



Saturday 19 June 2010

7.30pm

St. Cecilia's Hall

L'Ensemble Stravaganza

Domitille Gilon · violin

Thomas Soltani · harpsichord

**Programme of works by COUPERIN, CORELLI,
BIBER and JS BACH.**



The Sybert Summer Concert Series

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.

Second Concert Royal

François Couperin (1668-1733)

Prélude
Allemande fuguée
Air tendre
Air contrefugué

Sonata in C major No.3, Op.5

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Adagio
Allegro
Adagio
Allegro
Allegro

INTERVAL

Sonata in E minor

Heinrich Franz Ignaz von Biber (1644-1704)

Prelude and Fugue in A minor BWV 894

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sonata No. 3 in E major for violin and harpsichord BWV 1016

Johann Sebastian Bach

Adagio
Allegro
Adagio ma non tanto
Allegro

This evening's programme will highlight some of the most important composers of the baroque era in Europe: France, Germany, Italy, Austria.

François Couperin (*Couperin Le Grand*), one of the most important early 18th century French composers, acknowledged his debt to Corelli. He introduced Corelli's trio sonata form to France, and composed the *Apothéose de Corelli*, where he was trying to unify the French and Italian taste in order to achieve perfection in music (*les Goûts réunis*).

The *Concert Royal* we are playing this evening has been composed for the *Sun King*, Louis XIV. This suite was intended for listening more than dancing, to entertain the melancholic king during the last year of his life.

Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber along with Arcangelo Corelli was one of the most important violin composers in the history of the instrument. His prodigious technique allowed him to easily reach the 6th and 7th positions, exceptional for the 17th century.

We finish this musical tour with Johann Sebastian Bach, arguably the supreme composer of the baroque era, and one of the greatest of all time. We present two of his pieces:

The Prelude and Fugue in A minor for harpsichord (which Bach later revised to form the Triple Concerto for violin, transverse flute and harpsichord), and the Sonata in E major for violin and harpsichord.

Ensemble Stravaganza

Domitille Gilon was born in 1982, into a musical family. She won first prize at the *Conservatoire National de Région* of Boulogne, Billancourt in violin and chamber music. She completed her studies with Christophe Poiget and Nicolas Gourbeix in violin, and Zoltan Toth and Reiko Kitahama in string quartet at the *Conservatoire National et Supérieur de Musique* of Lyon where she got also the first prize *cum laude*. Domitille has appeared in concerts with musicians such as Jérôme Pernoo, Bruno Pasquier, Roland Pidoux and regularly participates in the masterclasses with the Danel String quartet.

A member of the *Orchestre à Cordes des Jeunes d'Ile de France* from 1991 until 2003, she did several tours in Corsica and Senegal, and recorded with the harpist Françoise Demaubus in 1995. Domitille has performed as a soloist with the OCJIF : in 1991 with JS Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins*, and in 1995 with Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. She is a member of the *Orchestre National d'Ile de France* and plays often in prestigious halls and festivals.

Domitille is studying the baroque violin with Hélène Schmitt, Patrick Bismuth, and Lucy van Dael.

Thomas Soltani was born in 1983 in France. He won first prize in harpsichord in the *Conservatoire National de Région* of Marseille in 2003, in the class of Christine Lecoin. Thomas has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Aix, Marseille. He was unanimously awarded first prize *cum laude* for the harpsichord diploma at the *Conservatorium van Amsterdam* in the class of Bob van Asperen. He has also attended masterclasses with Christophe Rousset, Gustav Leonhardt, Françoise Lengellée, Jean-Marc Aymes, Lucy van Dael and Hugo Reyne, at important musical institutions such as the *Academie Musical de Villecroze*, the *Institut Neerlandais* of Paris, and *Piccola Academia* of Monsisi (Italy).

He plays with ensembles such as the *Sweelinck Baroque Orchestra*, and has also played in Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*. Thomas is currently studying for his Masters at the *Conservatorium van Amsterdam* with Bob van Asperen and Olivier Baumont.

The keyboard instrument used in this evening's performance is a double-manual harpsichord by Luigi Baillon, Cyteux, 1755.

Most extant 18th-century two-manual French harpsichords are Parisian, but this is a wonderful and unusual example of harpsichord-building from beyond Paris. The maker, Luigi Baillon (presumably of Italian origin), worked in Cyteux in Burgundy, and built the instrument in 1755. This information is found in an inscription under the soundboard. It has a very different sound from Parisian instruments, perhaps suggesting that he learned his craft in South Germany: less richly alluring, perhaps, but cleaner and brighter. The decoration is superb: a carved gilt stand, typical soundboard ornamentation with flowers and birds, chinoiserie on the case exterior and a fine lid painting showing a mythical scene. Some restoration work was undertaken in the 19th century by Louis Tomasini who also worked (in 1882) on the famous 1769 Taskin in the Raymond Russell Collection. The Baillon instrument forms part of the Rodger Mirrey Collection, gifted to the University in 2005.

FORTHCOMING CONCERT IN THE SYPERT SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:

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Caecilia-Concert

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Kathryn Cok · organ / harpsichord

Wouter Verschuren · dulcian

with Bruce Dickey · cornetto

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These concerts are generously supported by Dr George and Dr Joy Syper. Thanks also to the Friends of St. Cecilia's.