

# Boston Early Music Festival

INTERNATIONAL BAROQUE OPERA • CELEBRATED CONCERTS • WORLD-FAMOUS EXHIBITION

**Boston Early Music Festival**  
43 Thorndike Street, Suite 302  
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617-661-1812 | [www.BEMF.org](http://www.BEMF.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 6, 2018

**Boston Early Music Festival presents two additional programs this April: harpsichordist Jean Rondeau in Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, and duets for soprano and cornetto with Hana Blažíková and Bruce Dickey.**

**JEAN RONDEAU, harpsichord – New York and Cambridge**

**ARTIST:** Jean Rondeau, *harpsichord (France)*

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:30pm

Gilder Lehrman Hall at the Morgan Library & Museum, New York, NY

Friday, April 20, 2018 at 8:00pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA

**PROGRAM:** J.S. Bach : *Goldberg Variations*, BWV 988

**TICKETS:** Tickets for the Boston performance are priced at **\$20, \$39, \$51, and \$70** each, and can be purchased at [www.BEMF.org](http://www.BEMF.org) and **617-661-1812**; a \$5 discount for students, seniors, and groups is available by calling 617-661-1812. Subscription discounts are available with the purchase of three or more programs on the 2017-2018 Season.

Tickets for the New York performance are priced at **\$35** for Morgan members and **\$45** for non-members, and can be purchased at [www.themorgan.org/bemf](http://www.themorgan.org/bemf) and at **212-685-0008 ext. 560**.

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAM:**

The thrilling young harpsichordist Jean Rondeau has quickly emerged as one of Early Music's "must-see" artists for his captivating and passionate performances that have earned him accolades and acclaim the world over. He makes his solo debut with BEMF in a recital of the *Goldberg Variations* by J. S. Bach. One of the truly iconic keyboard works in the history of classical music, the *Goldberg Variations* showcase Bach's singular compositional invention and demand consummate virtuosity from the performer.

A tour-de-force of thirty variations bookended by the famous sarabande Aria, the *Goldberg Variations* pair structure and fantasy, with patterns layered into the forms of the many movements. It is not the aria that becomes the theme, but rather the bass line – 32 notes for 32 movements – which underlays this monumental architecture. Bach masterfully builds emotional impact atop his erudite base, balancing exploration and restraint until the final virtuosic outbursts and the release of the final aria. "In the performance by Jean Rondeau, the *Goldberg Variations* feel like a perilous yet ultimately exciting expedition." ([allofbach.com](http://allofbach.com))

## **ASSOCIATED EVENTS:**

There will a Pre-Concert Talk at 7pm by Jean Rondeau.

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

In 2012, at just 21 years old, **Jean Rondeau** became one of the youngest performers ever to take First Prize at the International Harpsichord Competition in Bruges, also winning the EUBO Development Trust prize as the most promising young musician of the European Union. The same year, he claimed second place in the Prague Spring International Harpsichord Competition. In 2013, he won the *Prix des Radios Francophones Publiques*. Rondeau is in demand for solo, chamber music and orchestral appearances throughout Europe and in the United States. He frequently performs with the Baroque quartet Nevermind. His debut album on the Erato label of music by J.S. Bach, *Imagine*, was released in January 2015 and received the Choc de Classica and Prix Charles Cros. His second album, *Vertigo*, saw Rondeau pay tribute to two Baroque composers from his native France: Jean-Philippe Rameau and Pancrace Royer. His latest album, *Dynastie*, explores keyboard concertos by J.S. Bach & Sons. In 2016 he composed his first original score for a film, Christian Schwochow's *Paula*, which premiered at the 2016 Locarno Film Festival.

**HANA BLAŽÍKOVÁ & BRUCE DICKEY in *Breathtaking* – Cambridge**

**ARTISTS:** **Hana Blažíková**, *soprano (Czech Republic)*  
**Bruce Dickey**, *cornetto (United States)*

Monica Huggett & Tekla Cunningham, *violin*; Joanna Blendulf, *viola da gamba*;  
 Michael Sponseller, *organ & harpsichord*; Stephen Stubbs, *theorbo & Baroque guitar*

**WHEN:** **Friday, April 27, 2018 at 8pm**

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA

**PROGRAM:** **Breathtaking: A Cornetto and a Voice Entwined**

Maurizio Cazzati: *Regina coeli*

Nicolò Coradini: *Spargite flores*

Biagio Marini: *Sonata seconda a doi violini*

Sigismondo D'India: *Dilectus meus*

D'India: *Langue al vostro languir*

Giovanni Battista Fontana: *Sonata II a 2*

Tarquino Merula: *Nigra sum*

Giacomo Carissimi: *Summi regis puerpera*

Callipe Tsoupaki: *Mélena imí (Nigra sum)*

Giovanni Battista Bassani: Three arias from *La Morte Delusa*

Bassani: *Sonata prima a 3, Op. 5*

Alessandro Scarlatti: Three arias from *Emireno*

**TICKETS:** Tickets are priced at **\$20, \$39, \$51, and \$70** each, and can be purchased at **www.BEMF.org** and **617-661-1812**; a \$5 discount for students, seniors, and groups is available by calling 617-661-1812.

