

February 14, 2009, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Academy of St. Martin in the Fields

Julia Fischer, *director & solo violin*

PROGRAM

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976) Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge,
Op. 10 (1937)

Introduction and Theme: Lento maestoso —
Allegretto poco lento
Adagio
March: Presto alla marcia
Romance: Allegretto grazioso
Aria Italiana: Allegro brillante
Bourrée classique: Allegro e pesante
Wiener Walzer: Vivace
Moto perpetuo: Allegro molto
Funeral March: Andante ritmico
Chant: Lento
Fugue and Finale: Allegro molto vivace

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) Concerto No. 1 for Violin in A minor,
BWV 1041 (ca. 1720)

Allegro
Adagio
Allegro assai

INTERMISSION

Bach Concerto No. 2 for Violin in E major,
BWV 1042 (ca. 1720)

Allegro
Adagio
Allegro assai

Sir William Walton (1902–1983) Sonata for Strings (1945–1947)

Allegro
Presto
Lento
Allegro molto

*Exclusive Management for the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields:
Opus 3 Artists
470 Park Avenue South, 9th Floor North
New York, New York 10016*

Personal Management for Julia Fischer: Jack Mastroianni, IMG Artists, New York, New York.

Ms. Fischer records exclusively for Decca Records.

Cal Performances' 2008–2009 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.

Academy of St. Martin in the FieldsJulia Fischer, *director & solo violin***Violin I**

Julia Fischer
 Harvey de Souza
 Pauls Ezergailis
 Helen Paterson
 Fiona Brett
 Miranda Playfair
 Miya Ichinose

Violin II

Martin Burgess
 Helena Smart
 Rebecca Scott
 Mark Butler
 Clare Hayes

Viola

Robert Smissen
 Fiona Bonds
 Duncan Ferguson
 Martin Humbey

Cello

Stephen Orton
 Martin Loveday
 William Schofield

Double Bass

Lynda Houghton
 Cathy Elliott

Harpsichord

John Constable

Administration

Dawn Day, *General Manager*
 Mimi Errington, *Development Manager*
 Tara Persaud, *Concerts Manager*
 Katy Jones, *Personnel Manager*
 Katherine Adams, *Librarian*
 Jennifer Lomas, *Concerts Assistant*
 Susannah Thackray, *Administration Assistant*
 Nigel Barratt, *Orchestra Manager*

For Opus 3 Artists

David V. Foster, *President & CEO*
 Byron Gustafson, *Managing Partner*
 Leonard Stein, *Senior Vice President, Director,
 Tour Administration*
 William Bowler, *Manager, Artists & Attractions*
 Kay McCavic, *Company Manager*
 Gerald Breault, *Stage Manager*
 John C. Gilliland III, *Associate,
 Tour Administration*



Mike Hoban

Sir Neville Marriner says that the small ensemble he founded in 1958 “had no intention of giving any concerts or continuing forever.” Happily, whatever the initial intention, 50 years on the **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields** is firmly established as one of the world’s leading chamber orchestras and, according to *Times of London* journalist Richard Morrison, “As you travel round the globe, the Academy’s name has an aura possessed by no other British orchestra.”

Formed from a group of leading London musicians and working without a conductor, the Academy gave its first performance in its namesake church on November 13, 1959. Its debut recording just two years later, had “precision, care, consummate musicianship and more sense of style than all other chamber orchestras in Europe put together” (Denis Stevens).

Demand for the Academy, particularly in the recording studio, soon began to grow as did the size of the orchestra and the repertoire it performed. Eventually Sir Neville was forced to put down his violin and take up the conductor’s baton, but the collegiate spirit and flexibility of the original small, conductorless ensemble remains an

Academy hallmark. Today, the Academy performs in combinations ranging from a chamber group to a symphony orchestra.

Known for its superlative performances and award-winning recordings, the Academy maintains a busy high-profile international concert schedule, and alongside its performances with Sir Neville Marriner and Kenneth Sillito collaborates with some of today’s most thrilling musicians, including Murray Perahia, Joshua Bell, Julia Fischer, Julian Rachlin, Janine Jansens and Anthony Marwood.

