



THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Musica Antiqua Köln

REINHARD GOEBEL, Director

Tuesday Evening, October 11, 1983, at 8:30 Rackham Auditorium, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Music for the Potsdam Court

Quartet No. 3 in G major, "L'Art de Modulation" François-André Philidor Moderato Aria I Aria II Allegro

Allegro assai

Adagio Allegro

INTERMISSION

Ricercar à 3 10 Cannones super Thema Regium Sonata à tre Largo, allegro, andante, allegro Ricercar à 6

Deutsche Grammophon-Archiv Records

The University Musical Society acknowledges Liberty Music Shop's generosity and commitment to Ann Arbor's cultural life in underwriting the printing costs of this concert program.

The Musical Offering

(Notes provided by the Ensemble)

Among the surviving works of Johann Sebastian Bach, the "Musical Offering" and the "Art of Fugue" occupy a special place. Unlike the (likewise monothematic) related work, the so-called "Goldberg" variations, these two late works were revived only in the 1930s and, moreover, since then have hardly enjoyed a universal popularity. On the one hand, they are the highly stylized late works of a genius, on the other hand they have frequently been dismissed as mere mathematical contrivances. For whatever reason, performances of these two cycles are rare occurrences in the concert life of today.

For both works, Bach provided no indication of the required performing forces. While the "Art of Fugue" has entered the repertoire of harpsichordists and organists — whether deservedly or not is another question — the "Musical Offering" has been forced to suffer the most tasteless arrangements and reworkings, in which the music is thought to be made more palatable through unspeakably inappropriate instrumental combinations. Although we will return later to our instrumentation of the "Musical Offering," one thing more needs be said at this point: every reasonable performance of the "Musical Offering" must necessarily be an arrangement, for an "authentic" instrumentation does not exist. The Urtext transmits, in large part, only notes on lines, with scarcely any indication with regard to instrumentation, tempo, dynamics, or articulation.

Like most chamber music from the period of the "Ancien Regime," the "Musical Offering" attempts to cater to aristocratic pretensions. The title of the "Musical Offering" recalls Georg Muffat's "Armonico tributo" (1682) — a "Thanksgiving in Harmony" to the ducal bishop of Salzburg — and moreover, precedents and traditions exist for the contents as well. Thirty years ago Erich Schenk indicated that Bach would certainly have known two collections — the "Kunstbuch" of Johann Theile (1646-1724) and the "Artifici musicali" of G. B. Vitali (1644-1692) — which demonstrate (as do, e.g., his own "Well-Tempered Clavier" and Sonatas and Partitas for unaccompanied violin) Bach's activity as a collector who preserved and cultivated contemporary traditions. Both collections contain countless canons, fugues, and contrapuntal curiosities such as modulating canons, invertible contrapuntal structures, riddles, etc. in a "semi-performable" form for unspecified performing forces. IndFurther, these collections contain indications as to how these contrapuntal artifices can be applied in chamber music for strings and in Mass movements. The violin sonatas composed by Vitali for the dilettant violinist Francesco d'Este have their counterpart in the integration of the flute, the "royal" instrument (of Fredrick the Great), in the trio sonata of the "Musical Offering."

It is noteworthy that all three of Bach's works in the "Kunstbuch" tradition (the "Goldberg" Variations, the "Musical Offering," and the "Art of Fugue"), each one is based on a unified thematic complex, in the case of the "Musical Offering," the "Thema regium." However, this musical idea, with its bi-partite form and clearly unsymmetrical structure, can hardly have found its origins as an "inventio" of Fredrick II. Much more so, it is a combination of two well-known "soggetti" that most likely received their rhythmic profile from Bach's hand.

Our instrumentation of the "Musical Offering" satisfies the minimal forces required by the print version of 1747. In that version, two violins are specifically mentioned for a canon, and traverso, violin, and basso continuo (consisting of harpsichord and cello) are indicated for the trio sonata as well as the perpetual canon. Since all the remaining movements can be performed with this combination of instruments, there is no reason to expand the instrumental body further. The clefs in the canons likewise permit no deductions as to the intended instrumentation, since soprano-clef (used up to the end of the 18th century in keyboard music), modern violin-clef and French violin-clef (usual for recorder parts), as well as all forms of the C- and F-clefs, were evidently used to accommodate the abbreviated notation in which the canons are written. Contemporary manuscript material, on the other hand, clearly indicates that in performance only the above-mentioned instruments were used. The open score notation of the six-part ricercar cannot be taken as an indication of string ensemble performance: an autograph of this ricercar in keyboard staff notation survives and, in fact, it was quite usual to notate polyphonic music intended for keyboard performance in open score.

