

## The Orgelbüchlein Project

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Completing Bach's plan

Johann Sebastian Bach

The works by Bach, Judith Bingham and Silas Wollston in this programme represent a brief sample of the vast Orgelbüchlein Project, a major international composition project to complete J.S. Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* (Little Organ Book).

The manuscript of Orgelbüchlein has 118 missing pieces, ghostly gaps with only the title penned by Bach. Each of these gaps has been filled by a new composition based on Bach's intended melody. The new pieces survey a range of modern styles. The project was curated by William Whitehead and was completed in 2019.

The first performance of all 164 chorales took place at the Orgelpark, Amsterdam, on 18th May 2019 in a series of recitals that lasted seven hours.

[www.orgelbuechlein.co.uk](http://www.orgelbuechlein.co.uk)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mzg\\_YsIFSjo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mzg_YsIFSjo)

### Anthon van der Horst (1899–1965)



The Dutch organist and composer Anthon van der Horst was best known as the conductor, from 1931, of the Dutch Bach Society in their annual performances of Bach's Matthew Passion in Naarden. From 1935 he was chief organ teacher at the Amsterdam Conservatory, where he himself had studied, and he had a major influence on two generations of Dutch organists, including Piet Kee. He was a guest conductor with the Concertgebouw Orchestra and made recordings with the Amsterdam Chamber Orchestra. As an interpreter and connoisseur of Bach's church music, he received an honorary doctorate in Theology at the University of Groningen in 1948. In addition to works for the organ, Van der Horst composed songs, three symphonies and a violin concerto.

**Judith Bingham** (born 1952)



Born in Nottingham, Judith Bingham studied composition and singing at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Her composition studies with Alan Bush and Eric Fenby were later supplemented by lessons from Hans Keller. In 1983, she joined the BBC Singers as a full time member of the alto section and toured extensively with them, singing many solo parts. She left the Singers at the end of 1995 to concentrate on her activities as a composer, though she continued to sing professionally for some years. Although Bingham is best known for her choral works, her output includes works for brass band, symphonic wind ensemble and various chamber groups and solo instruments, concertos for trumpet and bassoon and tuba, and several impressive works for large orchestra.