

Flutist Emi Ferguson re-imagines Bach with continuo band Ruckus on album, *Fly the Coop: Bach Sonatas and Preludes*, June 28th release on Arezzo Music.

Taking Bach out of the museum and infusing it with equal parts tradition, funk, whimsy, and fun, Emi Ferguson and Ruckus take you on a wild romp through some of Bach's most playful and transcendent works.



Emi Ferguson (Rebecca Fay), *Fly the Coop* Album Artwork (Ivanco Talevski), Emi Ferguson & Ruckus (Aleks Degtyarev)

May 31st, 2019

Emi Ferguson will release *Fly the Coop: Bach Sonatas and Preludes*, June 28th 2019 on Arezzo Music with continuo band Ruckus. The album features new arrangements of Bach's Flute Sonatas and Keyboard Preludes, orchestrated for baroque flute and the forces of Ruckus that include theorbos, baroque guitars, baroque bassoon, cello, viola da gamba, harpsichord, organ, bass, and even banjo.

"blindingly impressive...a fizzing, daring display of personality and imagination"
 - *The New York Times*

Not one to shy away from updating and revitalizing music, as seen on her previous Billboard charting album, *Amour Cruel* ("How a classical musician turned 400-year French songs into a modern hit", *Washington Post*), Emi enlisted her friends in Ruckus to join her in giving Bach's music the jolt of energy and imagination that Bach himself would have been exhilarated by.

Ruckus, the super-powered baroque rhythm section, explodes Bach's single bass line into a rainbow of textures and colours, continually shifting like light over the landscape as Ferguson's flute lines dance above. Contrasting the three flute sonatas on the album are new arrangements of a variety of Bach's keyboard preludes, with selections ranging from the beloved Well Tempered Clavier, to alternate movements from keyboard suites that are rarely performed.

The album will be presented live in Los Angeles on June 16th at the iconic Wayfarer's Chapel as the final concerts of the DaCamera Society's 2019 season, and in New York on November 17th on the Music Before 1800 concert series.

Emi Ferguson *baroque flute*

Ruckus: **Clay Zeller-Townson** *baroque bassoon* | **Shirley Hunt** *baroque cello and viola da gamba* | **Doug Balliett** *viola da gamba* | **Evan Premo** *baroque bass* | **Paul Holmes Morton** *theorbo, baroque guitar, and banjo* | **Adam Cockerham** *theorbo and baroque guitar* | **Elliot Figg** *harpsichord and organ*

ABOUT EMI

"I have only heard flautist Emi Ferguson in works by Bach, but if she is equally good in other classics and moderns, Rampal may have to move over." (Maine Classical Beat)

Emi Ferguson can be heard live in concerts and festivals around the world as a soloist and member of the Handel and Haydn Society, AMOC*, the New York New Music Ensemble, and the Manhattan Chamber Players. Her debut album, *Amour Cruel*, an indie-pop song cycle inspired by the music of the 17th century French court, was released by Arezzo Music in September 2017, spending 4 weeks on the Classical, Classical Crossover, and World Music Billboard Charts. Emi has spoken and performed at several TEDx events and has been featured on media outlets including the Discovery Channel, Vox, and TouchPress apps talking about how music relates to our world today. She has been featured in performances by the Marlboro, Lucerne, Lake Champlain, and Twickenhamfest music festivals and has been a guest artist with early music ensembles Tafelmusik, Les Arts Florissants, the American Classical Orchestra, Voices of Music, and Trinity Baroque Orchestra.

