

QUEENSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE and BRISBANE FESTIVAL present

THE COMPLETE BACH CATALOGUE FOR ORGAN

featuring **Calvin Bowman**

Johannes Klais Bonn

Sunday 13 September 2026, from 6am
Concert Hall, QPAC

Calvin Bowman



Dr Calvin Bowman is a keyboard soloist, accompanist, chamber musician, and composer. An especial love of the music of J.S. Bach has led to his numerous performances of the complete Bach organ works throughout his career, the first when he was in his early twenties and most recently in 2022 for MONA FOMA in Tasmania. Of his performance for the 2009 Melbourne International Festival, *The Australian* reviewer said, ‘One had the sense that this was not an interpretation but the voice of Bach ringing through the ages’.

Considered one of Australia’s foremost organists, Dr Bowman was granted the privilege of re-opening the Melbourne Town Hall Grand Organ in 2001, following its multi-million-dollar restoration, by presenting the world première performance of *Voices* by Philip Glass in the composer’s presence.

As keyboardist he has also premièred works by Peter Sculthorpe, Ross Edwards, Richard Mills, Graeme Koehne, Andrew Schultz and others, and appeared as soloist with many of the major Australian orchestras, including regular appearances with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra as part of their Melbourne Town Hall series.

He is also a prolific composer whose works have been widely commissioned, performed, and recorded over a thirty-year period. His song *Now Touch the Air Softly*, recorded by Emma Matthews with the Monte Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra for Deutsche Grammophon/ABC Classics, is one of the most popular Australian artsongs. The author of the text, William Jay Smith, described the setting as ‘magnificent and flawless’. His début discs of artsong entitled ‘Real and Right and True’ were released in 2018 on Decca/UMA.

Dr Bowman’s interest in vocal music led to the composition of two operas. *Lost to the Music*, to a libretto by John Marsden, was written for the National Boys’ Choir; whilst *The Magic Pudding – The Opera* was commissioned and premièred by Victorian Opera in 2013. It had return seasons with the same company in 2018 and 2026.

He has also been commissioned by organisations such as Ars Musica Australis and Symphony Australia, as well as by many individuals and ensembles including Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Festival, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, Flinders Quartet, Greta Bradman, Steve Davislim, Kristian Chong, and Stefanie Farrands. Recent performances of his songs have taken place at the Musikverein and the Elbphilharmonie.

He is currently composing two major works which have been commissioned by The Salzer Foundation for performance in 2027; *A Leunig Requiem*, written with the late Michael Leunig, and a song cycle to texts by John Shaw Neilson.

Dr Bowman is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and was the first Australian to graduate with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University with the assistance of a Fulbright scholarship. He is an Australia Council fellow, as well as a former Senior Lecturer in Composition and current University Organist at The Australian National University. He lives and works in Melbourne, Victoria.

About the work

Renowned Australian organist Calvin Bowman leads audiences through the complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach over an epic 16 hours. From intimate chorale preludes shaped by Bach’s deep spirituality, to dazzling preludes and fugues that display his unmatched craftsmanship, each work reveals a different facet of his genius.

Running Order

*All times are approximate and subject to change

6:00am Trio Sonatas

No.1 in Eb (3 movements)	BWV 525
No.2 in C minor (3 movements)	BWV 526
No.3 in D minor (3 movements)	BWV 527
No.4 in E minor (3 movements)	BWV 528
No.5 in C (3 movements)	BWV 529
No.6 in G (3 movements)	BWV 530

7:20am Clavierübung III

A collection of 21 chorale preludes and four duets framed by the Prelude and Fugue in Eb

Prelude in Eb	BWV 552/1
Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit	BWV 669
Christe, aller Welt Trost	BWV 670
Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist	BWV 671
Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit	BWV 672
Christe, aller Welt Trost	BWV 673
Kyrie, Gott Heiliger Geist	BWV 674
Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr	BWV 675
Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr	BWV 676
Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr	BWV 677
Dies sind die heil’gen zehn Gebot	BWV 678
Dies sind die heil’gen zehn Gebot	BWV 679
Wir glauben all’ an einen Gott	BWV 680
Wir glauben all’ an einen Gott	BWV 681
Vater unser im Himmelreich	BWV 682
Vater unser im Himmelreich	BWV 683
Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam	BWV 684
Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam	BWV 685
Aus tiefer Not schrei’ ich zu dir	BWV 686
Aus tiefer Not schrei’ ich zu dir	BWV 687
Jesus Christus, unser Heiland	BWV 689
Duetto I	BWV 802
Duetto II	BWV 803
Duetto III	BWV 804
Duetto IV	BWV 805
Fugue in Eb	BWV 552/2

