

Program Notes

Trio Sonata in F Major

Jean Baptiste Loeillet

Although his origins were Flemish, Loeillet is remembered for the activities of his many years in London. A virtuoso of the harpsichord, flute, and oboe, he was a member of the first opera orchestra in London, at the Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket. After leaving the orchestra he became a very fashionable and prosperous music teacher. He introduced the music of Corelli to England, and was the first to bring the German or transverse flute (traverso) to the attention of the British. Loeillet's music is known for its beautiful melodies and skillful writing for woodwinds.

Trio Sonata in G Major, BWV 1039

J. S. Bach

While there is considerable controversy surrounding the authenticity of two trio sonatas attributed to J. S. Bach, such is not the case with this sonata. In fact, Bach authored two versions of it. In addition to the two flute rendition which you will hear today, it exists as a sonata for viola da gamba and harpsichord in which the first flute line is played by the gamba, and the second flute part goes to the right hand of the harpsichord. Alas a trio sonata is correctly played by two or four performers, but never three!

Trio Sonata in C Major

G. P. Telemann

Telemann holds the distinction of being listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the most prolific composer in history. A close friend of Handel and godfather to one of the sons of J. S. Bach, Telemann was the consummate workaholic, stating "As far as rest and relaxation are concerned, I've not bothered about them..." He fought hard for the admission of women into the chorus and as soloists in the Lutheran church. In this sonata, he celebrates women of disparate temperaments - **Xantippe**, the shrew who was the wife of Socrates; **Lucretia**, who stabbed herself after being defiled by Sextus Tarquinius; **Corinna**, the Greek poet who five times defeated her student Pindar in poetic contests; **Clelia** the Roman maiden celebrated for her courage in swimming the Tiber to escape from the Etruscans; and **Dido**, queen of Carthage, who killed herself when deserted by her love Aeneas.

- notes by Delores Bing with assistance from Peter Hofstee