Emi is currently on the faculty of the Juilliard School and the Bach Virtuosi Festival. Born in Japan and raised in London and Boston, she now resides in New York City. For more information please visit www.emiferguson.com

ABOUT RUCKUS

Ruckus is an emerging early music band with a fresh, visceral approach to old music. The ensemble aims to fuse the early-music movement's questing, creative spirit, with the grit, groove, and jangle of American roots music, creating a unique sound of "rough-edged intensity" (The New Yorker). Ruckus performed its debut in Christopher Alden's staging of Handel's *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo* featuring Anthony Roth Costanzo, Davone Tines, and Ambur Briad to wide-spread acclaim: "achingly delicate one moment, punchy and incisive the next" The New York Times; "Superb" (Opera News). Material from its forthcoming debut album with flutist Emi Ferguson, *Fly the Coop: Bach Sonatas and Preludes*, was described as a "fizzing, daring display of personality and imagination" by The New York Times. Future performances will be held at The Da Camera Society (Los Angeles) and Music Before 1800 (New York City).

At its core, Ruckus is what is known as a continuo section in baroque music: a collection of guitars, keyboard, and bass instruments akin to a rhythm section in jazz. This five person core is comprised of players who are among the most creative and virtuosic performers of their instruments in the United States. Individually, they perform with the leading period-instrument ensembles.

Track Listing

[1]	Prelude in G Major, after BWV 884	2:20
[2-5]	Sonata in E Minor, BWV 1034	
	Adagio ma non tanto	3:12
	Allegro	2:27
	Andante	3:17
	Allegro	4:29
[6]	Prelude in E Minor, after BWV 855	2:57
[7-10]	Sonata in E Major, BWV 1035	
	Adagio ma non tanto	2:21
	Allegro	2:43
	Siciliano	3:17
	Allegro assai	3:26
[11]	Prelude in G Minor, after BWV 847a	1:46
[12]	Prelude in C Minor, after BWV 999	2:00
[13]	Prelude in C Major	1:36
[14-17]	Sonata in C Major, BWV 1033	
	Andante - Presto	1:28
	Allegro	2:34
	Adagio	1:47
	Menuett I & II	2:04
[18]	Prelude in E Major, after BWV 815a	2:09
	Duration	46:03

Live Shows

June 16th, 2019

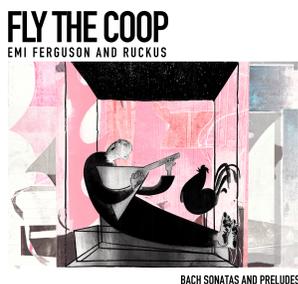
2pm, 4pm, 6pm
DaCamera Society
Wayfarer's Chapel
5755 Palos Verdes Dr S,
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
90275

November 17th, 2019

4pm
Music Before 1800
Corpus Christi Church
529 West 121st, Street
New York, New York 10027

Links

<http://www.flythecoopbach.com>
<http://www.emiferguson.com>
<http://www.ruckusearlymusic.org>



FLY THE COOP

Emi Ferguson and Ruckus

Bach Sonatas and Preludes

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

All arrangements by Emi Ferguson and Ruckus

Album info

Taking Bach out of the museum and infusing it with equal parts tradition, funk, whimsy, and fun, Emi Ferguson and Ruckus take you on a wild romp through some of Bach's most playful and transcendent works. The album features new arrangements of Bach's Flute Sonatas and Keyboard Preludes, orchestrated for baroque flute and the forces of Ruckus that include theorbos, baroque guitars, baroque bassoon, cello, viola da gamba, harpsichord, organ, bass, and even banjo.

Ruckus, the super-powered baroque rhythm section, explodes Bach's single bass line into a rainbow of textures and colors, continually shifting like light over the landscape as Ferguson's flute lines dance above. Contrasting the three flute sonatas on the album are new arrangements of a variety of Bach's keyboard preludes, with selections ranging from the beloved Well Tempered Clavier, to alternate movements from keyboard suites that are rarely performed.

THE MASTER: E Minor Sonata, BWV 1034. A dance between light and shadow. Possibly written during his early Leipzig years while composing over sixty cantatas, this sonata has the weight of his larger musical sermons, and its technical sophistication shows the hand of a seasoned craftsman.

THE ECCENTRIC: E Major Sonata, BWV 1035. Sensual, simple in form, perfumed with luxurious harmony. There's a galant breeziness throughout, yet the harmonic twists and melodic interplay between flute and bass reveal Bach's love for thorny, contrapuntal music.

