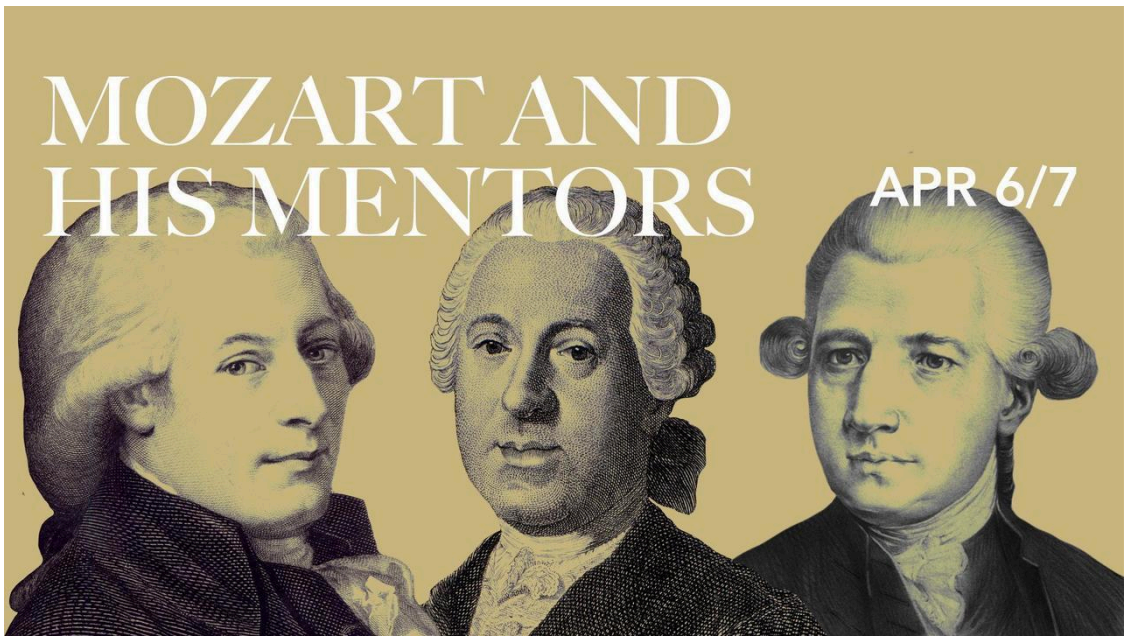
MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE



From Mysliveček to Brendel—the case for an international education

Today, **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** is one of the most well-known composers of the 18th century. While Mozart's musical skills were apparent from an early age (his father Leopold called his talents "a gift from God"), Mozart's musicmaking truly flourished with the support of capable teachers. Mozart was introduced to two accomplished composers in his formative years abroad whose lasting impressions on the young composer contributed to many of the works we know and love today: **Josef Mysliveček**, renowned for his own Italian operas and his "Bohemian" flair, and **Johann Adolph Hasse**, whom Mozart praised in the dedication of his Opus III, K.10-15, collection to Queen Charlotte, "Because with your help, I will equal the glory of all the great men of my country, **I will become as immortal as Handel and Hasse**."

British pianist Imogen Cooper knows a thing or two about the impact of great mentors. The daughter of musicologist Martin Cooper, Imogen decided at the age of 5 that she wanted to become a concert pianist. She was then sent off, at just 11 years old, to study in Paris (alone!). This generated quite a bit of shock at home—

her father publicly debated the decision with Thomas Armstrong, principal of the Royal Academy of Music, in a correspondence published in *The Times.*

In Paris, Imogen Cooper began her studies with French pianists Yvonne Lefébure and Jacques Février, who happened to be a personal friend of both Maurice Ravel and Francis Poulenc. Another encounter a few years later would change Cooper's life further, however: While in Austria, she heard piano superstar Alfred Brendel play for the first time. According to Cooper, "**He was sensational**. I marched up to him afterwards and said, 'I must work with you or I'll die.'" While notoriously demanding, Cooper and Brendel's partnership blossomed into a collaboration that has spanned decades.



Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, K.365, performed by Imogen Cooper and Alfred Brendel with conductor Neville Marriner and the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

The profound effect of these opportunities on her own artistic journey led to the creation of the **Imogen Cooper Music Trust** in 2015. Through scholarships and one-on-one intensives, Imogen Cooper shares the same personalized attention she once received with the next generation of musicians.

Experience the impact of these mentors and mentees live as Dame Jane Glover leads the Music of the Baroque Orchestra in **Mysliveček's Symphony in F Major** and **Hasse's Symphony in G Minor, op. 5, no. 6**, alongside **Mozart's *Paris***

Symphony. Plus, Jane reunites with her dear friend Imogen Cooper for Mozart's virtuosic **Piano Concerto No. 13**. The concert on **Sunday, April 6**, at the North Shore Center in Skokie is nearly sold out, but good seats still remain for **Monday, April 7**, at the Harris Theater in downtown Chicago.

Tickets

THE 2025-26 SEASON

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