

# *Sei Solo* Project Performance

St Martin's Church, Salisbury  
Friday 28th September 2018, 10.30am

*La Folia*



**Welcome to this informal sharing of young people's creative responses to the music of Bach.**

The story behind Bach's *Sei Solo* mirrors many of the themes we have explored with students from Exeter House School and Exeter House Vocational Centre throughout this project. How can their voices be heard? Can we help these young people express themselves through sharing Bach's music?

## **Project artists**

Howard Moody: musical director  
Charlotte Beament: soprano  
Susan Francis: visual artist  
Bryony Moody: cello  
Ruby Moody: apprentice  
Jeff Moore: violin  
Emma Payne: dancer  
Adrian Zolotuhin: fretted instruments

**There will be a retiring collection after this morning's performance in aid of upcoming La Folia projects.**

[www.lafoliamusic.org](http://www.lafoliamusic.org)

## Introduction from Howard Moody, La Folia's artistic director

A couple of years ago I overheard someone say that Bach's music wasn't suitable for young people. I didn't comment, but rather turned my sense of outrage towards creating a project involving young people with Bach's music at the centre. Within minutes of our first session I was overcome once again by the power of Bach's music to create an intimacy between performer and listener whilst its perfectly crafted structures carry listeners to a safe place.

Bach's *Sonatas and Partitas* for solo violin exist in manuscript form with the inscription 'Sei Solo' on the front cover. This translates as 'I am alone' as well as 'Six Solo'. There are stories, perhaps myths around this title, thought either to have been written on Bach's return from a concert tour to find that his wife and one of his children had died, or that he was put in prison for a month for applying for a job without the Prince's permission so filled up his time alone in a cell writing for a solo instrument (the great 20-minute *Chaconne* for solo violin is but a fraction of his month's work!). These stories of aloneness triggered a memory of some of the themes that the Exeter House students explored in our 2015 project *Magna Songs*.

In addition to Bach's solo violin music, this La Folia *Sei Solo* project also brings the Bach *Cello Suites* to a new audience. Originally written around 1720 for Bach's employer Prince Leopold, they were apparently played in a private audience in the Prince's bedroom. They were lost for 200 years until found in a Spanish market by the cellist Pablo Casals. The music has now successfully travelled to Exeter House and the new Vocational Centre. The students have reinterpreted Bach's music through movement as well as the students' own artwork. In addition, the project participants have created new songs, sometimes generated out of Bach's chord structures, recreating something of Bach's own creative process. All their words were uttered first by the students themselves in response to the project's themes. As with all La Folia projects, they then spontaneously sung their own melodies, converting their own words into lyrics on which we have built harmonic structures to bind all their creative contributions together.

The 'performance' or rather 'sharing' of our project will draw from a wide range of Bach's music together with some of the songs that the students have created themselves alongside arias from some of Bach's great choral masterpieces:

### Violin

Sonata 1 Prelude  
Sonata 2 Andante  
Partita 2 Gigue and some of the Chaconne  
Partita 3 Prelude and Gavotte

### Cello

Suite 1 G major Prelude, Menuet 1 and 2  
Suite 2 D minor Sarabande and Gigue  
Suite 3 Prelude

### Voice

1. 'Laudamus Te' from *Mass in B minor*  
*We praise, bless, adore and glorify You.*
2. 'Quia respexit' from *The Magnificat*  
*Those who find humility will be blessed.*
3. 'Mein glaubiges Herze' from *Cantata 68*  
*My faithful heart will rejoice, sing and be merry.*
4. 'Bist du bei mir'  
*Are you with me? Yes I'm with you.*

## Lyrics from the Exeter House groups

*I'm a bit tired,  
I'm a bit stressed,  
Because of the dogs because they Bach.  
Someone's pushing.  
It makes me feel angry.*

*I am alone.*

*It's dark and the ghosts are coming out, Never  
ever good dreams together forever.  
Scared of the monsters.  
Window opens, door shuts.*

*I can dance  
I can sing  
I can do anything*

*When we sing together  
We make friends.  
Happy!  
Smile!*

## Lyrics from the Vocational Centre Group

*The crashing waves,  
Rockpools in the water.  
Memory clouds.  
Calm blue sea.*

*Colourful fish swimming in the water,  
Calm, icy, deep.*

*Alone, alone,  
Sad and alone.*

*Tearful,  
Worried.*

*Calling to the water,  
Sailing all alone,  
Sailing on the sea.*

It is fantastic to think that this is just the beginning of the journey that La Folia will be taking with this community of musicians this season. They have all inspired the limitless potential of music. By Christmas we will have released an album of songs created by the students at Wiltshire College and University Centre, Salisbury with whom we made so many projects over the last years including *The Ring Cycle*, *Magna Songs* and *Evening Songs*. And then by July we hope to have brought them all together for another *Evening Songs* project in the Cathedral.

## An introduction from Susan Francis, visual artist

My involvement in the project is to draw from the musical content already generated - whether that be the narrative represented, the lyrics participants have created, or simply the seed of a concept shared - and to use that inspiration to generate the visual art content. In this case we used the emotive backdrop of Bach's *Sei Solo* pieces, which were played while we worked, exploring and celebrating our collective individuality - in other words, 'what it is to be me'. Even with the same materials, tools and processes, no student will draw, print or paint like another, and together we have experienced different ways to make our own individual mark in response to Bach's work.

## A message from The Arts Society Wyllye Valley

The Arts Society Wyllye Valley is delighted to sponsor La Folia's production of *Sei Solo* led by Howard Moody, as their Young Arts Project for 2018.

The focus of Young Arts is to enable young people to experience and engage with art, to help facilitate an opportunity to explore a different medium and encourage self expression through art, as this production demonstrates.

This is the third project in collaboration with La Folia and Exeter House School that the Arts Society Wyllye Valley have sponsored and I hope we can continue to support this important and exciting work in the future.

*Julia Gallop, Young Arts Representative, The Arts Society Wyllye Valley*

## Thank you to all those who have supported *Sei Solo* through the singing trust:

Arts Council England | The Arts Society Wyllye Valley | Baily Thomas Charitable Fund | Mary Dickson | Alison Mayne | Peter Mitchell | Olive Moody | Music for Autism | RTR Foundation | Wiltshire Music Connect

**La Folia would like to thank the staff and pupils of Exeter House School and Vocational Centre for their commitment and inspirational creativity throughout the project.**



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## Coming next from La Folia

### **Continuing Songs | 28 November 2018 | 6.30pm | Salisbury Arts Centre**

All are invited to join us for the launch of the *Continuing Songs* CD, featuring songs written by students at Wiltshire College and University Centre, Salisbury. Admission is free but booking essential. Contact Sue to reserve a place: [info@lafoliamusic.org](mailto:info@lafoliamusic.org) | 01722 714249.

### **South Wilts Mencap Learning Disability Day | 26 June 2019 | Salisbury Playhouse**

2019 marks Mencap's 60th anniversary so they are planning a celebratory event where we will be offering open music workshops throughout the day. All are welcome to join in or observe.

### **Evening Songs | 9 July 2019 | 5.30pm | Salisbury Cathedral**

A revival of our 2016 project, in which Exeter House special school students and Salisbury Cathedral choristers will create their own Evensong service alongside Howard Moody and international soloist Mark Padmore. We hope you will join the congregation.

**You can play a part in making this project happen!**

**Visit [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/evening-songs-2019](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/evening-songs-2019) to find out more.**