

# GEMMA ROSEFIELD

ENSEMBLE 360

Friday 21 January

1.00pm & 7.00pm

Upper Chapel, Sheffield

JS BACH

Cello Suite No.1 BWV 1007

Cello Suite No.2 BWV 1009

*no interval*

## JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

### Cello Suite No.1 BWV 1007

Prelude  
Allemande  
Courante  
Sarabande  
Minuet 1 & 2  
Gigue

### Cello Suite No.3 BWV 1009

Prelude  
Allemande  
Courante  
Sarabande  
Bourrée 1 & 2  
Gigue

Bach's six Cello Suites were probably composed in about 1720 during his time in Cöthen. It isn't known for whom Bach wrote them, though there are at least two likely candidates working in Cöthen at the time: Christian Ferdinand Abel (1682–1761), a great friend of the composer for whom Bach wrote the three sonatas for viola da gamba and harpsichord (BWV 1027–9) and Carl Bernhard Lienicke (d. 1751), the leading cellist of the Cöthen orchestra. Whether either of them was the player Bach had in mind is a matter of pure speculation since no documentary evidence has come to light. Equally uncertain is why Bach wrote them. The likeliest explanation is that they were intended – like much of his keyboard music – for private performance.

Programme note © Nigel Simeone

## BWV

Bach composed well over 1,000 pieces of music, many with similar names, and so to avoid confusion they are all assigned a BWV number.

In 1950 the German librarian and musicologist Wolfgang Schmieder, collated all of Bach's works into a single list, which he published as the Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis (Bach Works Catalogue).

The BWV groups all of Bach's music by genre: so BWV 1–224 are the church cantatas, and later in the list BWV 1001–1040 his chamber music containing the six cello suites, and so on.

Bach's earliest surviving manuscripts are works for organ believed to have been composed when he was 13. Some debate remains around his final works, but many scholars agree that one of his last completed pieces was a choral fantasia, possibly even written on his deathbed: 'Before thy throne I stand, O God'.

## GEMMA ROSEFIELD

Winner of the prestigious Pierre Fournier Award 2007, Gemma Rosefield made her concerto debut at the age of 16 when she won First Prize in the European Music for Youth Competition in Oslo playing a televised performance of the Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto with the Norwegian Radio Symphony Orchestra. She has recorded the Complete Works for Cello and Orchestra by Sir Charles Stanford with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Andrew Manze for Hyperion.

Gemma gives some 50 performances a year as cellist of Ensemble 360, whose performances are described by 'The Independent' as 'brimming with body and soul,

with passion, vitality and virtuosity, whose performances never cease to amaze'.

Works have been written for her by David Matthews, Cecilia McDowall, James Francis Brown, Julian Dawes, Rhian Samuel, David Knotts and Michael Kamen.

Gemma performed the premiere of a new work for Cello and Choir by Cecilia McDowall at Westminster Abbey. She has played Michael Ellison's Concerto for Cello and Turkish Instruments with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Dvořák Cello Concerto with the Estonian National Orchestra and Vello Pähn, and the Elgar Cello Concerto at the Royal Festival Hall with the Philharmonia Orchestra. She gave the UK premiere of Concello, for Cello and Orchestra, by Polish composer Maciej Zielinski at the Presteigne Festival and has since recorded this work.

Gemma plays on a cello made in Naples in 1704 by Alessandro Gagliano, formerly owned and played by the Prince Regent, later King George IV.

## ENSEMBLE 360

Ensemble 360 has gained an enviable reputation across the UK not only for the quality and integrity of its playing, but also for its ability to communicate the music to a range of different audiences. Formed in 2005, 11 musicians of international standing came together to take up residency in Sheffield with Music in the Round, establishing a versatile group of five string players, five wind players and a pianist. The musicians believe that concerts should be informal, friendly and relaxed occasions, and perform 'in the round' wherever possible.

Outside Ensemble 360 many of the musicians have highly successful careers, performing with groups including the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, English National Opera, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Camerata Bern, Manchester Camerata and Nash Ensemble.

## MUSIC IN THE ROUND

Music in the Round is the leading national promoter of chamber music. For over 35 years we have been bringing people and music closer together through our friendly and informative style of 'in the round' performances, touring to numerous venues around the country and presenting the Sheffield Chamber Music Festival each year at our home venue, the Crucible Studio, and concert series across the city and South Yorkshire. Our events are characterised by passion, excellence and proximity, and even in these challenging times of a global pandemic we have been striving to connect people through music by presenting socially-distanced live concerts and creating films featuring our musicians to enjoy online.

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MUSIC IN THE ROUND

Your generosity in recent years has made it possible for us to continue with our aim to bring people closer to music, despite all the challenges since March 2020. It is thanks to you, our Friends, supporters and audiences, that we are able to continue to bring you full programmes this year.

These programmes are produced by Music in the Round and your donations are gratefully received, You can text 'Programme 1' to 70085 to donate £1.

\*This costs you £1 plus standard message rate.