

YellowBarn

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

4-7:30pm | The Big Barn, Putney, VT

Albert Cano Smit and Mikael Darmanie, piano

You will not find Johann Sebastian Bach's name on your ballot this Election Day, but the musical design of his "The Art of Fugue" is democracy most beautiful and true. Its beauty lies in its simplicity, a single melody that never leaves us; its truth in the multitude of voices taking up that melody, each in its own way, a whole that soars well above what any one voice can achieve.

In "The Art of Fugue", Bach does not compose *about* democracy, what he composes *is* democracy in its most inspired form. Yellow Barn offers this performance in honor of this day, and as a reminder of the infinite potential of our humanhood and community.

—Seth Knopp, Artistic Director

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) Die Kunst der Fuge (The Art of Fugue),
BWV 1080 (ca.1736-1750)

Albert Cano Smit

Mikael Darmanie Improvisations

[Please hold applause until the end of each part.]

PART I

Contrapunctus 14 a 4 (unfinished)

Improvisation 1 "Prelude"

Contrapunctus 1

Contrapunctus 2

Contrapunctus 3

Contrapunctus 4

Canon per augmentationem in contrario motu

Improvisation 2 "after *Játékok (Games)*" (György Kurtág's ongoing collection of pedagogical performance pieces)

Contrapunctus 5

Contrapunctus 6 a 4, *in stile francese*

[Brief Intermission]

PART II

Contrapunctus 7 a 4, *per augmentationem et diminutionem*

Canon alla ottava *in hypodiapason*

Improvisation 3 "*Danse*"

Contrapunctus 8 a 3

Contrapunctus 9 a 4, *alla duodecima*

Improvisation 4 "*Negentropy*" (*The distance from chaos to order*)

Contrapunctus 10 a 4, *alla decima*

Contrapunctus 11 a 4

[Brief Intermission]

PART III

Improvisation 5 "*after Fantasia Contrappuntistica*" (*Ferruccio Busoni's contrapuntal fantasy on Bach's Die Kunst der Fuge*)

Canon alla duodecima *in contrapunto alla quinta*

Contrapunctus 12 a 4, *rectus et inversus*

Forma recta

Forma inversa

Improvisation 6 "*Der Spiegel als Richter*" (*The mirror as judge*)

Contrapunctus 13 a 3, *rectus et inversus*

Forma recta

Forma inversa

Canon alla decima *in contrapunto alla terza*

Contrapunctus 14 a 4 (unfinished)

Improvisation 7 "*Tirtha*" (*sacred crossing place*)

Johann Sebastian Bach, transcribed by György Kurtág (b.1926) Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit (God's time is the very best time.) BWV106

[A post-concert conversation will follow the conclusion of the performance.]

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Albert Cano Smit won first prizes at the 2019 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and the 2017 Walter W. Naumburg Piano Competition, the latter of which earned him a Carnegie Hall debut.

Notable engagements include appearances with the San Diego, Seattle, Barcelona, Albany, and Montreal Symphonies, and Las Vegas and Rochester Philharmonics. He has given recital and chamber performances across the United States at the Kennedy Center, Merkin Concert Hall, Steinway Society–The Bay Area, Bravo! Vail Festival; in France at the Wissembourg Festival and Fondation Louis Vuitton; at Germany's Rheingau Music Festival; in Xiamen, China; and throughout Spain.

Born in Geneva, the son of a Dutch mother and Spanish father who settled in Catalonia, he left home at 9 to join the Escolania de Montserrat choir school. His serious piano studies took him to the Colburn School and to Juilliard, where he finished his artist diploma in May 2022, under the tutelage of Robert McDonald. He was awarded Juilliard's prestigious Arthur Rubinstein Piano Prize in 2020 and is currently Iva Dee Hiatt Visiting Artist in Piano and Lecturer in Music at Smith College.

Mikael Darmanie has performed throughout the Americas, Europe, Africa, Russia, and the Caribbean in appearances at The Weill Institute at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Rachmaninov Hall at The Moscow Conservatory, The Bang on a Can Marathon, Close Encounters With Music in the Berkshires, The Cape Cod Symphony, Portland Bach Virtuosi, Mainly Mozart Festival, The Rising Star Piano Series in Southampton, Royal Northern College of Music, and The Emerald City Music Festival.

Mikael is the keyboardist and DJ, and a composer and arranger for the band Warp Trio. The Trio has performed throughout the world in genres ranging from jazz to hip-hop, rock, contemporary classical, bluegrass, fusion, and electronic dance music, most recently in Spain at the International Experimental Music Meeting, and at the Marché des Arts du Spectacle d'Abidjan in the Ivory Coast.

He is currently finishing his Doctorate at Stony Brook University under the mentorship of Gilbert Kalish. Other primary teachers have included Awadagin Pratt, Ray Anderson in Jazz, Arthur Haas on the Harpsichord, and Timothy Long in Conducting.