



Full programme details at aam.co.uk

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Associate Ensemble at the Barbican Centre, London
Associate Ensemble at the Teatro San Cassiano, Venice
Orchestra-in-Residence at the University of Cambridge
Orchestra-in-Residence at Milton Abbey Summer Music Festival
Orchestra-in-Residence at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds
Artistic Partner to London's Culture Mile
Design by SL Chai

Images:

Cover: David Johnson
(pp1&4): Benjamin Ealovega
(p3): Benjamin Sheen
(p5): Portrait by Martin van Meytens, 1759
(p7): Davide Cossu / Millennium Images, UK
(p11): Ballet des Fées de la forêt de Saint Germain:
'Musiciens de campagne' by Daniel Rebel (1578-1637)
(p.13): Portrait of Ignatius Sancho by Thomas Gainsborough

barbican

Associate Ensemble



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AAM ACADEMY OF
ANCIENT MUSIC
50 YEARS

AAM at 50

The Golden Anniversary

Cambridge 2023-24

We are AAM

Academy of Ancient Music is an orchestra with a worldwide reputation for excellence in baroque and classical music. Using historically-informed techniques, period-specific instruments and original sources, we bring music vividly to life in committed, vibrant performances.



Established 50 years ago to make the first British recordings of orchestral works using original instruments, AAM has released more than 300 albums to date, collecting countless accolades including Classic BRIT, Gramophone and Edison awards. We now record on our own-label AAM Records, and are proud to be the most listened-to period-instrument orchestra online, with over one million monthly listeners on streaming services.

Beyond the concert hall, we engage the next generation of period-instrumentalists with side-by-side sessions, masterclasses and other opportunities designed to bridge the gap from the conservatoire to the profession, safeguarding the future of historical performance.

AAM is Associate Ensemble at the Barbican Centre, London and the Teatro San Cassiano, Venice, and Orchestra-in-Residence at the University of Cambridge, Milton Abbey International Summer Music Festival and The Apex, Bury St Edmunds.

The Golden Anniversary

2023-24

Command Performance: Music for an Empress
18th century Vienna's magnificent musical flourishing

■ 22 November 2023 | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Bach's Brandenburg Concertos
All six works in one gloriously life-affirming evening

■ 24 January 2024 | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

The Art of the Italian Concerto
From Vivaldi's Venice to the splendour of Rome

■ 6 March 2024 | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Le Roi Soleil: the King dances
The art of dance at the pinnacle of the French baroque

■ 17 April 2024 | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Sons of England
Masterpieces that defined the culture of a nation

■ 25 May 2024 | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

from John McMunn

Chief Executive

Half a century. Five decades. Fifty years of Academy of Ancient Music. How to celebrate this most momentous of birthdays, AAM's *Golden Anniversary*?

The association of anniversaries with precious metals can be traced back to the Middle Ages, and since that time the gold associated with 50th anniversaries has had dual symbolism. As a thing mined from the earth, gold reflects a wealth of shared experience over time. But being refined from ore, it also looks optimistically forward, with the possibility of ever perfected form and purpose.

What better lens through which to view our 2023–24 50th anniversary season? Across the year, we celebrate cherished triumphs past – beloved works by Handel, Vivaldi, JS Bach and Henry Purcell amongst others – while continuing to blaze a trail for historical performance, championing forgotten female composers at the court of Empress Maria Theresa, restoring noted abolitionist and freed slave Ignatius Sancho to the musical panoply of mid-18th century London society, and commissioning new works for historical instruments for the first time since the early 2000s.

But leave aside the 'how'. The 'what' of *The Golden Anniversary* is celebration, something to be experienced in communion with others: to be shared. I hope that you will join us across the season to share in all AAM has been for the past fifty years, and – perhaps more importantly – to celebrate all we will be for many more years to come.



John McMunn

from Laurence Cummings

Music Director

It's my great pleasure to welcome you to Academy of Ancient Music's 2023–24 season, our fiftieth: *The Golden Anniversary*.

Since 17 September 1973, AAM has been at the forefront of historically-informed performance. Baroque and classical music had come to function somewhat as an *amuse-bouche* to enjoy before listening to the 'serious music' of the 19th century. Christopher Hogwood founded AAM to strip away the layers of 19th- and 20th-century performing practices and reveal the rhetorical eloquence of this now well established and beloved repertoire. In this spirit of trailblazing and adventure we begin our season with a programme of music by two remarkable 18th-century women – Maria Teresa Agnesi and Marianna Martinez – sung by rising-star soprano Alexandra Lowe. *Music for an Empress*, a colourful exploration of music-making at the court of the Empress Maria Theresa, sets the tone for the rest of the series, which challenges preconceived notions even when presenting well-loved works.

Whether that's performing JS Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* with single strings and at low pitch to help bring out the solo characters at play, contextualising Vivaldi and Corelli's celebrated *concerti* with lesser-known works by Mossi and Valentini, or live French baroque dancing, you can expect the unexpected all season long.

