

Rachel Podger & Brecon Baroque: 50th Birthday Recording Appeal

"the queen of the baroque violin" (Sunday Times)

Rachel Podger is internationally recognised as a leading interpreter of the Baroque and Classical music periods. The first female recipient of the Royal Academy of Music/Kohn Foundation Bach Prize, Rachel is renowned as an inspirational soloist, collaborator, director and teacher. A distinguished creative programmer, she is Founder and Artistic Director of her own ensemble Brecon Baroque and of the Brecon Baroque Festival. She also holds professorships at the Royal Academy of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music and New York's Juilliard School.

"There is probably no more inspirational musician working today" (Gramophone)

Rachel and Brecon Baroque are award-winning recording artists with critics all too often left reaching for superlatives: BBC Music Magazine described Rachel's 2014 solo recording, *Guardian Angel*, as "utterly stupendous" while Nicholas Kenyon declared Brecon Baroque's recording of Vivaldi's *L'Estro Armonico* to be a "miracle of virtuosity". Their latest Bach recording – *The Art of Fugue* – was immediately recognised as the benchmark in BBC Radio 3's Record Review.

Rachel's forthcoming performance highlights include a European tour with Kristian Bezuidenhout, Brecon Baroque's debut at the Edinburgh International Festival, a European and Australasian tour with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and a residency at Wigmore Hall.

In 2018 Rachel celebrates her 50th birthday and to mark this she is planning a recording and performance project focussing on Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and Bach's *Cello Suites* – for the first time recorded on violin.

**We warmly invite you to help realise this project by supporting
our Recording Appeal**

This project will enable Rachel and Brecon Baroque to explore major landmarks of the Baroque repertoire and to reach new audiences worldwide both through recordings and live performances.

Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* is the most famous of Vivaldi's compositions and Rachel has dreamed of playing and recording them since first hearing Nigel Kennedy's 1989 recording when she was still a student. She is now perfectly placed to realise this dream with her own Brecon Baroque ensemble. The studio sessions are scheduled for autumn 2017 and the disc for release in 2018. The first public performance following the studio sessions will be at her own **Brecon Baroque Festival** on Saturday 28 October 2017.

Bach Solo Cello Suites: Rachel's solo Bach recordings are widely regarded as exceptional, and the Solo Cello Suites will be recorded in early 2018 for release later that year. This ground-breaking



project is a collaboration with the Royal Academy of Music who will be loaning a precious Amati violin from their collection of historic instruments. Additionally, in order to play the Sixth Cello Suite, Rachel has commissioned a unique five-string violin from maker Arjaan Westdorp who is based in The Hague. As far as we know, this five-string modern violin in baroque set-up will be a unique instrument and we hope to document the creation of this violin together with the restoration of the Amati to its original Baroque form in a short film.

“Rachel Podger’s Bach has always been special” (BBC Music Magazine).

You can find out more about Rachel’s approach to recording and watch Brecon Baroque recording Vivaldi’s *L’Estro Armonico* [here](#). Rachel and Brecon Baroque record exclusively with Channel Classics, winners of the Gramophone ‘Label of the Year’ 2015, and are represented worldwide by [Percius](#).

About the 50th Birthday Recording Appeal

We need to raise £25,000 by September 2017 to make these recordings possible. Any donations that you are able to give will be greatly appreciated and personally acknowledged as we work to achieve this target. All donations will go into the ‘Recordings Fund’ managed by the Brecon Beacons Music Trust, a registered charity (no. 1172155) which supports Brecon Baroque and Brecon Baroque Festival.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project we would love to talk to you.

All supporters will be acknowledged either in the Vivaldi ‘*Four Seasons*’ or Bach ‘*Solo Cello Suites*’ CD booklet as you would prefer. We will also keep all supporters updated on the progress of the recording projects. We are also able to offer the following benefits:

Gifts of between £50 & £100

- acknowledgement in the CD booklet of your chosen recording

Gifts of between £101 & £500:

- acknowledgement in the CD booklet of your chosen recording
- complimentary copy of both CDs

Gifts of between £501 & £1,000 receive the benefits above plus:

- invitation to attend a rehearsal or recording session and to talk with Rachel and the Brecon Baroque musicians about the project

Gifts of between £1,001 & £4,999 receive the benefits above plus:

- Two complimentary tickets to one of Rachel’s forthcoming concerts

Gifts of £5,000 or more please get in touch so that we can discuss how best to recognise your gift.

Gifts can be made either by filling in the form below and sending a cheque or by making a payment by direct bank transfer (details given overleaf).

We very much hope you will want to get involved. If you have any questions or would like more information please don’t hesitate to get in touch with Catrin Slater, Brecon Baroque Festival Producer, catrinslater@gmail.com or 07977 599026.

“Britain’s finest period violinist” (BBC Music Magazine)

Rachel Podger & Brecon Baroque 2017/18 Recording Appeal

Name

Address.....

Email Date

I would like to support the 2018 Recording Appeal and:

enclose a cheque for £..... made out to the Brecon Beacons Music Trust

have made a direct bank transfer of £..... to Brecon Beacons Music Trust, Account number 01303289, Sort Code 30 91 16

Please acknowledge my name as follows

I would like my gift acknowledged in (please tick as appropriate):

the Four Seasons CD booklet

the Solo Cello Suites CD booklet

Gift Aid Declaration

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. In order to Gift Aid your donation please tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years To Brecon Beacons Music Trust. I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and / or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify Brecon Beacons Music Trust if you: 1. Want to cancel this declaration, 2. Change your name/address, 3. No longer pay sufficient tax.

Please post your completed form and donation to:

The Treasurer, Brecon Beacons Music Trust, Hendre, Merthyr Cynog, Brecon, LD3 9SG or email to info@breconbaroquefestival.com

Thank you very much for your support!

“these one-to-a-part performances by Rachel Podger and Brecon Baroque have the heat to make your blood run faster ...” (Gramophone)