9:25am Arrangements of concerti

Concerto no. 1 in G (Prinz Johann Ernst)	BWV 592
Concerto no. 2 in A minor (Vivaldi Op 3/8)	BWV 593
Concerto no. 3 in C (Vivaldi Op 7/5)	BWV 594
Concerto no. 4 in C major (Prinz Johann Ernst)	BWV 595
Concerto no. 5 in D minor (Vivaldi Op 3/11)	BWV 596

10:20am Canonic Variations on ‘Vom Himmel hoch’

(five movements)	BWV 769a
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Interval

11:05am The ‘Eighteen’ Chorale Preludes

Komm, Heiliger Geist	BWV 651
Komm, Heiliger Geist	BWV 652
An Wasserflüssen Babylon	BWV 653
Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele	BWV 654
Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend	BWV 655
O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig	BWV 656
Nun danket alle Gott	BWV 657
Von Gott will ich nicht lassen	BWV 658
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland	BWV 659
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland	BWV 660
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland	BWV 661
Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr	BWV 662
Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr	BWV 663
Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr	BWV 664
Jesus Christus, unser Heiland	BWV 665
Jesus Christus, unser Heiland	BWV 666
Komm, Gott, Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist	BWV 667
Vor deinen Thron tret ich	BWV 668

Interval

12:50pm
Major Preludes, Toccatas and Fugues I

Prelude and Fugue in C ‘Short’	BWV 545
Prelude and Fugue in G ‘Great’	BWV 541
Prelude in A	BWV 536
Fantasia and Fugue in G minor ‘Great’	BWV 542
Prelude and Fugue in C minor ‘Great’	BWV 546
Prelude and Fugue in C ‘Great’	BWV 547
Prelude and Fugue in A minor ‘Great’	BWV 543
Prelude and Fugue in E minor ‘Great’	BWV 548
Prelude and Fugue in B minor ‘Great’	BWV 544
Toccata and Fugue in F	BWV 540
Toccata and Fugue in D minor	BWV 538
Fugue in D minor ‘Fiddle’	BWV 539
Prelude and Fugue in G minor ‘Short’	BWV 535
Fantasia and Fugue in C minor	BWV 537

Interval

3:20pm
Major Preludes, Toccatas and Fugues II

Prelude and Fugue in E	BWV 566
Toccata in C	BWV 564
Prelude and Fugue in A minor	BWV 551
Prelude and Fugue in E minor ‘Short’	BWV 533
Prelude and Fugue in C	BWV 531
Prelude and Fugue in G	BWV 550
Prelude and Fugue in D	BWV 532
Prelude and Fugue in C minor ‘Little’	BWV 549
Fugue in C minor (on a theme of Legrenzi)	BWV 574
Fugue in G minor ‘Little’	BWV 578
Fugue in B minor (on a theme of Corelli)	BWV 579
‘Piece d’orgue’	BWV 572
Fantasia in C minor	BWV 562
Pastorella in F (4 movements)	BWV 590
Allabreve in D	BWV 589
Fantasia in C	BWV 570
Prelude in G	BWV 568
Passacaglia in C minor	BWV 582

Interval

5:50pm
Schübler Chorale Preludes

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme	BWV 645
Wo soll ich fliehen hin	BWV 646
Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten	BWV 647
Meine Seele erhebt den Herren	BWV 648
Ach bleib’ bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ	BWV 649
Kommst du nun, Jesu	BWV 650

6:10pm
Chorale partitas

Ach, was soll ich Sünder machen	BWV 770
Christ, der du bist der helle Tag	BWV 766
O Gott, du frommer Gott	BWV 767
Sei gegrüsset, Jesu gütig	BWV 768

7:10pm
Miscellaneous chorale preludes

Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr	BWV 717
Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr	BWV 711
Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Her	BWV 715
Christ lag in Todesbanden	BWV 718
Christ lag in Todesbanden	BWV 695
Christum wir sollen loben schon	BWV 696
Ein’ feste Burg ist unser Gott	BWV 720
Erbarm’ dich mein, O Herre Gott	BWV 721
Gelobet seist du, Jesus Christ	BWV 722
Gelobet seist du, Jesus Christ	BWV 697
Gottes Sohn ist kommen	BWV 703
Herr Christ, der ein’ge Gottes-Sohn	BWV 698
Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend’	BWV 709
Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend’	BWV 726
Herzlich tut mich verlangen	BWV 727
In dich hab’ ich gehoffet. Herr	BWV 712
In dulci jubilo	BWV 729
Jesu, meine Freude	BWV 713
Jesus, meine Zuversicht	BWV 728
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier	BWV 706
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier	BWV 730
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier	BWV 731
Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott	BWV 704
Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich	BWV 732
Fuga sopra il Magnificat	BWV 733