But above all, AAM will continue to deliver accessible music-making of the very highest quality with guests and principal artists of international renown to you, our audience. I hope that you will join us, and I look forward to welcoming you all soon!



Laurence Cummings

A detailed portrait of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, wearing an elaborate blue and gold gown with a large white lace collar and a jeweled crown. She is holding a scepter in her right hand.

Command Performance

Music for an Empress

Agnesi *Licenza from Sofonisba*
Haydn *Symphony No. 48 in C major 'Maria Theresa'*
Martinez *Berenice, che fai*
Hasse *Sinfonia from Ruggiero*
Martinez *Keyboard Concerto*
Gluck *'Non vi turbate' from Alceste*
Mozart *Symphony No. 7 in D major*
Agnesi *'Rapido turbin vedo' from Sofonisba*

Alexandra Lowe *soprano*
Academy of Ancient Music
Laurence Cummings *director & harpsichord*

Academy of Ancient Music travels to the Vienna of Empress Maria Theresa – where genius paid court, and music flourished in magnificent (and unexpected) new ways.

They called her the 'mother-in-law of Europe', but as monarch, war-leader, diplomat and patron of the arts, the Empress Maria Theresa of Austria was one of the most extraordinary rulers in European history. Tonight, Academy of Ancient Music pays homage: recreating an era of splendour, innovation and music without limits.

Some of the names need no introduction – and Gluck, Haydn and the young Mozart were just some of the stars who shone around Maria Theresa's throne. But just as the Empress herself defied convention, so Academy of Ancient Music will explore some more neglected names too: Maria Teresa Agnesi and Marianna Martinez are composers of striking originality and inspiration who flourished during the reign of a truly exceptional woman.

- **Wednesday 22 November 2023, 7.30pm** | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: £37.50, £29.50, £18.50, £5 (under 35s – AAMplify)
15% discount for subscribers – see page 17 for all ticketing information



BACH

Brandenburg Concertos

JS Bach *Brandenburg Concertos*

Academy of Ancient Music
Laurence Cummings *director & harpsichord*

All six of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos in one gloriously life-affirming concert from Laurence Cummings and Academy of Ancient Music.

In 1721, Johann Sebastian Bach dedicated six concerti grossi to the Margrave of Brandenburg – six controlled explosions of fantasy, melody and exuberant joy, glowing with all the colours of the baroque orchestra at its most unbuttoned. Hearing all the Brandenburg Concertos in one concert is a feast for the ear and refreshment for the spirit.

And that's exactly what Academy of Ancient Music is offering tonight, as AAM Music Director Laurence Cummings plays as first among equals in music that never grows old. When performed with the period instruments and historically-informed playing techniques of AAM, Bach's inspiration and vitality simply sings through: more vivid, more entertaining and more original than ever. This should be a treat.

- **Wednesday 24 January 2024, 7.30pm** | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: £42.50, £34.50, £22.50, £5 (under 35s – AAMplify)
15% discount for subscribers – see page 17 for all ticketing information



THE ART of the Italian Concerto

Mossi *Concerto in G minor for 4 violins, No. 12*

Locatelli *Concerto grosso in C minor, No. 11*

Vivaldi *Violin Concerto, from L'Estro Armonico*

Vivaldi *Concerto for 2 violins, from L'Estro Armonico*

Valentini *Concerto in A minor for 4 violins*

Corelli *Concerto grosso in D major, No. 4*

Academy of Ancient Music

Bojan Čičić *director & violin*

AAM leader Bojan Čičić takes us on a return trip to baroque Italy, in this celebration of the Italian concerto in all its wildly entertaining forms – from Vivaldi's Venice to the splendour of Rome.

Take the warmth of Italy. Add the energy of the baroque, plus the novelty and glamour of the very latest in musical technology: the violin. Today we celebrate the Italian concerto, a sunburst of creativity, flamboyance and sheer musical imagination that took Europe by storm – and transformed the way we listen.

Tonight, we'll meet some old friends: who doesn't love the showmanship and melody of Vivaldi's L'Estro Armonico, or the unchained exuberance of a Corelli Concerto Grosso? Locatelli, Valentini and Mossi are less well-known, but every bit as entertaining. AAM's leader Bojan Čičić leads a hand-picked team of virtuoso players to rediscover a fabulous lost world: music that never loses its power to seduce, dazzle and delight.

- **Wednesday 6 March 2024, 7.30pm** | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: £37.50, £29.50, £18.50, £5 (under 35s – AAMplify)

15% discount for subscribers – see page 17 for all ticketing information



Le Roi Soleil: the King dances

Lully *Marche pour la Cérémonie des Turcs*
Rebel *Les Caractères de la Danse*
Marais *Les Folies d'Espagne*
Delalande *Symphonies pour les soupers du Roy (excerpts)*
de La Guerre *Suite from Céphale et Procris*
Campra *Suite from L'Europe galante*
Lully *Chaconne for Harlequin from Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*

Mary Collins & Steve Player *dance*
Academy of Ancient Music
Laurence Cummings *director & harpsichord*

The Sun King dances: Academy of Ancient Music and baroque dance experts Mary Collins and Steve Player recreate the sounds and sights of the court of Louis XIV of France.