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:**

Perhaps no instrument has been more heralded over the centuries for replicating the luminous beauty of the human voice than the cornetto. This similarity encompasses not only the cornetto's clear and bright sound, but also its agility, expressive range, dynamic flexibility, and articulation, which can make it seem as though the player were speaking through their instrument. This program is a celebration of this affinity – an exploration of how the voice and cornetto combine, converse, and complement each other, whether responding in dialogue or entwining as equal partners in the musical texture.

Enjoy an evening of musical conversation between cornetto and voice featuring the world's most renowned cornetto virtuoso Bruce Dickey and exquisite soprano Hana Blažíková. Joined by a star-studded ensemble that includes BEMF Artistic Co-Director Stephen Stubbs and virtuoso violinist Monica Huggett, these exceptional performers present stunning masterpieces by Scarlatti, Merula, Carissimi, and others, that we hope will literally take your breath away.

**ASSOCIATED EVENTS:**

There will a Pre-Concert Talk at 7pm with virtuoso cornettist Bruce Dickey.

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS:**

**Hana Blažíková** specializes in the interpretation of Baroque, Renaissance and Medieval music, performing with ensembles and orchestras around the world, including Collegium Vocale Gent under Philippe Herreweghe, Bach Collegium Japan under Masaaki Suzuki, Sette Voci under Peter Kooij, and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra under Ton Koopman. She has appeared at many international music festivals, including Prague Spring, Festival Oude Muziek Utrecht, Resonanzen (Vienna), Tage Alter Musik Regensburg, Festival de Sablé, Festival de La Chaise-Dieu, Festival de Saintes, and the Hong Kong Arts Festival. In 2010 and 2013 she took part in a highly praised world tour of Bach's *St. Matthew's Passion* under the direction of Philippe Herreweghe, and in 2011 she made her Carnegie Hall début with Masaaki Suzuki's Bach Collegium Japan. She appeared as a soloist in Bach's *St. John Passion* with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 2011.

**Bruce Dickey** is a performer and researcher who has devoted himself for more than 40 years to the revival of the cornetto. He has taught cornetto and 17<sup>th</sup>-century performance practice at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Basel, Switzerland, since 1976, and is a founder and co-director of the ensemble Concerto Palatino. As a performer he has made many groundbreaking recordings both as a soloist and with his ensemble, and has collaborated with most of the leading figures in the field of early music. His many students have helped to consolidate and elevate the status of this once-forgotten instrument. For his achievements, the Historic Brass Society awarded him the Christopher Monk Award in 2000 for "his monumental work in cornetto performance, historical performance practice, and musicological scholarship." In 2007, he was honored by British conductor and musicologist Andrew Parrott with a "Taverner Award" as one of fourteen musicians whose "significant contributions to musical understanding have been motivated by neither commerce nor ego."

**RESOURCES:**

Download artist photos: <http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images.htm>

BEMF's 2017–2018 Season Press Release: [http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/082317\\_1718season.htm](http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/082317_1718season.htm)

**ABOUT THE BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:**

Recognized as the preeminent early music presenter and Baroque opera producer in North America, the **Boston Early Music Festival (BEMF)** has been credited with securing Boston's reputation as "America's early music capital" (*The Boston Globe*). Founded in 1981, BEMF offers diverse programs and activities, including one GRAMMY-winning and four GRAMMY-nominated opera recordings, an annual concert series that brings early music's brightest stars to the Boston and New York concert stages, and a biennial week-long Festival and Exhibition recognized as the "world's leading festival of early music" (*The Times*, London). The 20<sup>th</sup> Boston Early Music Festival will take place from June 9-16, 2019, and will feature fully staged performances of Agostino Steffani's *Orlando generoso* as the centerpiece opera. BEMF's Artistic Leadership includes Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, Opera Director **Gilbert Blin**, Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy**, and Dance Director **Melinda Sullivan**.

The 2017–2018 Boston Early Music Festival Concert Series is presented with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, ConstellationCenter, WGBH Radio Boston, Harpsichord Clearing House, and The Gregory E. Bulger Foundation.

**For more information, images, press tickets, or to schedule an interview, please contact Kathleen Fay at 617-661-1812 or email [kathy@bemf.org](mailto:kathy@bemf.org).**

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