

Bach With Verse

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Dover Children's Home

Over the course of the summer and into the fall I played at jails, the youth facility some drug rehab centers and an orphanage in New Hampshire :12 in all. Thanks to the New Hampshire Arts council and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for supporting these concerts again this year.

September: I returned to Palestine thanks to gifts from Molly Bartlett and the Tree of Life Foundation. This time I did a travel diary with a posting each day on Facebook which you can find by friending us on Bach With Verse's facebook page. The most

emotional moment was when I asked a group of 4th grade girls to close their eyes and feel the power of the Sarabande from the first Suite. One girl remembered her Aunt who had just died and as she told me that began sobbing uncontrollably and had to be taken from the room. It demonstrates to me the unbelievable power of this music and the way it allows people to get in touch with their feelings. Once more I coached a string quartet of students some of whom I've known since 2005. They did a great job with the slow movement from Hadyn op 76 no 3. It's always nice to be in Ramallah where the people are friendly, the shop keepers recognize me, and the students and faculty are committed and enthusiastic. The political situation just gets worse and worse but it doesn't get talked about.



My string quartet rehearsing





My brother's house

In May I did a whirlwind two week trip to California 20 concerts and 2 fundraisers in the SF area and the LA area.. I played in 4 different prisons and the LA County Jail. After the performance in the Chino Men's prison an older inmate told me that during the Bach his deceased sister had come to him and told him that everything would be alright. He was about to be released after many year's incarceration and had been planning to live with her when she unexpectedly died. He thanked me.



Chino Men's Prison

2018-2019 Supporters July 1 2018 to June 30 2019

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, patients around the world only with the generous support of so many. Thankyou!

Gigue Circle up to \$5000
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Bourée Circle up to \$2500
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Gavotte Circle up to \$1000
Hartshorne, Tim
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Do, Mimi
Nada, Sherif and Mary
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In November I did a quick trip to Michigan to celebrate my little brother's birthday. OK not quick 13 hours in the car with two basses. But worth it. I reconnected with the men at Bellamy Creek prison 2 concerts, played for the Highschool and the College in Mt Pleasant, and then did a runthrough of the six Suites for my brother's family and some special friends. Last run through before my Birthday concert in NY.



My performance of the six Bach Suites in Town Hall was the culmination of 52 years of work. This in effect was my life's work. They are written for cello and my adaptation for the bass involved years of experimentation and the eventual retuning of the bass with different strings to get it into the register of the cello and for the sixth Suite using a completely different bass with completely different strings and a custom high e string made especially for me. I began the process in 1967 at the behest of my teacher at Juilliard, Stuart Sankey but with the admonition "Just don't play them in public!" He probably shouldn't have said that. I fell in love with the music and dreamed of being able to express the depth of Bach's genius with the notes he wrote: same register same octave exactly as he wrote them but with the warm mellow sound of the bass. I experimented constantly and for years. in 1997 I recorded them for the first time and in 2002 played all six in a single concert in Derry Northern Ireland. all six together were played through the following years in Harrisville NH, Toronto CA, NY NY, Dublin Ireland, Cochabamba Bolivia, Århus Denmark, and Raleigh and Greensboro NC. Even in 2018 I was still making adaptations. I changed one string after the first two Suites for a better sound in the next three. Singly I have performed these pieces, one per concert, well over a thousand times around the world in prisons, refugee camps, mud and wattle churches, and more unusual places than you could imagine. The amazing emotional contact that these Suites make with audiences of every conceivable kind of humans is always palpable. Sometimes they cry, sometimes they dream, always they are comforted. So the work that I have done to play them at the highest level has made the life I now lead possible. In New York it was time to put it all together in that wonderful hall for a group of wonderful people knowing that all the technical problems of 50 years had been solved and I could just feel the power and beauty of the music and try to communicate all that to the friends gathered there.



LA County Jail