ROMA PLAYS BACH



Cello Suites (Bach)

Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007
1. Prelude
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Minuet I / II
6. Gigue

Suite No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1008
1. Prelude
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Minuet I / II
6. Gigue

Suite No. 3 in C major, BWV 1009
1. Prelude
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Bourrée I / II
6. Gigue

Suite No. 4 in E♭ major, BWV 1010
1. Prelude
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Bourrée I / II
6. Gigue

Suite No. 5 in C minor, BWV 1011
1. Prelude
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Gavotte I / II
6. Gigue

Suite No. 6 in D major, BWV 1012
1. Prelude
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Gavotte I / II
6. Gigue

Roma's Calling, Summer 2023

A musical pilgrimage, celebrating the 300th Anniversary of Bach's Suites for Solo Cello in honor of Pau (Pablo) Casals.

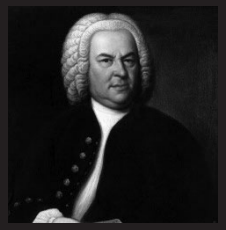
• **1723** - J.S. Bach completes his Six Suites for Solo Cello in Köthen, Germany

• **1889** -Pau Casals discovers the suites at age 13 near Barcelona, Spain. (They had gone unnoticed for 166 years)

• **1939** - Pau Casals completes the first full recording of the Six Suites for Solo Cello at age 63. (The celebrated recording introduces the music to the world)

• **2023** - Roma, age 13, embarks on a musical pilgrimage performing the six Suites, with visits to Barcelona, Spain, where they were discovered by Casals, to Köthen Germany, where they were written. Performances are in dedication to Casals, honoring his life's efforts to promote peace and social justice.

In Dedication to



J.S. Bach



Pau (Pablo) Casals

On the three-hundredth Anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's Suites for Solo Cello, thirteen-year-old cellist Roma Graves is set to embark on a journey of rediscovery, performing all Six Suites from memory in dedication to Pau Casals.

The concerts commemorate the extraordinary and unlikely events that have brought joy to millions of listeners worldwide over the course of three centuries, with the hope of inspiring a new generation to join in celebrating Casal's extraordinary discovery and his life's work in promoting peace and social justice for all.

The tour will include visits to El Vendrell, Tarragona, Spain, where by chance in 1889 then thirteen-year-old cellist Pau Casals discovered a tattered manuscript of Bach's Six Suites for Solo Cello at a local book shop. Until then, the suites had gone unnoticed for 166 years.

Following his discovery, Casals made it a mission to share Bach's Cello Suites with the world. Fifty years later in 1939, at age 63, Pablo Casals succeeded magnificently by completing the first commercial recording of all Six Suites. His exceptional recording was an international sensation, and through his contributions the suites have become among the most celebrated pieces of music ever written.

Mysteries remain as to why Bach was inspired to complete such an ambitious body of work for an instrument that had never before been considered a solo instrument, to such an extent. One thing is clear, while technically demanding the suites are a prime example of Bach's genius and provide an entire universe of profound and delicate music perfectly suited to the cello's voice.

The tour will conclude in Köthen Germany, where Bach completed the music in 1723.

The 300th Anniversary:
J.S. Bach's Suites for Solo Cello were completed in Köthen Germany in 1723. The Suites were published 75 years after the composer's death and remained nearly unnoticed for 166 years.

Pau Casals - A Historic Discovery at Age 13:
In 1889, at age thirteen, Pau Casals strolled into a music store with his father in his native town of El Vendrell, Tarragona, Spain. There he intended to pick up music by Gabriel Fauré when he happened upon an old and tattered copy of Bach's Cello Suites. He became entranced by their beauty and profoundness. Casals would make it his life's mission to share it with the world.

Fifty years later in 1939, at the age of 63, Pau Casals completed his first commercial recording of all Six Bach Suites. Casal succeeded his mission and the suites have become among the most beloved and celebrated pieces ever written. Casal's enormous contributions to music and his advocacy for world peace won him a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and the United Nations Peace Medal, among countless awards and recognitions.

The Composer:
Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany in 1685 and died in Leipzig, Germany in 1750. He was given music instruction by his father and was known to be an excellent vocalist as a child. Bach went on to learn violin, viola, cello and harpsichord and was an exceptional organist. He made a living as a chamber musician, organist, teacher and composer for the church, often writing a full mass every week. He is regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time but did not receive international recognition during his life.

Roma Graves (Age 13):
Roma Graves began playing cello at age 7 with Eunice In Wha Lee. At age 9, while studying with Deborah Park, he was invited to attend Manhattan School of Music's Pre-College and was accepted to Heifetz International Music
Institute's Program for the Exceptionally Gifted as its youngest cellist. In 2021, Roma attended MusicAlp International Music Academy in Tignes, France. There he performed Saint-Saën's Cello Concerto in Master Class for legendary French
cellist Philippe Muller, who subsequently took Roma as his student. In 2022, Roma was accepted with full scholarship to Domaine Forget International Music Festival in Quebec, Canada as its youngest participant. He is First Prize winner of competitions including the 2022 International Grande Music Competition, VIVO International Music Competition and Manhattan International Music Competition among others. Roma lives in New York City where he studies with Philippe Muller.

Roma's Tour Dates

June 17th, 2023: 1630h
Minneapolis, MN
Lakewood Cemetery, Memorial Chapel

July 4th, 2023: 18h
Montpellier, France
Conservatoire Régional de Montpellier

July 5th, 2023: 18h
Montpellier, France
Chapelle des pénitents bleus

July 9th, 2023: 11h
Callian, France
Cello Fan Festival

July 13th 2023: 17h
Paris, France
Saint-Séveri, Paris

July 15th, 2023: 18h
Vaux sur Seine, France
Chateau at Vaux sur Seine au Pavillon d'Artois

July 16th, 2023: 12h
Paris, France
Christuskirche - Église protestante allemande à Paris

July 16th, 2023: 21h
Vaux sur Seine, France
Chateau at Vaux sur Seine au Pavillon d'Artois

July 20th, 2023: 20h
Paris, France
Le Foyer de l'Âme

July 25th, 2023: 17h
St. Martin du Canigou, France
The Abbey

To be Announced
Barcelona, Spain

To be Announced
Köthen, Germany