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## **"Er heißet Wunderbar!", The wonderfully beautiful Christmas CD from the ensemble "Barokkanerne" on the label Lawo Classics.**

Posted on [December 13, 2018](#)



The ensemble "Barokkanerne" released a CD with delicious Christmas music from the German 18<sup>th</sup> century. On their CD is music by Christoph Graupner, Georg Philipp Telemann, Johann Friedrich Fasch and Johann Sebastian Bach.

Baroque brasserie, under the direction of the Baroque harpist Alfredo Bernardini, is Christmas with German baroque music by composers who competed for the function of cantor of the St. Thomas church in Leipzig, a function fulfilled by JS Bach after the candidates Telemann, Graupner and Fasch, for various reasons, refused. The ensemble presents soloist sung Advent and Christmas cantatas by Graupner, Fasch and Bach, as well as a beautiful Telemann concerto, led by father and daughter Bernadini.

"Barokkanerne" is an Oslo-based ensemble of early music and one of the very first, independent,



professional baroque orchestras on historical instruments in Scandinavia. The orchestra is Norway's most active baroque ensemble with concert series in Oslo, concert tours in Norway and abroad, numerous festival performances and ongoing efforts to improve early music competence among young people, students, amateurs and professionals. Earlier releases on the LAWO Classics label, "Empfindsamkeit!" (LWC1038), "Totally Telemann" (LWC1074) and "Recordare Venezia" (LWC1114), received rave reviews at home and abroad. Alfredo Bernardini has been a beloved guest leader of Baroque brasserie since 2009 and can also be heard on two of

the earlier releases of the ensemble, "Empfindsamkeit!" And "Totally Telemann".

"Baroque brasserie" and the "Norwegian baroque orchestra" joined forces in January 2018 to form the Baroque-Norwegian-Baroque Ensemble. Both ensembles were founded at the end of the eighties as the very first independent professional baroque orchestras on historical instruments in Scandinavia. The collective discography of the two ensembles is considerable. A focus of the NBO was baroque music, composed in Norway, such as, for example, in the latest release under the direction of Gottfried von der Goltz, with music by Johan Daniel and Johan Heinrich Berlin, (father and son), who lived in Trondheim (SIMAX, 2014). Barokkanerne also plays with young, Norwegian music talents like the harpsichordist Christian Kjos on the recording "Empfindsamkeit!", With music by CPE Bach (LAWO, 2013), and recorder player Ingeborg Christophersen on a beautiful,

"Barokkanerne" works with excellent artists. Former artistic director of the NBO, baroque cellist Kristin von der Goltz, is the first guest conductor of the new ensemble in its first season, with three productions in 2018. Alongside Kristin von der Goltz and Alfredo Bernardini, "Barokkanerne" has collaborated with many other international top artists, Rachel Podger, Emma Kirkby, Kati Debretzeni, Lars Ulrik Mortensen and Andrew Lawrence-King. Baroque brasserie is managed by Stiftelsen Norsk Baroque orchestra and is led by a triumvirate consisting of Johan Nicolai Mohn, Andreas Johnson and Mari Giske and is supported by an artistic board consisting of Alfredo Bernardini, Marianne Beate Kielland and Christian Kjos. Barokkanerne (NBE) is supported by Arts Council Norway,

The German violinist and composer, Johann Friedrich Fasch (Buttelstedt (1688-1758) was a pupil of Johann Kuhnau and Christoph Graupner, and worked as a violinist in Bayreuth and Leipzig, and later as an organist in some Bohemian cities.) In Leipzig he founded 1718 a 'Collegium musicum' from which the concert organs of the city grew and finally became court chaplain in Zerbst in 1722. Johann Friedrich Fasch is regarded as one of the main contemporaries of Johann Sebastian Bach, who greatly appreciated Fasch's art. It left seven volumes of church cantatas, 12 masses, nearly 70 overtures and 21 concertos for various instruments, in addition to chamber music, motets and sinfonias. He was the father of the harpsichordist and composer, Carl Friedrich (Christian) Fasch (1736-1800).

Christoph Graupner (1683-1760) (photo) was born in Kirchberg in Saxony and was a pupil of Johann Kuhnau at the Thomasschule in Leipzig. There he became friends with Johann Friedrich Fasch and Johann David Heinichen. In 1705 he became a harpsichordist in the orchestra of Reinhard Keizer in Hamburg and became acquainted with Händel and Mattheson. In 1712 he became Kapellmeister in Darmstadt, where Fasch became his apprentice. The very musical countryman Ernst Ludwig von Hessen-Darmstadt (photo) had discovered Christoph Graupner as a harpsichordist in the Hamburg Opera and invited him to his court in Darmstadt in 1709. Graupner composed instrumental music for the Landgraaf and composed, for many years, almost every week a church cantata, of which no less than 1418 were preserved, almost entirely in manuscript.

In January 1723 Graupner took a vacation for a while and traveled to Leipzig, where they sought a successor for the late Thomas Kantor, Kuhnau. Telemann, who was very satisfied as a music director in Hamburg, had namely rejected the position. The church council in Leipzig came to an agreement with Graupner, but his princely employer refused his resignation. As a result, Bach got his chance in Leipzig. Graupner survived the new cantor, which he apparently never met personally, ten years. In his last

works, Graupner paved the way for the pre-classical style, which then developed mainly south of Darmstadt, in Mannheim. At the end of his life, Graupner became completely blind, but continued to fulfill his function as chapel master.

On the CD "Er heißet Wunderbar, Rat, Kraft, Hero", FR 408/1 by Johann Friedrich Fasch, "Der Herr wird König signal", GWV 1101/36 by Christoph Graupner, Concerto in E minor, TWV 53 from Telemann, "Schwingt freudig euch empor", BWV 36 by Johann Sebastian Bach, and finally, Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248/1 "Bereite dich, Zion" from his Christmas Oratorio. The performers ("Barokkanerne") are Alfredo Bernardini, oboe (photo) Berit Norbakken Solset, soprano (photo), Marianne Beate Kielland, mezzo soprano (photo), Anders J. Dahlin, tenor, Halvor F. Melien, baritone and Cecilia Bernardini violin. Highly recommended.



**There heißet Wunderbar! Fasch Graupner Telemann Bach Barokkanerne CD Lawo Classics LWC 1169**

<http://www.stretto.be/2018/12/13/er-heiset-wunderbar-de-heerlijk-mooie-kerst-cd-van-het-ensemble-barokkanerne-op-het-label-lawo-classics/>