

## J.S Bach: The Well-Tempered Clavier

Book I & II Marathon  
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Belgium



Photo: Alain Franco © Bernaded Dexters

*“Rather than play the music in historical order, he uses it to create stark contrasts...It is an approach that results in an amazing musical rollercoaster.” Pieter T’Jonck (on Franco’s reordering of Beethoven’s Third Symphony for *Built to Last*)*

Internationally renowned Belgian born pianist, composer and conductor **Alain Franco** (*Satie Vexations* and *Sacre- Rite of Spring*, 2013) returns to Sydney Festival with his most adventurous and audacious concert to date, *The Well Tempered Clavier, Book I and II* by **Bach**.

In a 4.5-hour marathon performance, Franco presents his curated program of the 48 preludes and fugues of Bach’s key-spanning *The Well-Tempered Clavier*. Re-ordering Bach’s chronology, Franco allows the pieces to interact in unexpected and intriguing ways – like characters in an exquisite and exhilarating musical journey.

To Alain Franco, the 48 preludes and fugues of Bach’s complete *Well-Tempered Clavier* are like short stories in an anthology. He rigorously ‘edits’ the collection, and in so doing has the stories enter into dialogues with each other. By removing forms, tonalities and characters from their rigid framework, he creates an epic musical tale.

*The Well-Tempered Clavier* collection continues to fascinate performers almost 300 years after it was written. It is generally regarded as being among the most influential works in the history of Western classical music. The first set from the collection was compiled in 1722 during Bach’s appointment in Köthen; the second followed 20 years later in 1742. Both were widely circulated in manuscript, but Bach’s style went out of fashion in the time around his death. It was not until the maturing of the Classical style in the 1770s that the *Well-Tempered Clavier* began to influence the course of musical history.

Franco studied music at the conservatories of Brussels, Liège and completing a DEA master in Music and Music history of the 20th century at the IRCAM-EHESS Institute in Paris. From 1989 until 1993 he was the permanent conductor of ensemble Champ d’Action and collaborated with Ensemble Modern (Frankfurt), Ictus (Brussels), the National Orchestra of Belgium, the Orchestra of Lyon’s Opera House and Ah Ton ensemble (Oldenburg). As a pianist, Franco has worked with Dito Dito, Tg Stan and De Parada as well as with Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. In 2012, Franco was invited to teach at the Universität der Künste and today he works as a collaborator at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin.

Don’t miss this opportunity to hear a classical masterpiece made anew by one of the most fearless explorers in classical music today.

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

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Where	City Recital Hall, Angel Place
When	18 January at 4.00pm
Price	Premium \$65 A Reserve \$55/\$50 B Reserve \$39/\$35
Duration	4hours 30minutess including interval
Bookings	Sydney Festival 1300 856 876 City Recital Hall 02 8256 2222 sydneyfestival.org.au/clavier

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