on well-known masterpieces. But things are different now. The period performance movement – with the AAM at its heart – has come of age, turning from a revolutionary niche into a feature in the mainstream musical establishment.

In 2013-14 the AAM embraces that change with its first London season exclusively at the Barbican, thereby becoming a central part of one of the world’s most vibrant artistic communities. Alongside large-scale performances in the Barbican Hall, the AAM gives five concerts at Milton Court Concert Hall, the Guildhall School’s new building, and latest addition to the growing ‘cultural quarter’ in the heart of the City of London. With a capacity of 608 seats the concert hall is the perfect venue for intimate baroque and classical performances.

The 40th anniversary season, led by Music Director Richard Egarr, displays the breadth of the AAM’s music making: starting at the dawn of the baroque with a stellar-cast performance of Monteverdi’s L’Orfeo (1607), and ending in the nineteenth century with Beethoven’s monumental Symphony No. 9 (1824). Along the way the AAM surveys the music of JS Bach, Vivaldi, Haydn and Mozart, and unearths lesser-known works of the composers of the Bach dynasty.

Highlights from the season include:
The AAM’s first London season exclusively at the Barbican, with concerts in the Barbican Hall and Milton Court Concert Hall which opens in September 2013

- The start of a three-year cycle of Monteverdi operas beginning with L’Orfeo (28 September 2013)
- Alina Ibragimova returns to direct the AAM in performances of Haydn and Mozart in the orchestra’s first concert in Milton Court Concert Hall (24 October 2013)
- Soprano Anna Prohaska celebrates the golden age of English baroque music (21 November 2013)
- Following an acclaimed debut last season Andreas Scholl returns to sing Pergolesi and is joined by soprano Camilla Tilling (31 January 2014)
- Violinist Richard Tognetti directs the AAM in a concert of Vivaldi and Bach inspired by the Dresden Orchestra (27 February 2014)
- Angelika Kirchschlager explores the vocal works of Haydn and Mozart with the AAM led by Richard Egarr from the fortepiano (March 2014)
- Music Director Richard Egarr directs concertos and suites by JS Bach (27 May)
- Richard Egarr and the AAM close its 40th birthday season with the ‘three last symphonies’ of Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven (21 June 2014)
The Academy of Ancient Music’s 40th anniversary season reflects the full range of the orchestra’s music-making, starting at the dawn of the baroque. Despite representing the pinnacle of early baroque music Monteverdi’s operas are rarely performed and this is the start of a three year cycle of these seminal works. On 28 September 2013 Richard Egarr conducts a semi-staged performance of Monteverdi’s L’Orfeo. A stellar line up of soloists includes John Mark Ainsley (Orfeo), Sophie Bevan (Euridice), Daniela Lehner (La Musica/Speranza), Paul Germon (Caronte) and Thomas Hobbs (Apollo & Pastore) alongside the Choir of the AAM.

Following her acclaimed debut with the AAM in 2012, Alina Ibragimova returns to Cambridge and London on 23 & 24 October 2013. She directs the orchestra in its first concert at Milton Court Concert Hall. The programme explores the instrumental works of Haydn and Mozart and includes Mozart’s Violin Concerto No.5 ‘Turkish’ and Haydn’s Symphony No.45 ‘Farewell’.

On 21 November 2013 the AAM celebrates the golden age of English baroque music with soprano Anna Prohaska at Milton Court Concert Hall. The programme includes the first piece the AAM recorded in 1973, Thomas Arne’s Overtures, alongside both well known and neglected music by Locke, Dowland, Purcell and Handel.

Regular guest conductor Bernard Labadie leads the AAM and Choir of the AAM in a festive performance of Handel’s Messiah at the Barbican Hall on 17 December 2013, with soloists Lydia Teuscher, Iestyn Davies, Jeremy Ovendon and Andrew Foster-Williams.

Counter-tenor Andreas Scholl made his debut with the AAM in November 2012 and he returns to direct a concert on 31 January 2014 in the Barbican Hall. The programme, which also features soprano Klara Ek, explores works from a culture whose appeal was summarised by the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau in his diary: ‘the wealth of artistry, the beauty of the voices... I doubt if any man’s heart could remain immune’. The programme includes Wassenaer’s Concerto Armonico Nos. 2 and 3 and Stabat Mater by both Vivaldi and Pergolesi.

The Dresden Orchestra of the eighteenth century was renowned as the finest in the world. Composers from across Europe were inspired by its unique sound, effortless virtuosity and, quite simply, its ability to play things which had never before been attempted. On 26 & 27 February 2014 violinist Richard Tognetti directs the AAM at West Road Concert Hall (Cambridge) and Milton Court Concert Hall (London) in a concert of music that was written for or inspired by the Dresden Orchestra including works by Vivaldi, JF Fasch, Veracini and JS Bach.

On 24 & 26 March 2014 leading mezzo-soprano Angelika Kirchschlager gives a recital in West Road Concert Hall and Milton Court Concert Hall showcasing some of the repertoire for which she has gained worldwide admiration. The recital includes Mozart lieder, as well as three Mozart concert arias and, at the heart of the programme, Haydn’s Scena di Berenice. The orchestra is led by Richard Egarr from the fortepiano.

