



Tuesday 12 December 2023

Lecturer - Sandy Burnett
Christmas in Bach's Leipzig: The Christmas Oratorio of 1734/5

Sandy Burnett's close relationship with Bach's music stretches back for decades; between 1997 and 2010 he directed a complete cycle of Bach's sacred cantatas in West London. In this illustrated talk he explores how Bach brings the Christmas story alive in his Weihnachtsoratorium or Christmas Oratorio, written for Lutheran congregations in 1730s Leipzig. An overview of Bach's life and achievement precedes a close look at this magnificent work which draws on various forms ranging from recitative, arioso, aria, chorale, and instrumental sinfonia through to full-blown choruses which are infused with the joyous spirit of the dance.



Johann Sebastian Bach
Hausman Portrait



Interior of Thomas Kirche
Leipzig