

KNOW YOUR COMPOSERS

PRELUDE (BWV 999)
CHACONNE (BWV1004)
arr. by Segovia and Eskelinen
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
(1685-1750)

Bach was the youngest of eight children of a most distinguished gifted family. He received sound instruction in musical technique and taught himself composition. He was awarded a scholarship at the Michaelissachule in Lüneburg and met Georg Böhm, organist and composer. In 1702 he worked as a violinist at Weimar; and in June 1707 became the official organist at the Blasiuskirche in Mühlhausen and initiated a renovation of the church's organ and composed his first church cantata. During his life he wrote some twenty concertos and a total of twelve unaccompanied sonatas for violin and cello and also wrote important pieces for organ and harpsichord together with sacred choral music.

Prelude BWV 999 was written originally for lute in 1720 and its key was C Minor. Bach wanted to employ the use of arpeggios in the first and second cycles of the piece in such a

way that the arpeggio of the second cycle was a round of the arpeggio in the first part. It is like having a stereophonic listening experience where the two melodies move together as the work progresses. *Chaconne BWV 1004* is the most difficult piece of music of all time.

It is a technical piece which illustrates not only the perfection of the instrument but the capacity of the human body to be used in a skilful way. *Chaconne BWV 1004* is an impressive set of variations in which the composer combined thematic elements from all preceding movements in a tripartite structure minor-major-minor. It is a piece which requires a masterful interpretation. It was arranged by Brahms for piano left hand only. *Chaconne BWV 1004* was also arranged for guitar in the early 20th century by Andrés Segovia and this led to believe the piece was written for guitar. Segovia taped throughout the whole piece superbly overcoming all technical challenges measuring up to its musical quality not detracting from the variation process. The range of expression is quite intimate bringing Bach closer to the audience.

JEHKIN IIVANA,
SONATA FOR GUITAR
dedicated to Ismo Eskelinen
British Première
OLLI MUSTONEN
(b.1963)

Olli was born in Helsinki and took his first lessons in harpsichord when he was five years old and piano lessons with Ealf Gothoni at the age of seven and lessons in composition with Einojuhani Rautavaara. As a pianist he has given concerts with several major international orchestras such as the *London Symphony Orchestra*, *The Royal Concertgebouw Orkest*, *The Chicago Symphony Orchestra*, *The Berlin Philharmonic* and many others. He is also in close contact with conductors of the stature of Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez and Christoph Eschenbach. In 1999 he performed the world première of Rodion Schedrin's Piano Concerto No 5, dedicated to him with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He received both the Edison Award and the Gramophone Award in 1992 for his recordings of the 24 Preludes and Fugues by Dmitri Shostakovich and 25 preludes by