

Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS) presents



Thursday November 9, 2023 1:15 pm
St Malachy's Church – The Actors' Chapel in New York City
Live Streamed to midtownconcerts.org and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

Roberts and Sykes Duo

A Conversation with Bach: Sonatas for Violin and Harpsichord

Cynthia Roberts ~ violin Peter Sykes ~ harpsichord

Sonata in C minor, No. 4, BWV 1017

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

Largo
Allegro
Adagio
Allegro

Sonata in G Major, No. 6, BWV 1019

Allegro
Largo
Allegro
Adagio
Allegro

Midtown Concerts are produced by Gotham Early Music Scene, Inc., and are made possible with support from St. Malachy's Church–The Actors' Chapel, The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural affairs in partnership with the City Council; the Howard Gilman Foundation; and by generous donations from audience members.

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Harpsichord provided by Rebecca Pechefsky John Thiessen, Executive Director



www.gemsny.org

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

J.S. Bach's *Sonata in G Major* is full of joy and lyrical energy and is contrasted with the *Sonata in C minor* with its passionate darkness. In both *obligato* sonatas, Bach uses the two voices of the harpsichord and the one voice of the violin to converse at the highest level.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Cynthia Roberts, violin, is one of America's leading period instrument violinists, appearing as soloist, concertmaster, and recitalist throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. She is a faculty member of The Juilliard School and appears regularly with the Trinity Baroque Orchestra, Boston Early Music Festival, Smithsonian Chamber Players, and Tafelmusik. Cynthia has performed as concertmaster of Les Arts Florissants with William Christie and appeared with Orchester Wiener Akademie, the London Classical Players, and the Bach Collegium Japan. She was featured as soloist and concertmaster on the soundtrack of the Touchstone Pictures film *Casanova* and accompanied soprano Renee Fleming on *Late Night with David Letterman*. An avid chamber musician, Cynthia serves as the music director for Pro Musica Rara, a chamber group in Baltimore. She also teaches at the University of North Texas, the Curtis Institute of Music and the Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute. Cynthia has given master classes at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, New World Symphony, Indiana University, Eastman School of Music, the Cleveland Institute of Music, Cornell University, Rutgers University, Temple University, Minsk Conservatory, Leopold-Mozart-Zentrum Augsburg, Shanghai Conservatory Middle School, Vietnam National Academy of Music, and the Jeune Orchestre Atlantique in France. She made her solo debut at age 12 playing the Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto* with the Grant Park Symphony of Chicago. Her recording credits include Sony, CPO, and Deutsche Harmonia Mundi.

Peter Sykes, harpsichord, is a member of the organ department faculty at the University of Michigan, a core faculty member and principal instructor of harpsichord at the Historical Performance Department of The Juilliard School in New York City and teaches organ and harpsichord at Boston University. He also has been Music Director at First Church in Cambridge since 1985, directing the choir and playing their 1972 Frobenius organ. He performs extensively in recital and has made ten solo recordings of organ and harpsichord repertoire ranging from Buxtehude, Couperin, and Bach to Reger and Hindemith and his acclaimed organ transcription of Holst's *The Planets*. Newly released is a recording of the complete Bach harpsichord partitas on the Centaur label, and an all-Bach clavichord recording on the Raven label; soon to be released will be the complete Bach works for violin and harpsichord with Daniel Stepner. He often performs and teaches in Europe and has been a judge in numerous harpsichord and organ playing competitions. A founding board member and current president of the Boston Clavichord Society as well as past president of the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies, he is the recipient of the Chadwick Medal and Outstanding Alumni Award from the New England Conservatory, the Erwin Bodky Prize from the Cambridge Society for Early Music, and the Distinguished Artist Award from the St. Botolph Club Foundation.

NEXT WEEK: Night Music
Telemann the Godfather