SAVE-THE-DATE! You're invited to a very special event: My 75th Birthday Party!

Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7:30pm at The Town Hall, 123 West 43rd Street, in New York City

Wait! You might say that's not your birthday. It's the 334th birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. Celebrating both our birthdays, I'll be performing all Six Solo Cello Suites that he wrote just as he wrote them, but on the bass.

I have performed these Suites in troubled spots around the world: over a 1000 performances in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Uganda, South Africa, Bolivia and U.S. prisons and youth detention centers. Now I want to share them all together in one celebration with you.

And that's not all. Macdara Woods, the great Irish poet and my dear friend, passed away this year. I would like to celebrate his life as well with the cycle of poems, *The Cello Suites*, that he wrote for me, which he recited many times with my performances. Fortunately, he made a recording of them shortly before he died so that the wonderful pairing of his poems and Bach's Suites on Bass can continue.

I hope you save-the-date and join me in this celebratory concert!

I was invited to play Bach's Six Suites at the North Carolina Bach Festival on March 2nd and 4th of 2018: First I performed at beautiful church in Raleigh where I had reunions with many Oberlin friends in the area as well as my bass student Samer from Baghdad who has emigrated to the US. Then I did a nice interview on WUNC The State of Things with Frank Stasio, who used to be at NPR in Washington. And finally I played at the very unique setting for a concert: The Lager House Brewery and Pub in Greenville. A very appreciative audience heard the Suites and enjoyed the beer.



Performing at the Lager House

2017-18 SUPPORTERS (JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018)

Bach Circle (up to \$20,000) **Barrie Kolstein**

Suites Circle (up to \$10,000) Susan Saltus

Gigue Circle (up to \$5000) **Richard & Emily Hartshorne** New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

Bourree Circle (up to \$2500) Jeremy & Anne Whitney

Gavotte Circle (up to \$1000) Reginald R. & Jameson A. **Baxter Foundation** Timothy & Nancy Hartshorne Dr. & Mrs. Stuart McCalley, M.D. William James Association

Sarabande Circle (up to \$500) **Murray Buttner** & Jennifer Heller Michael Dabroski & Jill Rinehart

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Malcolm & Louise Brown Steve & Abby Bruce Arthur Cohen Mary Doughty Jon Deak & Jacqueline Mullen Tom & Nelda Duffey George & Anne Easton Joan Epro Warren Ferris **Gretchen Fischer** Pamela George Marjorie Gere Joanne Geyer Dan Gillard Hal Grant

Bach With Verse is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We are able to provide concerts free-of-charge to hundreds of children, refugees, students, inmates & patients around the world only with the generous support of so many. Thank you!

> **Jaclyn Headings** Scott Herman-Giddens Patricia Hurley Harry Jacobson Nina Jaffe*, In honor of Joy & Julian Jaffe Jose & Ingrid Lezcano, In memory of Gustavo Andrés Lezcano David & Susan Lord George Maker Lucky Marks Anne Maxwell Robert & Claire McNeill Ben & Kourtney Mills Ernest & Libby Mills Jonathan Newell **Paypal Giving Fund** Eve Richardson Ruth Ann Schwan Ayo Shanti Jay Smeltz & Julie Dickson Jørn Sørensen Betsy Street Eric & Roshan Swope William & Caroline Todd Brad Thompson Brian Walsh & Linda Patchett Michael Weisman Jim Whipple Mary Kay Zuravleff In-Kind Support

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5 **Concert Tours** in 3 Countries & 3 US States 62

Concerts & Workshops 1600

Audience members experiencing live music & stories

535 Incarcerated men, wome & juveniles

802 Children, teens & caregivers

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Iraq Concert Tour 13 Concerts ~ December 2017

My trip to Iraq was almost the trip that never happened. I was all set to leave in the beginning of October when 90% of the Kurds in Iraq voted for independence in a non-binding referendum. My friends later told me this was idiocy because all it did was enrage the central government in

Giving autographs at the Margaret School.





Final Concert at the Komar University

Baghdad who immediately cancelled all flights to the Kurdish sector, including mine. My friends told me that it was still possible to take the once daily flight from Baghdad to Sulymaniyah in Kurdistan but this would entail getting a visa. According to the website of the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, we believed it would take 15 days to receive the visa, so we booked a flight to Baghdad for three weeks later. After many attempts to learn the status of the visa, we were told that that was only for business visas. We rebooked another flight for December. On the day before my flight and no visa, Sarah got someone on the phone who said that the visa was ready but that we owed \$40 in cash (they no longer accepted money orders). A loyal friend in Washington, Mary Kay Zuravleff, went to the Embassy with the cash in hand and grabbed the visa and overnighted it to me. I made my evening flight. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to me the Turkish government had cancelled all visas to Turkey for Americans because of a dispute over a cleric with President Trump. I arrived in Istanbul at 4:00

2017-18 NEWSLETTER Season Report by Dobbs Hartshorne, double bass



Staff & students at Goran School in Sulymaniyah

in the afternoon and flew to Baghdad at 4:40 the next morning, 12 hours plus unable to get to a hotel in Istanbul. Then in Baghdad, I waited another 10 1/2 hours to eventually arrive in Sulymaniyah at 9:00 in the evening two days later. It was worse on the way back as I had 5 hours in Baghdad but 21 hours in Istanbul which passed in a haze because I had a raging fever and a lung infection.