The AAM and Richard Egarr are acclaimed for their Bach interpretations and on 24 & 27 May 2014 present a programme celebrating Bach’s instrumental works in both Cambridge and London with two of the composer’s Orchestral Suites and two of his Harpsichord Concertos.

Closing the AAM’s 40th anniversary season in the Barbican Hall on 21 June 2014 is a performance of the ‘three last symphonies’: Mozart’s Symphony No.41 in C major, Haydn’s Symphony No.104 in D major and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 in D minor featuring the Choir of the AAM and soloists including Elizabeth Watts and Andrew Foster-Williams, conducted by Richard Egarr.
Special Events
In Spring 2014, the AAM present a special digital installation at the Foundling Museum’s ‘Handel and Royal Patronage’ exhibition, featuring the orchestra’s performance at the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant from June 2012.

Touring
Touring highlights in the AAM’s 40th birthday year include Handel’s Water Music in Cologne, a 8-date tour of Australia (November 2013), performances of Handel’s Messiah in Brussels and Paris (December 2013), a tour with Andreas Scholl to Brussels, Paris and Birmingham (January 2014), JS Bach’s St Matthew Passion at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam (April 2014) and three concerts celebrating JS Bach in Birmingham, Chipping Campden and Warsaw (April/May 2014).

Pre and Post-Concert Talks
The AAM continues to explore the music it performs by inviting the world’s finest experts to give pre-concert talks.

- On 23 September 2013 Professor Iain Fenlon of Cambridge University, a world expert on the Italian Renaissance, introduces the artistic and historical background to Monteverdi’s L’Orfeo at 6.30pm and after the performance members of the cast will discuss this remarkable opera.
- Alina Ibragimova discusses the music of Haydn and Mozart with broadcaster and writer Tom Service at 6.30pm on 23 October 2013 (Cambridge) and 24 October 2013 (London).
- Richard Egarr introduces music from the English baroque golden age at 6.30pm on 21 November 2013 (London).
- BBC Radio 3’s Sara Mohr Pietsch discusses the infamous Dresden Court Orchestra with Richard Tognetti at 6.30pm on 26 February 2014 (Cambridge) and 27 February 2014 (London).
- Writer and broadcaster Sandy Burnett introduces arias and lieder by Haydn and Mozart at 6.30pm on 24 March 2014 (Cambridge) and 26 March 2014 (London).
- Richard Egarr celebrates and discusses the music of JS Bach at 6.30pm on 24 May 2014 (Cambridge) and 27 May 2014 (London).
- Sir Nicholas Kenyon, Managing Director, Barbican Centre hosts a discussion on the AAM at 40 with musicians, directors and guest artists at 7pm on 21 June 2014 in the Barbican Hall.

AAMplify new generation scheme
AAMplify is the AAM’s scheme to bring a new generation of audiences and musicians to the heart of its work. For the first time in the AAM’s 40th anniversary year, AAMplify goes international with masterclasses throughout Australia in November 2013. In the UK AAMplify continues to develop the next generation of period-instrument players with side-by-side workshops at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and at the University of Cambridge.

On 21 June 2014 the AAMplify new generation choir gives its inaugural performance with the Choir of the AAM in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9.

Listings
28 September 2013, 7.30pm, Barbican Hall, London
Monteverdi L’Orfeo
Academy of Ancient Music/Richard Egarr
John Mark Ainsley/Sophie Bevan/Daniela Lehner/Nathan Berg/Thomas Hobbs/Choir of the AAM

23 October 2013, 7.30pm, West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge
24 October 2013, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall, London
Ibragimova directs Haydn and Mozart
Academy of Ancient Music/Alina Ibragimova

21 November 2013, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall, London
*An English golden age*
Music by Locke, Purcell, Arne and Handel
Academy of Ancient Music/Richard Egarr
Anna Prohaska

17 December 2013, 7pm, Barbican Hall, London
Handel *Messiah*
Academy of Ancient Music/Bernard Labadie
Lydia Teuscher/Iestyn Davies/Jeremy Ovendon/Andrew Foster-Williams/Choir of the AAM

31 January 2014, 7.30pm, Barbican Hall, London
*Scholl sings Pergolesi*
Academy of Ancient Music/Andreas Scholl/Klara Ek

26 February 2014, 7.30pm, West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge
27 February 2014, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall, London
*Tognetti directs Vivaldi and Bach*
Academy of Ancient Music/Richard Tognetti

24 March 2014, 7.30pm, West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge
26 March 2014, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall, London
*Kirchschlager sings Haydn and Mozart*
Academy of Ancient Music/Richard Egarr
Angelika Kirchschlager

24 May 2014, 7.30pm, West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge
27 May 2014, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall, London
*Celebrating JS Bach*
Academy of Ancient Music/Richard Egarr

21 June 2014, 7.00pm, Barbican Hall, London
*Three last symphonies – Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven*
Academy of Ancient Music/Richard Egarr
Elizabeth Watts/Daniela Lehner/Benjamin Hulett/Andrew Foster-Williams/Choir of the AAM/AAMplify new generation choir

**UK tickets:**
Barbican Centre, [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk), 020 7638 8891
West Road Concert Hall, [www.aam.co.uk/concerts](http://www.aam.co.uk/concerts), 01223 357 851
Cambridge Corn Exchange, [www.cornex.co.uk](http://www.cornex.co.uk), 01223 357 851

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