



Festival “Friday Gardens” cellist Michael Kaufman in conversation with Elizabeth Blumenstock:

Mike performs in the Friday concert at Sherman Library & Gardens on June 23, including Bach’s celebrated D-Minor Chaconne from the violin partita, intriguingly arranged for two cellos.

For more information and to buy tickets visit: bmf-cdm.org

EB: Musicians have memories of being part of thrillingly satisfying and moving concerts, whether as a personal “best,” the repertoire, or the group “feeling” in the performance. If we are lucky, all three! Can you share such an experience in your life, and express what made it so memorable?

MK: This past year, I had a particularly thrilling concert experience. I was asked to sub with the Lyris Quartet in a concert where we played quartets by Ravel and Mozart. We only had two rehearsals but it came together well and was so fun for all of us. I had never played the Ravel Quartet and they knew it extremely well—it was bizarre how quickly



everything fit together. It felt like cheating—getting to play a piece at a really high level without doing all of the intonation dirty work! For them, they told me it was fun to play these two pieces in a slightly different way than they had before and the novelty fed some electricity into the performance!

EB: Tell me about the most recent good book you have read, or film you have seen, and why do you hope others should consider reading/seeing it?

MK: I have been really interested in Peter Attia's new book *Outlive* which is a fascinating deep-dive into healthy behaviors that can help you live a longer and healthier life. He talks about the “Centenarian Olympics” where he hopes to be able to do a number of things at the age of 100 including playing with his future grandkids and great grandkids and lifting a 30lb suitcase into the overhead bin.

EB: What place in the world, as yet unseen by you, are you determined to visit, and what fascinates you about it?

MK: I have never been to Asia and I'm trying to schedule a trip for next year to visit several countries. I have been learning Mandarin Chinese for the past few years on my own and I'm really



interested in taking an intensive language course in Taiwan.

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EB: If you could time-travel to Leipzig, what would you like to ask Bach, and what would you like to tell him?

MK: I have no idea what I would say to him, but I would like to endlessly listen to him play the organ and try to absorb as much as possible!

May 2023

All opinions expressed are the interviewer's and interviewee's own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar.

"A Bach Kaleidoscope" June 18-25, 2023, at beautiful venues in the Newport Beach area, Orange County, CA.

Subscriptions, tickets & full details at bmf-cdm.org