But enough about that. I didn't miss a single concert. My friends Bashdar and Mustafa Ali kept me busy and fulfilled for two weeks. I performed in elementary schools where children have wonderful reactions to the music. Preschool children sit quietly and listen to Bach and love to feel the vibrations of the bass. Before one concert, a 6th grade class sang me a song about my last visit 2 years ago, "A man with a



Concert at the Institute of Fine Arts in Ranya and photos with fans afterwards.

beard who made us laugh and Dobbs was his name oh." One elementary school boy commented, "Your music is my heart." After a concert at the Margaret School, named for a martyr who fought for the



Peshmerga in the 60s, a teacher commented that she felt she was sitting by a river listening to the water. I visited the family in Ranya who has adopted me and all in all it was a great trip. OK. Minus the waits and the fever.

My adopted family in Iraq: Chaman, Kaziwa, Kafiya

Bach Mith Verse

New Hampshire Prisons 14 Concerts - August-October 2017

The tour began in Friendship House, a rehabilitation center where one young man said my musical story felt to him like "watching a movie." In Sullivan County, I saw a few old friends and the wonderful staff and played the 6th Suite for them; a first in any prison setting. To the surprise of the staff at the Dover Children's Home, 5 out of the 6 kids present first peeked in the room and finally came in and enjoyed the performance. At the Sununu Youth Facility, one girl quoted my story "Shoes" from last year, "They're black, I want 'em back." She asked about my son Scotty and then confided that she was getting out on November 3rd. I wished her luck. They all enjoyed the different stories that I told this year.

In Cheshire County and Valley street jails there were men who told me they were moved by the Bach and were now interested in going to concerts even though they had thought they wouldn't be.

Expanding the program, my first visit to a Federal Prison was a great success presenting 3 concerts. The warden came for a concert and made sure I stopped by to thank me before I left. They asked repeatedly if I would come back. But the nicest moment was when

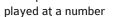
one of the men told me that he had heard me at Strafford County last year and was so moved that he wrote me a letter and gave it to the Lieutenant at Strafford for me (unfortunately I never received it). When he heard about this concert, he couldn't believe it was me and waited to see the picture on my flyer. Afterwards, he told me that he felt really lucky to have had the experience of hearing me twice. I suggested that he begin going to concerts when he got out and he said he would.

Prison Concert Project

Renewed funding from the New Hampshire State Arts Council and new funding from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation along with our numerous donors help to make these repeat visits possible.

California Prisons 12 Concerts ~ May-June 2018

The highlight of my trip to California was seeing my friend and lifer Marty Williams, one of the best people I know who unfortunately will probably never leave prison. I





Los Padrinos Juvenile Facility in LA

of prisons, a nice concert for aged-out foster kids and the life skills program at the LA County Jail where I got two standing Os for the Sixth Suite. One of the officers, an aspiring singer, couldn't believe I

played under Aram Kachaturian (she's Armenian) when I was with the American Symphony while at Juilliard. Usually it's the inmates I bond with not the officers. The program expanded to Mule Creek where I did a great concert in mental health with the wonderful classical guitarist Gabe Becker who teaches there. A special thank you to Mimi Munson and Michael Karnow and friends for their incredible hospitality hosting a house concert.

Aged-out foster kids and therapists

MUSIC STORE

One of my new stories concerns a certain bear from Vail Colorado who broke into a house and was caught on video playing the piano. You can look it up. Imagine my surprise to see a bear outside a prison where I was about to tell that story. This one and many more (4 CDs worth with some new recordings and some re-mastered) will be available in January.

New Release Available Now!

Six Suites for Solo Cello by J.S. Bach, Re-recorded by Richard Hartshorne on the double bass



Costa Rica Concert Tour

16 Masterclasses & Concerts ~ July 2018



From left to right: Roy Sonne, concertmaster; Michael Peebles, cellist and Marie's husband; Marie Parnell, principal viola; me, principal bass; Guido Saenz, former Minister of Culture; Paul Friedhof, principal cello; Ruben Oscher, principal bassoon all from 1976.

The Festival of Strings brought us back together for a week of coaching, orchestra, lessons and master classes. Over the course of that wonderful week, I coached a group of 9 bassists in an arrangement of Ravel's Pavane for a Dead Princess. It was a strong and moving performance. At the same time, I must have heard 25 or more bass players; young as well as

A Special Thank You...

A special thank you to Sue Saltus, our Chairman of the Board, and Sarah Bacon, our administrator, who are leaving us after years of dedicated service. You will both be sorely missed but what you helped to build will live on. I thank you both from the bottom of my heart,

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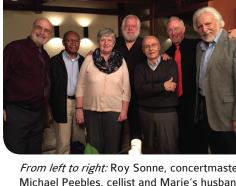


New & re-mastered recordings... Coming in January! Pre-order now! Monkey Business, Bear Naked, 4 Stories & Dobbs Sings

MUSIC MAKES GREAT GIFTS! Visit www.bachwithverse.org/store

Proceeds go directly to fund BWV programs around the world.





I returned to Costa Rica after 44 years. (It's getting to be a habit: My return to Bolivia was also 44 years.) The wonderful part of my trip was that I shared it with the other three principal string players who, together with me and the conductor Gerry Brown and the minister of Culture Guido Saenz, launched the Programa Juvenil in 1976. It is still thriving and has a new building and over 600 students from children to university age. The level was astounding and we were treated like returning heros.

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2017-18 NEWSLETTER

My bass class professional. But I especially worked with the 9 from my group, reinforcing the principles that I believe in and that can help them for the rest of their lives.



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