

## PRESS RELEASE

7 February 2013

### Mahan Esfahani announces his plans for Spring/Summer 2013

#### Highlights include:

- Performances of JS Bach's *Goldberg Variations* at St George's Bristol , Vienna 's Konzerthaus and 3 performances in Japan from February to June 2013
- Lunchtime recital at Bath Bachfest, 22 February 2013
- Wigmore Hall Recital on 3 May 2013

Iranian-born Mahan Esfahani was the first harpsichordist to be named a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist. With a repertoire that spans four centuries, Esfahani works to take the harpsichord beyond the realm of 'early music' and to major festivals and series in the mainstream of classical music across Europe, Canada, and the United States.

One of Esfahani's focuses in the first half of 2013 is on JS Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, a work often regarded as the most ambitious compositions ever written for the harpsichord. Complete performances include Early Music Vancouver (8 & 10 March); St George's, Bristol which will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 (27 March); Esfahani's debut at the Vienna Konzerthaus (17 April) and three concerts in Japan where Esfahani performs for the first time (2, 4 & 5 June).

Esfahani says "*The Goldberg Variations are, for me, a look into the mind of a composer who makes great mountains and narratives out of even the most straightforward material. Here is a testament to Bach's ability to combine the earthy, the cerebral, the abstract, the narrative, the celestial. This is yet another facet of his genius, as he somehow causes all these different ideas to co-exist.*"

Esfahani gives a lunchtime recital at **Bath Bachfest on 22 February** at the Guildhall (1pm) with a programme centred around JS Bach's contemporaries and influences. It includes the flamboyant *Tocatta in E minor* by Weckmann, who was one of Bach's leading German predecessors; Suite in D minor and major from *Pièces de Clavecin* by Bach's great French contemporary Rameau, and a typically unpredictable sonata by Bach's Son Carl Philipp Emanuel - *Württemberg Sonata No .6 in B minor*. The programme closes with JS Bach himself and the *Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D minor*.

On **3 May 2013** Esfahani gives his first solo recital at the **Wigmore Hall** since his BBC New Generation performance with an eclectic programme that begins with Byrd's *Clarifica Me, Pater (I, II & III)* and moves through to music from Bach's *Das Musikalische Opfer* before concluding with three pieces from Ligeti including *Passacaglia ungharese*. The concert will also be recorded for future release on Wigmore Hall Live.

#### More on Mahan Esfahani

Mahan Esfahani was born in Tehran, Iran and was the first harpsichordist to be named a BBC New Generation Artist and to be awarded a fellowship prize by the Borletti-Buitoni Trust. Performances include appearances with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the

---

email: [rebecca@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@rdmr.co.uk) | web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk) | phone: +44(0)2074485336 (office)  
[isobel@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:isobel@rdmr.co.uk)



## PRESS RELEASE

Academy of Ancient Music, Manchester Camerata and Hamburg Symphony Orchestra and at venues including Wigmore Hall and New York's Frick Collection. Recent highlights have included a performance with the Academy of Ancient Music at the 2012 BBC Proms, featuring Esfahani's own arrangement of JS Bach's *The Art of Fugue*.

### Press Quotes

'It would be hard not to be impressed by Iranian harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani. Young, suave, eloquent...he's an inquisitive mind...a phenomenally accomplished performance.' The Guardian, July 2012

'Esfahani, in total control technically, clearly delights in exploiting the expressive possibilities of the harpsichord and its sheer variety of sounds...' (Gramophone, July 2011).

### For more press information please contact

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

email: [rebecca@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@rdmr.co.uk) or [isobel@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:isobel@rdmr.co.uk) | tel: 020 7448 5336 | [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk)

### Listings

#### Bath Bachfest Recital, Guildhall

**22 February 2013, 1pm**

**Weckmann** Toccata in E minor

**Rameau** Suite in D minor and major from Pièces de Clavecin (1724)

**CPE Bach** Württemberg Sonata No 6 in B minor

**JS Bach** Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D minor

#### Cologne Festival of Ancient Music

**2 March 2013, 8pm**

The Fitzwilliam Virginal Book

#### St George's, Bristol

**27 March 2013, 7.30pm**

**JS Bach** Goldberg Variations

This concert will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3

#### Konzerthaus, Vienna

**17 April 2013, 7.30pm**

**JS Bach** Goldberg Variations

#### Wigmore Hall, London

**3 May 2013, 7.30pm**

**Byrd** *Clarifica me, Pater (I, II, III)*

- Ut Re Mi Fa Sol La
- John Come Kisse Me Now
- The Fifte Pavian and The Galliard to the Fifte Pavian

---

email: [rebecca@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@rdmr.co.uk) | web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk) | phone: +44(0)2074485336 (office)  
[isobel@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:isobel@rdmr.co.uk)

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Byrd** *The Marche Before the Batell*

- Fancie (Nevell 41)
- The Firste Pavian and The Galliarde to the Firste Pavian

### **Byrd** *Callino Casturame*

- Fantasia
- Have with Yowe to Walsingame

### **Bach** from *Das Musikalische Opfer*

- Ricercar à 3
- Ricercar à 6
- Canon à 2, per tonos: ascendente modulation ascendat Gloria Regis

### **Ligeti** *Passacaglia ungarherese*

### **Ligeti** *Continuum*

### **Ligeti** *Hungarian Rock*

## **Denki Bunka Kaikan, Nagoya, Japan**

**2 June 2013**

**JS Bach** Goldberg Variations

## **Bunka Kaikan Recital Hall, Tokyo, Japan**

**4 June 2013**

### **Byrd** *Clarifica me, Pater (I, II, III)*

- Ut Re Mi Fa Sol La
- John Come Kisse Me Now
- The Fifte Pavian and The Galliard to the Fifte Pavian

### **Byrd** *The Marche Before the Batell*

- Fancie (Nevell 41)
- The Firste Pavian and The Galliarde to the Firste Pavian

### **Byrd** *Callino Casturame*

- Fantasia
- Have with Yowe to Walsingame

### **Bach** from *Das Musikalische Opfer*

- Ricercar à 3
- Ricercar à 6
- Canon à 2, per tonos: ascendente modulation ascendat Gloria Regis

### **Ligeti** *Passacaglia ungarherese*

### **Ligeti** *Continuum*

### **Ligeti** *Hungarian Rock*

## **University of Tokyo, Japan**

**5 June 2013**

**JS Bach** Goldberg Variations

## **Tickets**

**Bath Bachfest:** £10-18 available from 01225 463 362 or [www.bathboxoffice.org.uk/bachfest](http://www.bathboxoffice.org.uk/bachfest)

---

email: [rebecca@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@rdmr.co.uk) | web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk) | phone: +44(0)2074485336 (office)  
[isobel@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:isobel@rdmr.co.uk)



## PRESS RELEASE

**Cologne Festival of Ancient Music:** available from 0221 987 473 79 or [www.koelnticket.de](http://www.koelnticket.de)

**St George's Bristol:** £11-21 available from 0845 4024 001 or [www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk](http://www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk)

**Konzerthaus, Vienna:** available from 0043 1242 002 or [www.konzerthaus.at](http://www.konzerthaus.at)

**Wigmore Hall:** £15-30 available from 0207 935 2141 or [www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)

**Denki Bunka Kaikan:** available from 0081 52 204 1133

**Bunka Kaikan, Tokyo:** available from <http://www.t-bunka.jp/en/>

---

email: [rebecca@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@rdmr.co.uk) | web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk) | phone: +44(0)2074485336 (office)  
[isobel@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:isobel@rdmr.co.uk)