THE TEACHER: C Major Sonata, BWV 1033. Open-hearted, inviting, full of grace and generosity. This sonata features an unusually simple continuo line that may have been composed by a young C.P.E. Bach as part of his studies - possibly in response to an existing solo flute work by his father. This invited us to experiment. Using C.P.E.'s work as a springboard, we interwove other music by Bach (the Goldberg Variations), rewrote bass lines, and added newly composed material.

con-tin-u-o: an open-ended accompaniment part used in 17th- and 18th-century music consisting of a bass line with numbers that indicate chords. an 18th-century rainbow machine, a bedazzled dinosaur.

flute: Italian *traverso*, French, *flûte traversière*. the oldest melodic instrument, favored by Baroque composers for its sweet tone. not to be confused with the recorder. a glass of champagne, a soaring dragon.

son-a-ta: in the Baroque period, a multi-movement instrumental chamber work. also, a mid-size car.

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EMI FERGUSON AND RUCKUS



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Album Credits

Emi Ferguson

baroque flute

Ruckus

Clay Zeller Townson
Shirley Hunt
Doug Balliett
Evan Premo
Paul Holmes Morton
Adam Cockerham
Elliot Figg

baroque bassoon
baroque cello, viola da gamba
viola da gamba
baroque bass
theorbo, baroque guitar, banjo
theorbo, baroque guitar
harpsichord, organ

Produced by

Emi Ferguson

Associate producers

Clay Zeller-Townson, Elliot Figg, Kendall Briggs, Nicholas Csicsko

Recorded at

Guilford Sound

Engineered by

Dave Snyder and Matt Hall

Mixed and edited by

Dave Snyder and Emi Ferguson

Mastered at

ARF! Mastering by Alan Silverman

Overdubs recorded at

Fer Sound

Engineered by

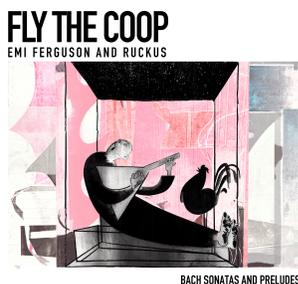
Chris Botta

Album artwork and design

Ivanco Talevski

CD liner notes

Emi Ferguson and Clay Zeller Townson



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Biographies

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RUCKUS is an emerging early music band with a fresh, visceral approach to old music. The ensemble aims to fuse the early-music movement's questing, creative spirit, with the grit, groove, and jangle of American roots music, creating a unique sound of **"rough-edged intensity"** (The New Yorker). Ruckus performed its debut in Christopher Alden's staging of Handel's *Acis, Galatea e Polifemo* featuring Anthony Roth Costanzo, Davone Tines, and Ambur Briad to wide-spread acclaim: **"achingly delicate one moment, punchy and incisive the next"** *The New York Times*; **"Superb"** *Opera News*. Material from its forthcoming debut album with flutist Emi Ferguson, *Fly the Coop: Bach Sonatas and Preludes*, was described as a **"fizzing, daring display of personality and imagination"** by *The New York Times*. Future performances will be held at The Da Camera Society (Los Angeles) and Music Before 1800 (New York City).

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Clay Zeller-Townson (baroque bassoon): Founder of Ruckus. Plays with the leading period instrument ensembles in North America including Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Boston

Baroque, Trinity Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists and Musica Angelica. Masterclasses at Eastman School of Music, UCLA, and University of Missouri.

Doug Balliett (viola da gamba and bass): is a composer, instrumentalist and poet based in New York City. The *New York Times* has described his poetry as “brilliant and witty” (Clytie and the Sun), his bass playing as “elegant” (Shawn Jaeger’s *In Old Virginny*), and his compositions as “vivid, emotive, with contemporary twists” (*Actaeon*). Doug is professor of baroque bass and violone at the Juilliard School.