During its 50th anniversary year, the Academy will tour throughout Europe, the United States and Canada, and will give performances in London and around the United Kingdom. The launch of a program to commission new works for chamber orchestra will see the world premiere of an exciting concerto by American composer Steven Mackey for string orchestra, solo violin and electric guitar.

Beyond the concert hall, the Academy’s *Outward Sound* education activities will continue to take classical music beyond the traditional concert setting, involving participants of all ages in rural and urban communities in school projects, family music days and creative music-making.



Julia Wexley

German violinist **Julia Fischer** is recognized worldwide for possessing a talent of uncommon ability and as an exceptionally gifted performer, reflected in the numerous awards and effusive reviews she has received for both her live performances and recordings, including being named “Artist of the Year” at the *Classic FM Gramophone Awards* in 2007.

Praised for her imaginative and illuminating interpretations of the classical repertoire, Ms. Fischer is equally lauded for her technical skill, with *BBC Music Magazine* describing her as a “soulful musician who doesn’t let an ounce of ego come between the music and the listener,” and *The New York Times* saying, “Ms. Fischer found an appealing balance between nobility of statement and rhapsodic freedom. Technically her playing was impressively accomplished and elegant, richly varied in colorings.”

During the 2008–2009 season, Julia Fischer will make her subscription series debuts with the Chicago Symphony and Los Angeles Philharmonic, return to the New York Philharmonic, to Carnegie

Hall with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, and also to the Boston Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony and San Francisco Symphony. In February 2009, she will perform as leader and soloist for the 50th Anniversary tour of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields to 10 North American cities, as well as nine German and Austrian cities in January. In Japan, she will make her NHK Symphony debut. A prolific recitalist, Ms. Fischer will visit nine North American cities in April and May 2009.

In Europe, Ms. Fischer will perform with the Tonhalle Zurich Orchestra, the Orchestra of Santa Cecilia in Rome and the Philharmonia Orchestra, tour with the Netherlands Philharmonic and return to the Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. In 2009–2010, Julia Fischer will be Artist in Residence with the Tonhalle in Zurich and, similarly, in 2010–2011 in Baden-Baden.

In summer 2008, Ms. Fischer made her debut at the Tanglewood and Blossom festivals, as well as the BBC Proms in London. During the 2007–2008 season, she made her professional piano debut performing the Grieg Piano Concerto at the Alte Oper Frankfurt, in a concert that was televised by Unitel, for whom she is an exclusive video recording artist. On DVD, Ms. Fischer is showcased in an Opus Arte release of Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields.

Ms. Fischer is an exclusive recording artist for Decca. Her first album of Bach concerti recorded with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields—featuring her as both leader and soloist—was released in January 2009. Her previous recordings were released on the PentaTone label; her final recording for the label will be of Schubert’s complete piano and violin sonatas with Martin Helmchen. All of Ms. Fischer’s CD releases have received major recognition and awards. Her debut CD, a recording of Russian violin concertos by Khachaturian, Prokofiev and Glazunov with the Russian National Orchestra under Yakov Kreizberg, won Germany’s coveted ECHO Award in 2005. Her recording of Bach’s Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin earned worldwide critical praise, including the rare distinction of winning three of France’s most prestigious awards: the Diapason d’Or from *Diapason*;

the CHOC from *Le Monde de la Musique*; and the highest rating from *Classica Repertoire*. The Bach recording also saw her awarded the *BBC Music Magazine* Award as “Best Newcomer” in 2006. In 2007, her Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto recording saw her awarded the ECHO award for Instrumentalist of the Year.

Born in Munich in 1983 to a pianist mother from Slovakia and a mathematician father from Eastern Germany, Ms. Fischer began learning the piano with her mother at age three, but was soon persuaded to take up the violin instead, because, as her brother also played piano, her mother thought it would be nice to have another

instrument in the family. She began violin lessons at the Leopold Mozart Conservatoire in Augsburg, and three years later she became a pupil of the famous Ana Chumachenko at the Munich Academy of Music (Musikhochschule). At just 11 years old, she won the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition, an event that catapulted her toward a career as a soloist. Countless performances and prizes later, she herself now teaches at the Academy for Music and the Performing Arts (Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst) in Frankfurt am Main, where she has the distinction of being Germany’s youngest Professor.

Ms. Fischer lives in Munich, Germany.