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Einführung

Das vorliegende Bach-Vademecum, ein Spielbuch einiger Sätze von Johann Sebastian Bach, ist eingerichtet für die seltene Kombination von Viola und Violoncello¹.

Die Auswahl umfasst Arien, Choräle und Instrumentalwerke und entstammt einzig persönlichen Neigungen und privater Musizierlust. Stets in der originalen Länge und Tonart wiedergegeben, sind die einzelnen Stücke doch nach gänzlich subjektiven Vorstellungen des Herausgebers bezeichnet in der Hoffnung, dass diese Eingriffe den spielerischen Zugang erleichtern mögen.

Eine Ausnahme bleibt anzugeben: der Kanon aus der Kunst der Fuge ist eine Quint tiefer, in g-Moll

wiedergegeben. Aber auch hier möchten die unterschiedlichen Artikulationen dazu einladen, verschiedene Facetten dieses Werkes zu erkunden.

Bei den Arien ist der Text in der Partitur zu finden, allerdings nur jeweils beim ersten Erscheinen.

Mögen alle Musizierenden – der Bedeutung eines Vademecks gemäß – hier finden, was für den Alltag unabdingbar ist und bleibt: Besinnliches und Durchgeistigtes, Meditatives und Lebhaftes, Fröhliches und Aufgewühltes, aber auch Zuversichtliches und Tröstliches. SDG

Verlag und Herausgeber danken Martin Bärenz, Heidelberg, für den ursprünglichen Notensatz.

Christoph Habicht
Neckargemünd, Februar 2025

Introduction

This Bach vade mecum, a playing book of several movements by Johann Sebastian Bach, is arranged for the rare combination of viola and cello.¹

The selection includes arias, chorales and instrumental works and is based solely on personal preferences and a private desire to make music. The in-

dividual pieces are always presented in their original length and key, but are marked according to the editor's entirely subjective ideas, in the hope that these interventions may facilitate the playful approach.

¹ Ein Vademecum ist ein Heft oder handliches kleinformatisches Buch, das als nützlicher Begleiter bei der Berufsausübung, auf Reisen oder in sonstigen Lebenslagen am Körper oder in einer Tasche mitgeführt werden kann (Wikipedia).

¹ A vade mecum is a booklet or small, handy book that can be carried on one's person or in a pocket as a useful companion when travelling or in other life situations, or when practising a profession (Wikipedia).

One exception should be noted: the Canon from the Art of the Fugue is a fifth lower, in G minor. But here, too, the different articulations invite you to explore various facets of this work.

The text for the arias can be found in the score, but only the first time it appears.

May all musicians – in the sense of the meaning of a vade mecum – find here what is and remains indispensable for everyday life: contemplative and

spiritual, meditative and lively, cheerful and agitated, but also confident and consoling. SDG

Both publisher and editor would like to thank Martin Bärenz (Heidelberg) for providing the printing master.

Christoph Habicht
Neckargemünd, February 2025

Text of the Arias

1

I will give you my heart; sink within my Saviour. I will sink into you.

Although the world is too small for you, ah, you alone shall be for me more than heaven and earth.

3

Fear not, for from henceforth you will catch men.

4

Hurl them down headlong, foemen so haughty! Confound their scheming, bring them to naught! Let hell's abysses yawning devour them! Curb their fell power who Thee have fought! Make their plots wither; ever o'erpower them!

5

The mighty ones hurls He from their throne despairing into hellfire down. The humble man He doth exalt to shine as stars in heaven's vault. The rich He leaveth stripp'd and bare, the hungry folk He satisfieth, and from the ocean of His care eternal wealth to them supplieth.

8

Jesus, source of ev'ry blessing, he my heart's supreme delight. Jesus lightens all my troubles through his love's redeeming might. He my eyes' most precious pleasure, he my spirit's choicest treasure, fast and firm within my heart, he and I will never part.

9

Slumber on, oh weary spirit, softly, calmly take thy rest. World farewell, no longer here I stay where my soul no peace can find. Nought but sorrow, pain and anguish compass me about on ev'ry side.

Here I must in sadness languish, but I know on my beloved Saviours' bosom there is rest.

11

With frightened trembling steps I seek him, but Jesus hears my supplication and leads me to the Father, to the Father's throne.

Tho' heavy sins would draw me under, the word of Jesus cures each blunder for all my faults he doth atone.

13

If you are with me, then I will go gladly unto my death and to my rest. Ah, how pleasing were my end, if your dear hands then shut my faithful eyes.

14

Rejoice O my spirit, rejoice in thy gladness, begone all ye sorrows, away with all sadness. Thy waters of weeping are turned into wine, give thanks unto God for the joy that is thine.

For love in my heart like a candle is burning, it glows with a flame that is steady and clear, in joy or in sadness my comfort and cheer, in grief or in gladness my comfort and cheer.

15

My heart and my spirit be joyful, sing, share it: your Jesus is here! O grieving, o sadness, I tell you with gladness: my Jesus is near.

16

Yield to contentment and be quiet in the God of thine existence. In him rests every joy's abundance, vain without him is thy striving. He is thy well-spring and thy sunlight, each day he brightens for thy pleasure.