

Press release from Borletti-Buitoni Trust 8 October 2020



THE ART OF FUGUE EXPLORED AN INTERPRETATION OF BACH'S FINAL WORK BY FILIPPO GORINI

"Nothing makes me as passionate as delving deep into a work of music, taking a long time to make sense of it, and then sharing what I have achieved with an audience. This is the heart of making music for me as a performer."

Filippo Gorini

Not one, but two venues, provide the launch pad for pianist Filippo Gorini's ambitious project exploring the poetry and intensity of Bach's late and incomplete work, *The Art of Fugue*, which will commence in the 2021/22 season. The 25-year-old Italian pianist will perform the work on **29 November** as part of this year's **Montréal Bach Festival**, but it will actually be live-streamed from the atrium lobby of the monumental **Mole Antonelliana** in Turin (Italy's National Museum of Cinema), as well as the Festival's new streaming platform Québec Baroque www.quebecbaroque.com.

The concert will be the first step of an extensive journey into the heart of this unfathomable work - a journey that will embrace live and digital formats so as to share Filippo's discoveries with the largest possible audience. He has already recorded his own interpretation of the piece (the session was also filmed <https://vimeo.com/461737090/e62f8fdf8e>) for release on the award-winning label **Alpha Classics** in September 2021, leading into an international tour of live performances and lecture recitals.

For the digital presentation of the project Filippo is curating a documentary-style series of short films to shed new light on thematics suggested by *The Art of Fugue* in discussion with eminent minds in the fields of music, arts, cinema and sciences; these include, among others, architect **Frank Gehry**, artist **Alexander Polzin**, theatre director **Peter Sellars**, film director **Alexander Sokurov** and pianist **Mitsuko Uchida**. Along with an introductory film featuring Filippo himself, these will be directed and filmed by Robert Cibis at Oval Media (well-known for the award-winning documentary film *Pianomania*). Discussions are also well underway for a music film of *The Art of Fugue* in a contemporary art setting.

Gorini, who has been fascinated by this 'miracle of human creativity' since the age of 18, took full advantage of the Coronavirus lockdown to concentrate his study of the work, further broaden his ideas and channel his passion and energy into this project. He feels very strongly that masterworks

of the past, such as this, are vitally connected to the present and future. *The Art of Fugue* merits constant exploration and delivers endless rewards to anyone willing to dedicate time and effort.

He comments, *“In this project, all the forces that have meant most in my life come together organically; from my love of music - especially of counterpoint forms - to passions for art, architecture, mathematics and science. I am looking forward to making it a reality during the course of the next year and finally presenting it to the public.”*

The Art of Fugue Explored is entirely curated by Gorini, organised in consultation with Ute Fesquet and Keynote Artist Management and supported by the **Borletti-Buitoni Trust**, of which he was an Award winner earlier this year.

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Notes to Editors

FILIPPO GORINI piano

<https://www.filippogorini.it>



- **Born** 1995 into a family of nuclear physicists.
- **Awards** and prizes include include Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award 2020, Telekom-Beethoven Competition (First and Audience prizes) 2015, Neuhaus Competition Moscow 2013 (First prize)“Una Vita per la Musica - Giovani” of La Fenice Theatre, Young Euro Classic Award and Beethoven-Ring of Bonn.
- **Concert** appearances include at Wigmore Hall London, Tonhalle Zurich, Meany Hall Seattle, Vancouver Playhouse, Berlin Konzerthaus, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Munich Herkulessaal, Società del Quartetto di Milano, Samsung Concert Hall Seoul.
- **Orchestras** he has recently guested with include Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, Orchestra Leonore, Sinfonieorchester Leichtenstein, among others
- **Debut performances** in 2021/22 season include Festival Bach Montreal, Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Marlboro Music School.
- **Festival** appearances include Al Bustan Festival Lebanon, Cliburn Beethoven Festival, Naples Associazione Scarlatti, Accademia Filharmonica Romana, Ravello Festival, Ravenna Festival.
- **Chamber music** collaborators include Steven Isserlis/Prussia Cove and Chamber Music Connects the World in Kronberg.
- **Debut CD** in 2017 on Alpha Classics of Beethoven’s Diabelli Variations critically acclaimed with 5-star reviews in media including The Guardian, BBC Music Magazine, Le Monde and more plus Diapason d’Or Award
- **Contemporary** music also features prominently in his repertoire including performances of works by Stockhausen, Kurtág, Lachenmann, Gervasoni and Lanza in the past season alone. His main passions are the works of Bach, Beethoven and Schubert.
- **Studies** with Maria Grazia Bellocchio and Pavel Gililov and is mentored by Alfred Brendel.
- **Graduated** from scientific high school with a thesis on Godel’s Incompleteness Theorems, then with honours in piano studies from the Donizetti Conservatory in Bergamo, followed by postgraduate course at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg.
- **Photo credit:** Marco Borggreve

Montréal Bach Festival

Now in its 14th season following its establishment in 2005, Festival Bach Montréal has established itself as the premiere North American destination for the performance of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach and his contemporaries. Consistently bringing together outstanding national and international artists, the festival now prides itself on being one of Montréal’s most popular musical events, with an enthusiastic and loyal audience base. The 2019 edition of the festival attracted more than 20,000 people, with a further 1000 attending its new Off-Festival Bach venue in downtown Montreal.

<http://www.festivalbachmontreal.com>