Versailles, 1700: where all arts revolved in brilliantly choreographed splendour around the monarch they called The Sun King. Historical dance experts Mary Collins and Steve Player join Academy of Ancient Music to pay homage to Louis XIV of France, a king for whom music and political power were all part of the same resplendent dance.

So expect to hear from the greatest composers of the age – the exotic spectacles of Lully and Campra, the stately elegance of Rebel and Delalande, and the eloquent poetry and courtly wit of Marais and Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre. And watch it spring to life, too, as the specialists use all their expertise and artistry to recreate the art of dance at the glittering pinnacle of the French baroque.

- **Wednesday 17 April 2024, 7.30pm** | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: £37.50, £29.50, £18.50, £5 (under 35s – AAMplify)
15% discount for subscribers – see page 17 for all ticketing information

A portrait of a Black man, likely Ignatius Sancho, in 18th-century attire. He is wearing a dark blue coat over a red waistcoat and a white cravat. The background is a dark, mottled brown. The title 'Sons of England' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the lower left of the image.

Sons of England

Reginald Mobley *countertenor*
Academy of Ancient Music
Laurence Cummings *director & harpsichord*

Programme to include works by Henry Purcell, Samuel Pepys, GF Handel, MC Festing and Ignatius Sancho, and a new work by Roderick Williams

Countertenor Reginald Mobley and AAM explore a different vision of the English baroque: in which the music of Purcell, Handel and Ignatius Sancho redefined the culture of a nation.

Baroque England was a nation turned inside out: a fledgling democracy that could also be profoundly unjust, a culture convinced of its own uniqueness but which welcomed genius from all lands. Tonight, Academy of Ancient Music explores an era that's never felt more current.

So, the music of the London-born Purcell sits alongside masterpieces by Handel – a German who became English by choice – and Ignatius Sancho, who was born into slavery but found freedom and musical success in Georgian England. Curated by American countertenor Reginald Mobley, *Sons of England* weaves music and words to explore alternative histories of the English baroque, culminating in a Sancho-inspired new commission by composer Roderick Williams: musical history shaping a shared future.

- **Saturday 25 May 2024, 7.30pm** | West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

Tickets: £37.50, £29.50, £18.50, £5 (under 35s – AAMplify)

15% discount for subscribers – see page 17 for all ticketing information

Join us

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The music is sublime, the individual personalities form a unique tapestry, and the opportunities afforded to meet players and learn about their period instruments is outstanding.

AAM supporter

Do you love Academy of Ancient Music?

Become an Academy member, Associate or Friend and help secure the future of one of the world's finest period-instrument ensembles.

Academy

Academy	£1,000
Principal Chair Sponsor	£3,000
Leader's Circle	£5,000
Bespoke packages available	£10,000+

As an Academy member, you will be at the heart of AAM. Immerse yourself in our work and meet our brilliant musicians through open rehearsals, interval drinks, post-concert dinners and special events. We also offer a bespoke ticketing service for our Academy members.

Associates

£300+

As an Associate member, you will be a valued part of the AAM family. Meet like-minded individuals at interval drinks and be among the first to hear about AAM news and plans for the future. You will also receive priority booking for our West Road and Barbican concerts.

Friends

Gold Friends (individual £80 per annum, joint £120 per annum)

Silver Friends (individual £40 per annum, joint £60 per annum)

AAM Friends are invited to join us for an annual drinks reception and you will also receive updates on what's happening 'behind the scenes'. Gold Friends receive priority booking for our West Road and Barbican concerts.

To find out more, visit aam.co.uk/join-aam or contact Liz Brinsdon at liz.brinsdon@aam.co.uk | 01223 341090

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for your support*

Cambridge subscription series

West Road Concert Hall

West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP

Command Performance: Music for an Empress

22 November 2023 | West Road Concert Hall

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Sons of England

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Scan to view all AAM concerts at West Road Concert Hall

How to book

Online at cambridgelive.org.uk/tickets

Subscriptions

Get 15% off and sit in the same seats when you book all five AAM concerts at West Road Concert Hall

Visit aam.co.uk/subscriptions for more information. Opens 10 May

General booking opens 31 July

AAM in London

Milton Court Concert Hall

1 Milton Street, London EC2Y 9BH

Barbican Hall

Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks *with Silete venti and the Water Music*

18 October 2023 | Barbican Hall

Command Performance: Music for an Empress

23 November 2023 | Milton Court Concert Hall

Bach's Brandenburg Concertos

25 January 2024 | Milton Court Concert Hall

Further concerts to be announced from September 2023



Scan to view all AAM concerts at Barbican

How to book

Online at barbican.org.uk

By telephone: **020 7870 2500**

Monday–Friday, 12 noon–5.30pm

Multibuy

Get 15% off when you book three or more AAM concerts at the Barbican Centre via barbican.org.uk

Booking fees apply. Booking fees are per transaction and not per ticket. If your booking contains several events, the highest booking fee will apply. Booking fees do not currently apply to in-person bookings.