Interval

8:20pm
Miscellaneous chorale preludes (continued)

Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g’mein	BWV 734
Nun komm’ der Heiden Heiland	BWV 699
O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig	no BWV
Valet will ich dir geben	BWV 735
Valet will ich dir geben	BWV 736
Vater unser im Himmelreich	BWV 737
Vom Himmel hoch da komm’ ich her	BWV 700
Vom Himmel hoch da komm’ ich her	BWV 738
Vom Himmel hoch da komm’ ich her	BWV 701
Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten	BWV 691
Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten	BWV 690
Wo soll ich fliehen hin	BWV 694

8:45pm
Orgelbüchlein

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland	BWV 599
Gottes Sohn ist kommen	BWV 600
Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn	BWV 601
Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott	BWV 602
Puer natus in Bethlehem	BWV 603
Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ	BWV 604
Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich	BWV 605
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her	BWV 606
Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar	BWV 607
In dulci jubilo	BWV 608
Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich	BWV 609
Jesu, meine Freude	BWV 610
Christum wir sollen loben schon	BWV 611
Wir Christenleut’	BWV 612
Helft mir, Gottes Güte preisen	BWV 613
Das alte Jahr vergangen ist	BWV 614
In dir ist Freude	BWV 615
Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin	BWV 616
Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf	BWV 617
O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig	BWV 618
Christe, du Lamm Gottes	BWV 619
Christus, der uns selig macht	BWV 620
Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund	BWV 621
O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde gross	BWV 622

Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ	BWV 623
Hilf Gott, dass mir's gelinge	BWV 624
Christ lag in Todesbanden	BWV 625
Jesus Christus, unser Heiland	BWV 626
Christ ist erstanden	BWV 627
Erstanden ist der heil'ge Christ	BWV 628
Erscheinen ist der herrliche Tag	BWV 629
Heut’ triumphieret Gottes Sohn	BWV 630
Komm, Gott Schöpfer, heiliger Geist	BWV 631
Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend	BWV 632
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier	BWV 633
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier	BWV 634
Dies sind die heil’gen zehn Gebot	BWV 635
Vater unser im Himmelreich	BWV 636
Durch Adam’s Fall ist Ganz verderbt	BWV 637
Es ist das Heil uns kommen her	BWV 638
Ich ruf’ zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ	BWV 639
In dich hab’ ich gehoffet, Herr	BWV 640
Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein	BWV 641
Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten	BWV 642
Alle Menschen müssen sterben	BWV 643
Ach wie nichtig, ach wie flüchtig	BWV 644

CONCERT CONCLUDES 10:00pm

*All times are approximate and subject to change

About QPAC’s Grand Organ

The Grand Organ completes the Concert Hall both visually and acoustically and with its four manuals, 88 stops and impressive 6,780 plus pipes it is one of the largest instruments in Australia*. The organ was manufactured and installed in 1986 by Johannes Klais Orgelbau and Company of Bonn, Germany. The organ was designed by Klais with the case designed by Robin Gibson and Partners architects, with musical input into the 88 stoplist by then custodian of the organ, Dr Robert Boughen OBE. The organ falls into the electric stop action design with traditional mechanical backup via timber lathes. What this means to the day to day running of the instrument is the Concert Hall air conditioning must be kept constant with particular attention to humidity control to alleviate any shrinking or expansion of the sensitive spruce timber lathes. The largest pipes are those at the front and stand around 10 metres tall, while the smallest are a minute 10mm speaking length. The pipes are made from various materials including wood, tin, tin plated zinc and are all housed in an acoustic enclosure which aids the delivery of sound out into the auditorium. It is worth mentioning that the organ is the only piece of equipment at QPAC that is appreciating with age. It was installed at a cost of 2.6 million DM (approximately \$2m Australian dollars at the time) and currently its replacement value is around \$4.2m.

*Fourth after Sydney Opera House – 10,154 pipes, Melbourne Town Hall – 10,000 pipes and Sydney Town Hall – 9,000 pipes.



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