

Guitarist Marc Teicholz

in conversation with Elizabeth Blumenstock

Our artistic director, Elizabeth Blumenstock, talked with some of the artists appearing in the 2019 Baroque Music Festival, “Bach: The Master and His Milieu.” We hope you enjoy these two-minute reads!



EB **What art form besides music do you find most compelling, and why?**

MT I love reading and looking at paintings. I read almost anything, but novels and history make up most of my diet. I am embarrassed to say that I have recently become addicted to fine art jigsaw puzzles. I find them very calming, and they also force me to pay attention to the tiniest details of a particular painting. I don't know why this gives me so much pleasure.

EB **Why do you love the music of Bach? Yes, I'm making an assumption here, but I bet it's a safe one!**

MT Well, since I am the only person who thinks Bach is great, I suppose I should explain myself! I think that when we say a composer is “great,” what we're saying is that not only is the composer amazingly skillful with organizing pitches, rhythms, harmonies, melodies, etc., but also the composer's music is doing something that is significant for human life. Bach is not just the most talented manipulator of the tools of music; the world he created with those tools feels to many of us to be the most comprehensive and habitable. His musical world is both earthly and spiritual, tragic and joyous, playful and philosophical, free and organized. If the word “true” can ever be applied to music, it would be in the case of Bach.

EB **How do you find teaching has impacted your own development as a musician and performer?**

MT I can't imagine music without teaching. Teaching is the chance to explore and share my two passions, music and the guitar, with other people who are as crazy as I am. “Normal” people don't understand how it is possible to care about the endless “meaningless” details that go into instrumental performance: fingerings, tone production, shifting, dynamics, rhythmic inflections — the list is almost infinitely long. But the students and I wallow in this stuff like hippos in the mud. And since the perspective and temperament of each student is different, the issues are always changing. I can only hope that they are learning from me half as much as I am learning from them.

EB

If you could time travel to one particular place in Europe, and see one composer or performer at work, who and what would you most like to see?

MT

Bach. Although maybe not at a time when his twenty kids are hanging around! It would be so exciting to hear him play his own music, as well as to hear him improvise, to get a sense of his style. I would be really curious to know whether or not today's performances sound natural to him.



For the 2019 Festival, [Marc Teicholz](#) is featured in our Monday “Glories of the Guitar” recital, in which he performs his own transcriptions of Bach along with music of Santiago de Murcia and Gaspar Sanz. Monday, June 24, 2019 at 8 p.m., Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Corona del Mar, CA.

For information about tickets and subscriptions to this year's Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar, visit the Festival [website](#).

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