

Variations Down the Line premiere: Audience Comments

I thought you played brilliantly, and that the whole project came over as excellent - imaginative, refreshing, absorbing. **Julian Broughton, Composer**

Many congratulations on your double recital. I thought the combination of Bach and new pieces worked very well - I hope you have had lots of good feedback?

Your playing was lovely, not just the musicianship but the authority - and how I envy you the technique to play ALL the Bach variations!

Thank you again for your fine and characterful performances of my three. I hope you have some more chances to play the whole thing, and finally that some of the recitals can be live! **Nicola LeFanu, Composer**

Thank you so much for the wonderful performances this week totally AWESOME...inspiring to say the least. Liked all the new pieces....they all had a lot of reverence about them. **Ellie Blackshaw, Musician**

That was so good!

Your Bach is always musical, full of life and sensitivity, energy and precision without being at all rigid. Wonderful. **John Hawkins, Composer**

You played beautifully and I loved the way you choreographed gently folding up the music of the new compositions and pausing. I thought the sound quality and filming were great and enjoyed the new pieces very much. **Barry Mills, Composer**

Well, what a fascinating feat! Some fine new variations, and all the originals too – congratulations! I love the way Bach ends with the beginning theme, as if to say “That was a lot of fun and running about, but this is the real thing!” ... or just to remind one where all the fun came from. **Anna Bushell**

The thing that sticks with me is the ingenuity and power of your composers being so well interpreted by your good self with such commitment, energy and expression.

I found the Becker pieces almost witty in their take on the original and Julian’s writing was, as always, so full of light and grace and highlighting Bach’s harmonies. I found both the new compositions like windows onto a new Goldberg world pointing up all sorts of things in the original and, what surprised me, making me listen to the Bach differently. I look forward to hearing it again.

Playing the Goldberg as you do is awesome enough but adding the new pieces made this a very special performance for me and many many thanks. **Michael Bloom**

I just want you to know how much I enjoyed Variations down the Line. What a magnificent effort you have made to fulfil such an exciting project. It would have been achievement enough just to organise such a talented group of composers to share your vision, but then to play every piece yourself, I'm full of admiration. Bravo! There's not much more you can say about Bach, is there. If a

greater genius ever existed, I'd like to know who it is! Your love of his music shone through, and you did equal justice to the new pieces. The sound quality and the camera work and production were excellent too, everyone deserves great praise. ***Chris Shelley***