

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.

Meg Owens performs on baroque oboe with many of North America's major period-instrument orchestras, including (here in the Washington area) Opera Lafayette and the Washington Bach Consort; she also teaches at Indiana University's Early Music Institute, and locally at George Mason University. At the other end of the performance practice spectrum, she enjoys playing modern and contemporary chamber music for woodwinds, and has premiered a number of new works featuring oboe and English horn.

Guest artist **Sarah Huebsch** performs on period and modern oboes throughout North America, including with ensembles in Pittsburgh, Chicago, Louisville, Boston, and Indianapolis; in the Washington area she has been heard with the National Cathedral Baroque Orchestra and the Washington Bach Consort. She recently completed doctoral work in the Early Music Institute at Indiana University in performance practice (oboe and recorder), music literature, and music theory and now resides in Richmond, Virginia.

Christopher McFarlane, bassoonist, holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University and a Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University. A member of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, he also performs on both modern and historical instruments with many Washington area ensembles, including the National Symphony, Alexandria Symphony, the Cathedral Baroque Orchestra, and the Washington Bach Consort.

Doug Poplin performs regularly in venues throughout the metropolitan Washington area as a recitalist, chamber musician, and ensemble member. His artistic flexibility encompasses 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, as well as his newest collaboration with singer-songwriter Rich Morel.

Guest artist **Wesley Thomson** earned a degree in double bass performance and music education at the Peabody Conservatory, where she also played violone and viola da gamba in the Baltimore Baroque Band. She is currently the orchestra director at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School in Baltimore County, conductor of the Harford String Orchestra, Executive Director of Bass Works, and principal bass of the Hunt Valley Symphony, in addition to maintaining a private double bass studio in the Baltimore area.

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. 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.