

FAO: string players (including cellists and double bassists with continuo experience/interest); oboe players; flautists; keyboard continuo players (with or without the ability to read figured bass), bassoonists, trumpeters, trombonists, recorder players, etc

FROM: Alexander Douglas, Artistic Director, ADM Productions

CC: Katie Musgrove, Project Manager & Administrative Lead, ADM Productions

RE: Invitation to play with the Huddersfield Bach Collegium

The Huddersfield Bach Collegium is a very unusual community enterprise that is being set up by ADM Productions to undertake what we hope will be a long-running Bach cantata series in the Kirklees region, welcoming both professional and amateur singers and instrumentalists at varying stages of their lives and careers from Huddersfield and beyond. Our Artistic Patron is the internationally renowned organist and conductor Adrian Partington.

Unlike Sir John Eliot Gardiner, however, we don't have large scale funding from the likes of the Kohn Foundation which would enable us to pay all soloists and instrumentalists (assuming an unpaid 'amateur' chorus). We could not be more aware of the fact that those of you who work professionally in music have spent (and/or are spending) serious amounts of money on your education and it is vital that you are remunerated whenever possible as part of respect for what you do! However, the sums of money that we would need in order to pay soloists and instrumentalists an appropriate fee for their services have already priced several similar enterprises out of existence before they had really established themselves!

We believe that Bach belongs to everybody and part of our mission is to share this music with people who currently don't think that Bach is for them. At ADM Productions we agree with James MacMillan (and others!) that that music helps us learn more together about what it means to be human, and that's the same whether you are 'professional' or 'amateur'.

This is why – after a monumental amount of thought – we have chosen to follow the example of our friends down in West London and taken an egalitarian approach to payment. The HBC will not be paying any 'fees' for 'musical services rendered' and we will not be charging the audience to enter. We will be taking a retiring collection to help cover the basic costs of running this project.

If you were aware that the original vision for the HBC was to begin performing on a monthly basis, please note that this has now been amended. At this time of writing our intention is to build the project on a gentler trajectory as follows:

- 2017: two performances
- 2018: three performances
- 2019: four performances
- 2020: five performances
- 2021: six performances – i.e. bi-monthly

These are 'calendar years' and we are aiming for the first performance of every year to be the first Sunday of every year starting from 2018.



On performance days (we've avoided the word 'concert' deliberately), the schedule would be either as follows or a variation of the following:

1400: general rhtl

1700: rhtl end; dinner etc

1830: performance

1930: end

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Please email our Administrator, Katie Musgrove, on: hbc@classicaljazzgospel.com to register your interest. We will aim to perform not more than two cantatas per session and round out the programme with music by Bach's contemporaries and /or other complementary sacred music items. Should you have some ideas regarding solo or ensemble instrumental music that you would like to play (e.g. a baroque concerto for your instrument), please feel free to mention that.

We really hope that some of you will be excited by this project and will sign up to take part. But whatever you decide regarding this invitation, we'd like to thank you for your interest in the Huddersfield Bach Collegium and for taking the time to read this letter. Please take our very best wishes for both your career and your life outside of music as you go!

Alexander Douglas
Artistic Director – ADM Productions