

Bach Unbuttoned

Ana de la Vega, Ramón Ortega Quero, Alexander Sitkovetsky, Cyrus Allyar, Johannes Berger
Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2021, Baarn, The Netherlands

Talita Sakuntala, PR Manager

+31 35 548 07 26

Physical Release

APRIL 2021

(March 2021 on pentatonemusic.com)

Digital Release Date

9 APRIL 2021

Released as 1 CD and in digital formats
for streaming and high-resolution
downloads.

Audio Resolution for digital files:

96/24 PCM surround,
96/24 PCM stereo
and 44.1k/16 PCM stereo



PTC 5186893

Fresh Perspective on Bach as Man and Composer

On her third PENTATONE album *Bach Unbuttoned*, Ana de la Vega brings together a group of exciting young soloists and the Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn to present a lively and fresh perspective on Bach as man and composer. The programme contains Brandenburg concertos Nos. 2, 4 & 5, a unique rendition on flute and oboe of the double violin concerto, as well as the breath-takingly virtuosic *Badinerie* for flute.

Flautist Ana de la Vega's presents her third PENTATONE album, after having released *Mozart Mysliveček* (2018) and *Haydn Stamitz* (2020). Oboist Ramón Ortega Quero also starred on the latter album and is featured prominently on *Bach Unbuttoned* as well. Violinist Alexander Sitkovetsky, trumpet player Cyrus Allyar, harpsichordist Johannes Berger and the Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn all make their PENTATONE debut.

"For me, Bach's music is indeed pure perfection, balance and genius. But it is also an expression of the crying soul of a father who buried half his children, of the enthusiasm of a man who experimented with the newest instruments of his day; of a cantor who wrote masses so

enormous in their conception they weren't even possible to play within Lutheran church possibilities at that time... and finally, of an artist who didn't have time, or care, for doing up his buttons."

Ana de la Vega

300 years Anniversary of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos

The Brandenburg Concertos by Johann Sebastian Bach were presented to Christian Ludwig, Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt on March 24th, 1721. This album celebrates the 300 years anniversary of Bach's monumental works.

A documentary about the Brandenburg Concertos featuring Ana de la Vega, Ramón Ortega Quero, Alexander Sitkovetsky, Cyrus Allyar, Johannes Berger and the Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn will be broadcasted on [ARTE](#) (date TBA).

About Ana de la Vega

Australian flutist Ana de la Vega has recently leapt onto the international classical music scene, attracting critical acclaim for her 'crystal-clear' and 'velvety tone' (NDR Kultur), 'superior, masterful technique' (Fono Forum), 'feathery-light playing' (Der Spiegel), and 'unobtrusive virtuosity' (Pizzicato).

Her debut recording, released in June 2018 on the Pentatone label and featuring Mozart and Myslivecek flute concertos with the English Chamber Orchestra, was selected as No.3 of Classic FM's 'Best Albums of 2018', reaching No. 1 on Amazon's Classical Best Sellers list (Germany), NDR Kultur CD of the week, BBC Scotland CD of the week, and Classic FM Netherlands CD of week.



Born to Argentinian and British parents, Ana grew up on a farm in New South Wales, Australia, as the third of four sisters. She studied flute at the University of Sydney before going on to study at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris under the tutelage of Raymond Guiot and Catherine Cantin, drawing inspiration from the famed French school of flute playing.

Ana says about her serendipitous discovery of the flute: 'When I decided to be a flautist I had never seen a flute. I was seven years old playing in the garden on our farm when Jean-Pierre Rampal's recording of the Mozart Flute and Harp Concerto came through my parents' speakers. The second movement of that concerto rendered me speechless. Every decision from that moment on led me to the flute, to Paris... to Mozart... A long way from the flies and the dust!'

PENTATONE

PRESS RELEASE

Recent and forthcoming performance highlights include concerts with the Deutsche Kammerorchester Berlin, English Chamber Orchestra, Prague Royal Philharmonic, Bremen Philharmonic, Bayerische Kammerphilharmonie, Lucerne Festival Strings, Bochum Symphoniker, Dresden Staatskapelle Solisten, Sinfonia Rotterdam and Trondheim Soloists, as well as debut appearances at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, London Wigmore Hall, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Berlin Philharmonie, London Cadogan Hall, Essen Philharmonie and Munich Philharmonie Gasteig.