The original print, consisting of three individual gatherings containing in total five different parts, permits no conclusions as to the originally intended performing sequence of the whole. Only the canons (in our performance nos. 2-6) are consecutively numbered 1 through 5. The Fuga Canonica in Epidiapente that appears in the same gathering is unnumbered. At the

end of the trio sonata, the Canon Perpetuus appears. In all probability, however, it is not intended to be performed at that point, since it would interfere with the formal plan of the trio sonata, laid out in the manner of the four-movement Italian Sonata da chiesa (church sonata). We have settled upon a sequence of movements that results in a temporally symmetrical structure: the complex of ten canons and the trio sonata, nearly equal in length, are juxtaposed, framed by the two ricercars.

Musica Antiqua Köln

Reinhard Goebel, Director and Violin Phoebe Carrai, Cello and Viola da gamba Hajo Bäss, Violin Wilbert Hazelzet, Transverse flute Andreas Staier, Harpsichord

Musica Antiqua Köln has established itself as the leading Baroque chamber group on the international scene. Founded in 1973 by Reinhard Goebel, its director, the group achieved its first major successes in 1978, with concerts in London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Amsterdam, Paris, and principal German cities and festivals. The group toured South America in 1979, the United States in 1981, and the Far East in 1982. Its current activities involve more than 150 concert and recording dates each year.

Musica Antiqua records on the Archiv label of Deutsche Grammophon. A number of its nearly two dozen recordings have received international awards including three Deutsche Schallplattenpreise, the Early Music Award (London), Diapason d'Or, Orphée d'Or, and the Critics' Choice.

The repertoire performed by Musica Antiqua Köln spans the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The group's preference for playing music from the original sources — often for the first time since the music was written — reflects its scholarly involvement with issues of performance practice.

Musica Antiqua performs on some of the finest old instruments that have been restored to their original proportions. These include two violins by Jacobus Stainer (the mid-seventeeth-century Tyrolian maker whose instruments were prized — and often owned — by Bach, Locatelli, Tartini, Veracini, and Mozart); violins by Rogeri, Jacobs, and Pierray; two violas by Storioni; a viola by Klotz; and a cello by Gofriller.

Musica Antiqua's 1983 North American tour includes concerts in New York, Boston, Toronto, Pittsburgh, St. Paul, Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and tonight, the Ensemble's first appearance in Ann Arbor.

Instruments on the 1983 tour:

Mr. Goebel — Baroque violin by Jacobus Stainer, Absam 1665
Baroque violin by G. B. Rogeri, Brescia 1680

Mr. Bäss — Baroque violin by Jacobus Stainer, Absam 1671 Baroque violin by Claude Pierray, Paris 1705

Ms. Carrai — Baroque cello by Francesco Goffriler, Venice 1700

Mr. Hazelzet — Transverse flute after Rottenburgh, Brussels 1740, made by Alain Weemaels, Brussels 1981

In this evening's performance, Mr. Staier uses a Flemish double manual harpsichord made in 1980 by Keith Hill, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This North American tour of Musica Antiqua Köln is partially underwritten by the Goethe-Institute.

Coming Concerts

JAMES TOCCO, <i>Pianist</i>
Beaux Arts Trio
New World Ballet of Caracas
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA / CHARLES MACKERRAS
Leonid and Valentina Kozlov
Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra / Helmuth Rilling Tues. Nov. 1
GAECHINGER KANTOREI OF STUTTGART and soloists Bach: "Passion According to St. John"
SOVIET EMIGRÉ ORCHESTRA / LAZAR GOSMAN
New World String Quartet
Warsaw Philharmonic / Kazimierz Kord
MSTISLAV ROSTROPOVICH, <i>Cellist</i>
Hermann Baumann, Horn Fri. Nov. 18
Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra / Janos Rolla Sun. Nov. 20 Corelli: Sarabanda, Giga e Badinerie; Bach: Double Violin Concerto; Rossini: Sonata No. 3 in G major; Mendelssohn: Octet in E-flat, Op. 20
Handel's Messiah / Donald Bryant FriSun. Dec. 2-4 University Choral Union, U-M Orchestra; Kathryn Bouleyn, Soprano, John Ferrante, Counter-tenor, Joseph Evans, Tenor, Jay Willoughby, Bass
Pittsburgh Ballet, Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker FriSun. Dec. 16-18
RICHARD STOLTZMAN, Clarinet, and
WILLIAM DOUGLAS, <i>Piano/Bassoon</i>
Cecile Licad, Pianist Sat. Jan. 14
Welsh National Opera Chorus
Paul Taylor Dance Company FriSun. Jan. 27-29
LEONTYNE PRICE, Soprano Sat. Jan. 4
Vienna Philharmonic / Leonard Bernstein Wed., Thurs. Feb. 15, 16
Takács String Quartet
Peter Zazofsky, Violinist
Oakland Ballet
Free brochure with complete information available upon request.