

After a short intermission, audience members gathered back in the concert hall to enjoy some final selections from the alleged son of J. S. Bach, P. D. Q. Bach. Some of his works were supposedly found in a library in central Nebraska, including the Trio Sonata and the Octoot for Wind Instruments. P. D. Q. Bach has written his pieces to imitate or make fun of real Classical music. For the Trio Sonata, two flutes, a tuba, and a tambourine were used. Part of the tambourine player's job was to take the tuba player's mute and put it in and out to change the dynamics all through the second movement. In the Octoot for Wind Instruments, the performers talked, sang, played, used their reeds to make silly sounds, and did pretty much everything else you can think of. The performers seemed to be having as much fun as the audience!

Dr. Allan Dennis, director of Midwest Young Artists, and Mr. Graef explained some of the history of Baroque music and instruments, which made things more understandable and interesting. The performers seemed to play with a lot of energy and enthusiasm, and the pieces all sounded excellent. It was an enlightening and entertaining evening for everyone.

by Anna Stenzel
11/19/2010

Concert Review 11/14/2010

Be Inspired . . . B-ACH

On Sunday, November 14, 2010, a concert was held in Bennett-Gordon Hall at Ravinia entitled "Be Inspired . . . B-ACH".

Audience members were treated to a variety of selections by various members of the Bach family. The concert was performed by the Early Music Ensemble and other chamber groups made up of select musicians from Midwest Young Artists (MYA).

The concert featured Richard Graef, Assistant Principal Flutist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, playing a Baroque flute. Mr. Graef is respected world-wide for his knowledge and performance of early music. He explained that his flute has only six holes and one key, which makes it more challenging to play. Also, the variety of repertoire that can be played on it is limited. Mr. Graef's Baroque flute has a more mellow and gentle tone than that of a modern-day flute.

The first piece on the program was Sinfonia in D major, by C. P. E. Bach. In addition to strings, it included flutes, oboes, bassoon, and horns. For this piece, the string players used their modern instruments tuned to A440.

For the next two pieces, the Suite for Flute and Orchestra in b minor by J. S. Bach and the Concerto in D for flute by J. C. Bach, the orchestra played on replicas of Baroque instruments. For example, the violins and violas had no chin rests, and the cello had no end pin, and had to be held between the knees of the player. The bows were smaller than the standard size bow, and they produced a much smaller sound. Instead of being tuned to A440, all of the instruments were tuned to A415, which is closer to an A-flat.