Adam Cockerham (theorbo/baroque guitar) Performances with Trinity Baroque Orchestra, NOVUS NY, Philharmonia Chamber Players, New York Baroque Incorporated, El Mundo, and J415, Prototype Festival (Pulitzer Prize-winning *Angel’s Bone*) and Opera Saratoga (*A Long Walk*). Cockerham is currently a doctoral candidate at The Juilliard School after completing his Master of Music degree in Historical Plucked Strings, studying with Charles Weaver and Daniel Swenberg. Partnering with acclaimed mezzo-soprano Danielle Sampson, he founded voice and guitar/lute duo Jarring Sounds, which released its first album in 2014.

Elliot Figg (keyboards): member of Ruckus, ACRONYM, New York Baroque Incorporated, and New Vintage Baroque. Recent engagements include: Conductor and harpsichordist for *L’Amant Anonyme* with Little Opera Theatre of New York; assistant conductor and harpsichordist for Vivaldi’s *Farnace*, and Cavalli’s *Veremonda*, both with Spoleto Festival USA; and assistant conductor and harpsichordist for *Dido and Aeneas* with L.A. Opera.

Shirley Hunt (cello and viola da gamba): MEMBER OF RUCKUS?? performances and recordings with Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Baroque, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Musica Angelica, Portland Baroque Orchestra, and Bach Collegium San Diego. Performs regularly at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with the renaissance ensemble *Sonnambula*, and is an artist-in-residence at the Museum of Jurassic Technology.

Paul Holmes Morton (theorbo/guitar/banjo): member of Ruckus, New Vintage Baroque, and the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado. Recordings: “Passionate Pilgrim”, Emi Ferguson’s “Amour Cruel”, and “Arcangelo’s Circle”, by the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado to be released in 2019. Paul Holmes completed his studies in historical performance at The Juilliard School.

Evan Premo (Bass): member of DeCoda. Founder, with his wife Mary Bonhag, and artistic director of Scragg Mountain Music. Artistic director and founder: “Beethoven and Banjos”, residency that brings together folk and classical musicians for cross-genre concerts in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. As Composer, commissioned by the Pittsburgh Symphony Chamber Orchestra, River Town Duo, Owen Dalby of St. Lawrence String Quartet, the International Society of Bassists.



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Press

about fly the coop

"The three intimate concerts I heard on Saturday were blindingly impressive. One fun hour had Emi Ferguson playing Bach's flute sonatas with a six-part continuo band, Ruckus, improvising on the figured bass, a fizzing, daring display of personality and imagination."

David Allen, The New York Times

"Venturing outside the box with American Modern Opera Company's Flutist"

Zoë Madonna, The Boston Globe

"Wit, panache, and the jubilant, virtuosic verve of a bebop-Baroque jam session electrified and illuminated previously candle-lit edifices as Ruckus and friends raised the roof, and my mind's eye will never see those structures in quite the same light again."

CJ Ru, Boston Musical Intelligencier

about emi ferguson

"How a classical musician turned 400-year-old French songs into a modern hit."

Anne Midgette, The Washington Post

"This emotion-packed song-cycle will appeal to fans of all musical genres—rich sounds pair instruments that would have been familiar to an 18th century audience with a modern pop-rock aesthetic."

Peter Jurew, All About Jazz

"The performance was dazzling, its best moments having the quality of a jam session...Ferguson and Daskalakis responded vigorously to the challenge."

Allan Kozinn, Portland Press Herald

about ruckus

"Clay Zeller-Townson, who led the ensemble, drew a vibrant performance from the musicians, aching delicate one moment, punchy and incisive the next."

Anthony Tommasini, The New York Times

"He was aided by Mark Grey's smoothly disruptive sound design and by the rough-edged intensity of the period-performance ensemble Ruckus, conducted by Clay Zeller-Townson."

Russell Platt, The New Yorker

"Led by Clay Zeller-Townson, the superb period ensemble Ruckus, enriched with electronic and pre-recorded sounds, played from house left yet succeeded in striking a seamless balance between pit and stage."

Steven Jude Tietjen, Opera News