

DOLCI BY THE BAY, CONCERT NO. 6

March 29, 2013

Ted Rust, oboe — Viva Knight, piano

RECONSTRUCTIONS: WORKS AND FEATURES OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

Players are always taking their solo parts home to practice, and all too often, the parts are lost. Fortunately, Bach had a phenomenal memory. He often reused the solo material in his later work, where the lost solo lines reappear, reunited with their complete keyboard parts. A minor branch of music scholarship has long been devoted to creating reconstructions of Bach's works for solo instruments with keyboard by mining the late keyboard concertos for material that fits with its lost predecessors. Here are two beautiful examples.



A Digital Reconstruction by Caroline Wilkinson of Bach's Face from his Skull

Arioso from the F-minor Harpsichord Concerto, BWV 1056 (Denes Agay, editor)

This unforgettable short piece may have started life as a *Sinfonia* for oboe d'amore and strings in one of Bach's church cantatas of the 1720s. Bach's keyboard transcription added some harpsichord-style ornamentation that in the original would have been left up to the soloist. The accompaniment includes a slow basso continuo with middle chords that resemble pizzicato strings.

Sonata in G Minor, BWV 1030b (Raymond Meylan, editor)

Andante — Siciliano — Presto

This oboe sonata was reconstructed from the B minor Flute Sonata. Based on transposition errors that could only have come from copying a G minor source, it appears to have itself been transposed from the G minor original, a key in which the music fits an oboe perfectly but is too low for a flute. The *Andante* movement is in the form of a trio sonata, with three distinct voices (oboe, pianist's right hand, pianist's left hand) in a spirited conversation. The *Siciliano* is a slow shepherd's dance, which we first play plain and then with Bach's ornaments. The *Presto* is in two parts, a quick fugue and then a jig. The jig ends up over a rollicking bass line that could have inspired "The Teddy Bears' Picnic."

Next Week — Andriessen's Ballade and de Bréville's Sonatine