Ana's second Pentatone album of rare concertos for flute and oboe by Haydn and Stamitz, recorded with oboist Ramón Ortega Quero and the Trondheim Soloists, was released January 2020 and, similarly to her debut album, is receiving unbridled acclaim. Winning NDR and WDR CD of the weeks, reviews have hailed the album as 'Perfect Harmony' (NDR) 'outstanding class' (RBB) and "...nothing to be desired in terms of musical interpretation." (Pizzicato)

An ambassador of Altus hand-crafted, Japanese flutes, Ana looks forward to the release of the fully handcrafted 1807 Altus flute, having played the rare prototype of the 1807 for the previous 5 years.

<https://www.anadelavega.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/anadelavegaofficial/>

<https://www.instagram.com/anadelavega.flautist/>

About Ramón Ortega Quero

Born in Granada, Spain (1988) Ramon completed his oboe studies in Granada (Prof. M. Quirós) and Rostock (Prof. G. Witt). From 2003 till 2012, Ramón joined the West-Eastern-Divian Orchestra, under Daniel Barenboim.



In 2007, Ramon got a great success at the 56th ARD International Music Competition Munich, getting the rarely awarded 1st Prize as well as all special prizes. Since then, Ramón started an international solo career, collaborating with orchestras such as: BR Symphonieorchester, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Basel Symphony Orchestra, MDR Leipzig, NDR Hannover, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Wiener Kammerorchester, Münchner Kammerorchester, Zürcher Kammerorchester, Sao Paulo State Symphony, Japan Century Orchestra or Nagoya Philharmonic. He has performed for renowned festivals such as: Stiftung Mozarteum Salzburg, Rheingau, Mecklenburg-

Vorpommern, London Proms, Menuhin Festival Gstaadt, Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival, Vancouver Recital Series, Mozartfest Würzburg, Lucerne Festival or Carnegie Hall Series. Since 2008, he is principal oboe of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, under Mariss Jansons.

Ramón was named Rising Star Artist by the European Concert Hall Organization for the 2010/2011 season.

He has recorded several solo CDs, obtaining twice an ECHO Klassik prize in Germany. Ramon is fellowship winner of the Borletti Buitoni Trust London and got the Gold Medal by the Fine Arts Academy of his native Granada.

<https://ramonortegaquero.com/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Ramón-Ortega-Quero-105275206184814/>

About Alexander Sitkovetsky

Alexander Sitkovetsky was born in Moscow into a family with a well-established musical tradition. His concerto debut came at the age of eight, and in the same year he moved to the UK to study at the Menuhin School. Lord Menuhin was his inspiration throughout his formative years and they performed together on several occasions.



Highlights of his solo career include performances with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Tonkünstler Orchestra, Camerata Salzburg, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Konzerthaus Orchester Berlin, Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, Amsterdam

Sinfonietta, Philharmonia Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Welsh National Opera Orchestra and The Hallé.

He won 1st prize at the Trio di Trieste Duo Competition alongside pianist Wu Qian. An alumnus of the prestigious 'Bowers Program' (formerly 'CMS Two') at Lincoln Center, he received the 2016 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award.

Alexander is a founding member of the Sitkovetsky Trio, with whom he has won various prizes including the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Kammermusik Prize. Alexander plays the 1679 'Parera' Antonio Stradivari violin, kindly loaned to him through the Beare's International Violin Society by a generous sponsor.

<https://alexandersitkovetsky.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AlexanderSitkovetsky>

<https://twitter.com/asitkovetsky>

<https://www.instagram.com/alexandersitkovetskyviolin/>

About Cyrus Allyar

Cyrus Allyar was born in 1994 in Los Angeles, California and studied trumpet privately during his adolescent years with Professor Boyde Hood of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Cyrus further pursued his musical training in Germany under the guidance of Professor Wim Van Hasselt at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg and later with Professor Reinhold Friedrich at the Hochschule für Musik in Karlsruhe.

Cyrus has performed with numerous orchestras and ensembles that include several across Europe, and has toured extensively in Europe, Asia, Africa and North America. He has performed together with notable ensembles such as the Opéra National de Paris, Orchestre de chambre de Paris, Le Balcon (Paris), Orchestre national de Lille, LUDWIG Orchestra (Amsterdam), The Dutch National Ballet, the Oslo Philharmonic, the Hungarian National Philharmonic as well as Stuttgart Philharmonic. Cyrus has participated in festivals such as the Salzburger Festspiele, Lucerne Festival, Verbier Festival, Klara Festival, Ojai Festival, Aldeburgh Festival and has performed on diverse recordings. Cyrus performs on both modern and historical instruments.

