

The Academy of Ancient Music in rehearsal and in concert
Keynote session, Performance Studies Network International Conference
West Road Concert Hall, Saturday 19 July 2014, 7.30 pm

Convenor and Chair: John Rink

The Keynote Session

The session will take the form of an open rehearsal, followed by a concert, presented by an ensemble of musicians from the Academy of Ancient Music, led by Pavlo Beznosiuk and featuring the soprano Charmian Bedford. The rehearsal will focus on repertoire which the ensemble has not yet rehearsed but which will be played in upcoming public performances. The pieces are likely to include various vocal works by Handel and excerpts from Boyce's Symphony No. 7 in B-flat major. The rehearsal will last 60–75 minutes and will be followed by an interval of 30 minutes when the bar in the foyer will be open. After the interval, the ensemble will perform a 45-minute concert including at least some of the previously-rehearsed repertoire. The objective of the session is to see the musicians 'in action' and to invite their views on the evolving interpretation. To that end, they will interact with the audience either during or at the end of the rehearsal, and delegates are invited to ask questions at suitable moments.

About the Academy of Ancient Music

Founded in 1973 by Christopher Hogwood, the Academy of Ancient Music has since performed live on every continent except Antarctica, and won Brit and Grammy Awards for a discography of over 250 CDs including Handel operas starring Cecilia Bartoli and Dame Joan Sutherland, pioneering cycles of Mozart and Beethoven symphonies, and releases exploring neglected composers. The harpsichordist Richard Egarr succeeded Christopher Hogwood as Music Director in 2006, and has directed the first-ever performances of Bach's complete Brandenburg Concertos in China, founded the award-winning Choir of the AAM, and released a world-premiere recording of music by Christopher Gibbons.

The AAM is Orchestra-in-Residence at the University of Cambridge, where it gives a regular season at the West Road Concert Hall. It is also Associate Ensemble at the Barbican Centre in London. The AAM is the third of Cambridge's ensembles-in-residence to perform at the Performance Studies Network International Conferences, following on from the Endellion Quartet's concert at PSN1 in July 2011 and the Britten Sinfonia's Keynote Session at PSN2 in April 2013.

1st Violin Pavlo Beznosiuk (leader), Iwona Muszynska, Colin Scobie

2nd Violin Rebecca Livermore, Sijie Chen, Marianna Szucs

Viola Jane Rogers

Cello Sarah McMahon

Double bass Dawn Baker

Harpsichord Silas Wollston

Biographies

Pavlo Beznosiuk *leader and violin*

Over the past 25 years Pavlo Beznosiuk has established a formidable reputation as one of Europe's most respected baroque violinists and has a busy international career as a soloist, chamber musician, concertmaster and director.

Pavlo has a long association with the Academy of Ancient Music. He first toured with the orchestra in 1985 and, since then, has appeared frequently as a soloist and director. Recent highlights include performances of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, concertos by Bach and Haydn, Tartini's 'Devil's Trill' sonata and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. He is currently the AAM's leader.

Pavlo is also Musical Director of the Avison Ensemble with which he has recorded the complete output of Charles Avison, as well as music by Vivaldi (Concerti Op. 8), Handel (Concerti Grossi Op. 6) and the entire published output of Corelli (released this year). In the mid-1980s he was involved in pioneering work in the use of renaissance violins with The Parley of Instruments and was also a key member of the ground-breaking medieval ensemble The New London Consort.

Pavlo's extensive recording output is central to his reputation as one of the field's finest and most versatile players. His recent recording of J. S. Bach's solo sonatas and partitas was described as "exquisite" by *The Independent on Sunday*. Releases with the AAM include Handel's Solo and Trio Sonatas with Richard Egarr and Vivaldi's Violin Concertos Op. 12 with Christopher Hogwood. He has recorded Biber's complete 'Rosary' sonatas with the actor Timothy West and also Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with both Monica Huggett and Rachel Podger.

Pavlo teaches baroque violin at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Charmian Bedford *soprano*

Charmian is a graduate of Clare College, Cambridge, where she read Classics. She also gained a distinction on the advanced postgraduate diploma in vocal performance at Trinity College of Music, where she was a finalist in both the French Song Competition and the Lieder Prize. She received the Paul Simm Opera Prize two years running for her portrayal of Blanche (*Les Dialogues des Carmélites*) and again for Anne Truelove (*The Rake's Progress*).

Other operatic roles include Tytania (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) for both Opéra de Baugé and Garsington Opera (cover), Rowan (*Little Sweep*) for Jubilee Opera, Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*) for Silent Opera, Gilda (*Rigoletto*) for Bury Court Opera (cover), Catarina in Nicola LeFanu's new Chamber Opera *Dream Hunter* at Wiltons Music Hall, Musetta for Go Opera, First Attendant in John Harbison's opera *A Full Moon in March* and second niece for the Aldeburgh Festival's award winning *Grimes on the Beach*.

An avid contemporary performer, Charmian made her Opera North debut in 2010 in a new piece by Mira Calix as part of their Resonance project and went on to work with the composer again on Streetwise Opera's 'Fables – A Film Opera' at the Spitalfields Music Festival. She has worked with Tête à Tête 'The Opera Festival', performing four newly commissioned single-act operas, and has premiered song cycles by Lloyd Moore and Graham Williams at the Royal Academy of Music and orchestral cycles by Daniel Thomas Davis and Peter Child in Lontano's 2012 Festival of Contemporary American Music. She has since recorded the Daniel Thomas Davis cycle with Lontano and Odaline de la Martinez.

Varied concert performances have included Mahler's *Fourth Symphony* with Aurora Orchestra for the Deal Music Festival and at the Barbican, *Israel in Egypt* with the Monteverdi Choir, Berio's *Laborintus II* with Aurora and Mahogany Opera at LSO St Luke's, Mozart's *Requiem* for the Maribor Festival with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and Handel's *Dixit Dominus* with La Nuova Musica. With the Academy of Ancient Music Charmian has performed Second Woman in *Dido and Aeneas* at the Wigmore Hall, subsequently touring to North Africa and China; Bach's *Magnificat* for BBC Radio 3; Bach's Cantatas at the Wigmore Hall and West Road, Cambridge; and Vivaldi *Dixit Dominus* at St Sulpice, Paris and the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam.