



PRESS RELEASE

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## Academy of Ancient Music releases JS Bach's *Orchestral Suites* BWV1066-9

**Catalogue Number: AAM003**

**Label: AAM Records**

**Worldwide Digital Release: November 2014**

**UK Release: 4 November 2014**



On 4 November 2014 the Academy of Ancient Music (AAM) releases JS Bach's *Orchestral Suites* BWV1066-9, the third disc on its new record label AAM Records. Like the AAM's earlier recording of the Brandenburg Concertos, Bach's "Overtures" are performed here at a low, "French" pitch with single players, creating a chamber-like feel and allowing for the flexibility that is essential in all of Bach's music.

The origins of the *Orchestral Suites* can be traced to Leipzig, where Bach served as music director of the Collegium Musicum from 1729 until the early 1740s. Whilst the *Suites* do not follow any pattern in the organisation of their movements, they all begin with an Overture, a tradition dating back to the ballet suites of 17<sup>th</sup> century French opera. Apart from this, each *Suite* creates its own unique spectrum of traditional dance forms and modern gallantry movements.

This recording was made possible through the generosity of AAM supporters worldwide.

### ***Orchestral Suites* BWV1066-9**

**AAM003 - released 4 November 2014**

**Academy of Ancient Music**

**Richard Egarr *director & harpsichord***

### **AAM Records**

Since its foundation in 1973 the AAM has released over 300 CDs, predominantly on the Decca and Harmonia Mundi labels.

In 2013 the orchestra launched AAM Records, its own in-house label, allowing it to take full control of its future recording catalogue by producing a range of recordings which matches the orchestra's artistic plans and its commitment to the historically-informed performance of baroque and classical music. By moving the production of its recordings in-house the AAM will have complete freedom to bring its trademark scholarship and insight to the music. As part of AAM Records, the orchestra will develop a range of supplementary materials, from specially-commissioned liner notes to films and podcasts, giving listeners deeper insights into the music. Furthermore, AAM Records will allow the AAM to expand its presence in key strategic territories worldwide, including developing its work in the Far East, America and Australia, as well as cementing its presence in Europe and the UK, where the orchestra has just completed its first full season as Associate Ensemble at the Barbican Centre.

The first disc on AAM Records, *Birth of the symphony: Handel to Haydn* was widely praised, including a 5-star review in Classical Music Magazine. It was described as "a striking success" by BBC Music Magazine and "classical symphony playing of the highest order" by International Record Review. Find out more at [www.aam.co.uk/birthofthesymphony](http://www.aam.co.uk/birthofthesymphony)



## **Notes to Editors:**

### **About the AAM**

Founded in 1973 by Christopher Hogwood, the AAM has since performed on all six inhabited continents, and released over 300 CDs. Though international in its outlook, the AAM is rooted “at home” in London and Cambridge, where it has a regular season and promotes some of its most ambitious and innovative music-making. The AAM is Associate Ensemble at London’s Barbican Centre and is also Orchestra-in-Residence at the University of Cambridge. Renowned for the quality of its musicianship and its dedication to fresh, historically-informed and engaged performances of baroque and classical music, the orchestra has won Brit, Edison, MIDEM and Gramophone Awards. In 2012 *The Guardian* named the AAM’s performance of JS Bach’s *The Art of Fugue* at the BBC Proms one of the top ten concerts of the year.

In 2006 Richard Egarr succeeded the orchestra’s founder Christopher Hogwood as Music Director. Egarr has led the orchestra on tours throughout Europe, the USA and the Far East, and in 2007 he founded the Choir of the AAM. In June 2012 the AAM was invited to perform at The Queen’s Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant, and in 2013 it was Resident Ensemble at the National Gallery, London forming an innovative part of its “Vermeer and Music” exhibition.

Egarr’s growing list of recordings directing the Academy of Ancient Music includes seven Handel discs (2007 Gramophone Award, 2009 MIDEM and Edison awards), JS Bach’s complete *Brandenburg Concertos* and the world-premiere recording of music by 17<sup>th</sup> century English composer Christopher Gibbons. In 2013 the orchestra launched AAM Records which has released three recordings to date: *Birth of a symphony: Handel to Haydn*, JS Bach’s *St John Passion* and *Academy of Ancient Music at 40*, a limited edition, two-CD compilation of the AAM’s 40 years of recording.

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