<https://cyrusallyar.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/cyrusallyar/>

About Johannes Berger

The harpsichordist and organist Johannes Berger was born in Rosenheim in Germany and received lessons on various keyboard instruments from an early age. He studied the Organ, Harpsichord and Church Music in Munich, where his formative teachers were Harald Feller and Christine Schornsheim. He then continued to pursue his studies in Amsterdam with Jacques van Oortmerssen and in Salzburg with Reinhard Goebel.

Johannes Berger has had success in various national and international competitions, winning the Concours international d'Orgue in Lausanne in 2011.

In addition to an extensive solo career throughout Europe, he regularly collaborates with orchestras such as the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. He has performed under renowned conductors such as Mariss Jansons, Kirill Petrenko, Teodor Currentzis, Philippe Jordan, Valery Gergiev and Gustavo Dudamel, as well as at many of the most prestigious venues in Europe and Asia, including the Philharmonie de Paris, Musikverein Vienna, Royal Albert Hall London, KKL Lucerne, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Zaryadye Hall Moscow, Arts Center Seoul and National Concert Hall Taipei.

Since 2009, Johannes Berger has held the position of Titular Organist and Custodian of the world's largest open-air organ in Kufstein in Austria. He is artistic director and harpsichordist of the baroque orchestra Concerto München.

<http://www.johannes-berger.de/>

https://www.instagram.com/johannesberger_music/

About Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn

Driven by the passion and inspiration of its musicians, the name Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn (WKO) stands for an energetic music-making style and a distinct individuality of orchestral sound. These are also the guarantees for the international success story of the orchestra.

The WKO is a perfect example of a chamber orchestra playing at the highest level. This includes the ability to create orchestral sound splendour and the chamber music virtues of interacting and mutual listening.

The WKO is a welcome guest at important international stages and festivals such as the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Cologne Philharmonic, the Tivoli Copenhagen, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Rheingau Music Festival or the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival.

The WKO is the life's work of the conductor Jörg Faerber. He founded the ensemble in 1960 and led it to international renown. Jörg Faerber and his visionary work were followed in 2002 by the Armenian conductor Ruben Gazarian. An important feature of his tenure is the consistent expansion of the repertoire into the 21st century. Since the 2018/19 season, the young American conductor Case Scaglione has held the position of Chief Conductor of the WKO.

<https://www.wko-heilbronn.de/>

<https://de-de.facebook.com/WKOHeilbronn/>

https://twitter.com/WKO_Heilbronn

About PENTATONE

PENTATONE is a classical music label for genuine artistic expression, working with internationally renowned artists. PENTATONE's reputation for excellence is supported by a diverse catalogue, from the familiar to the unusual or unexpected, driven by the ambition to innovate classical music. The label continues to push boundaries to release recordings of high quality and artistry, acknowledged by the fact that PENTATONE has won both the Gramophone (2019) and ICMA (2020) Label of the Year awards.

PENTATONE's catalogue includes performances by conductors like Marek Janowski, Vladimir Jurowski, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Jakub Hrusa, Mikhail Pletnev, Sir Neville Marriner, Yakov Kreizberg, Lawrence Foster, Philippe Herreweghe, Michele Mariotti, Kazuki Yamada, Simon Rattle, Paavo Järvi, Kent Nagano and Andrew Manze; artists like Alisa Weilerstein, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Magdalena Kozena, Piotr Beczala, Arabella Steinbacher, Julia Fischer, Inon Barnatan, Denis Kozhukhin, Thomas Adés, Martin Helmchen, Francesco Piemontesi, Mari Kodama, Johannes Moser, Matt Haimovitz, Anna Lucia Richter, Hanna-Elisabeth Müller, Melody Moore, Lisa Delan, Alice Coote, Elisabeth Kulman, Julie Fuchs, Michael Fabiano, Thomas Hampson, Nikolai Schukoff, Christian Elsner and Lester Lynch; and orchestras like the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Russian National Orchestra Gulbenkian Orchestra, Houston Symphony Orchestra, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Festival Strings Lucerne, il pomo d'oro, Orchestre National de Lille, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and the Wiener Symphoniker.

www.pentatonemusic.com

<https://www.facebook.com/PENTATONE>

<https://twitter.com/PENTATONEmusic>

<https://www.instagram.com/pentatonemusic/>