

“Bach at Langstone” Saturday 1 June 2019

Welcome to Langstone Court.

Langstone has been the home of the Jones family since the late 18th century and music has played an important part in their lives ever since. This tradition is continuing with the series of biennial recitals at Langstone under the auspices of the London Bach Society, of which our host Richard Jones is Chairman of the Council. The combination of a welcoming reception followed by a recital and then supper has delighted the audiences who have attended and whom we have enjoyed meeting.

These recitals have always taken music-making in the home and how Bach reflected that in his own lifetime as our inspiration. Our first featured the *Notebook for Anna Magdalena*, Bach's second wife. Our second was a recital entitled “*Bach at home*” given by members of Steinitz Bach Players during the special Reformation 500 year anniversary (1517-2017).

For our next recital on 1 June we are extending the inspiration and presenting a recital to be given in the spirit of the famous Leipzig Collegium Musicum (students' musical society) concerts held in Zimmermann's Coffee House at Leipzig during the 1730s on Friday evenings during winter.....but in his garden on the outskirts of the city during the summer. We shall gather in the garden for our reception and then make our way to the recital room for a programme of music that would sit very easily with one of Bach's Collegium concerts.

We know so much more about these concerts now, and although programmes have not survived, there is evidence to suggest that the music played ranged from intimate solo works to keyboard works and concertos, chamber music by Handel and Telemann to Bach's satirical Coffee Cantata BWV 211 and his swipe at his critics as depicted in “Phoebus and Pan” BWV 201, the cantatas each requiring solo singers as well as players.

Our recital at Langstone features two very fine contemporary Bach specialists: **Rodolfo Richter** (violin) and harpsichordist **Carole Cerasi**. They will perform a programme of Bach's Violin Sonatas and one by Pisendel. Carole will also play one of Bach's keyboard Toccatas. Visiting artists from Dresden also took part in the Coffee House concerts and Johann Georg Pisendel, the foremost violinist of his time who led the Dresden Court Orchestra, could have been one of them as he was an original founding member of Telemann's Leipzig Collegium Musicum.

Forerunners of the concert format we enjoy today, the Coffee House concerts were a cool place to be, to network, gossip, make friends and ponder on the music being performed....and so Langstone will be a cool place to be on 1 June.

Margaret Steinitz, Artistic Director, London Bach Society