

THE FRIENDS OF FASCH

The Friends of Fasch is named in honor of Johann Friedrich Fasch, because the ensemble was originally formed to give a series of concerts in 2008 marking the 250th anniversary of his death. Although this was planned as a one-time-only venture, a slightly different group of musicians reconvened in 2012 to present two more sets of concerts (including the American premiere of a piece by our namesake), and since then has given performances at both Baroque Bonanza I (2014) and II (2016). Based in the Washington DC area, the group features historical woodwinds and is notable for the versatility of its members, which allows it to offer an unusually wide variety of instrumental combinations.

Rachel Siegel studied recorder with Clea Galhano while earning a bachelor's degree in clarinet at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. After receiving her master's degree from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, she joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band as a clarinetist in September 2013.

Sarah Weiner has performed with a wide range of period-instrument ensembles both locally (Bach Sinfonia, Folger Consort, Washington Bach Consort) and around the country (New Trinity Baroque, Texas Camerata, Orchestra of New Spain, Vox Amadeus, American Classical Orchestra). Together with fellow baroque oboist Sarah Davol, she is a founding member of the ensemble Sarabande, and was formerly a member of the crossover group Ensemble Galilei.

Doug Poplin performs regularly in venues throughout the metropolitan Washington area as a recitalist, chamber musician, and ensemble member. Never content with standing still, he has pushed his artistic flexibility to include both early music—performing and recording on baroque violoncello with the Bach Sinfonia as well as concertizing with the Washington Bach Consort—and experimental music on electric 'cello with the avant-garde ensemble BLK W/ BEAR and his newest collaboration with singer-songwriter Rich Morel.

Guest artist **Jessica Powell Eig** is a freelance musician based in Washington, D.C., specializing in double bass, violone and viola da gamba. In recent seasons she has appeared locally with the Washington Bach Consort, New Orchestra of Washington, and Hesperus Viols, and on the West Coast with Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra (Los Angeles), and the American Bach Soloists (San Francisco), as well as presenting chamber and solo recitals throughout the United States. In addition to her work as a performer, Jessica is active as a teaching artist and clinician, maintaining a private studio and serving as director of the Viola da Gamba Society of America Young Players Workshop.

Thomas MacCracken, the director of The Friends of Fasch, performs in the Washington area on historical keyboard instruments (harpsichord, fortepiano, and continuo organ) as well as recorder and baroque flute, with groups including the Washington Bach Consort, Bach Sinfonia, Washington Kantorei, and Ensemble Gaudior. While earning a doctorate in musicology at the University of Chicago he was active as an early-music performer in that city and has been a founding member of several ensembles both there and since moving to Virginia in 1985.