



**PIANIST LIBBY BURGESS TAKES ON AN EXTRAORDINARY PROJECT,
RAISING MONEY FOR MUSICIANS' CHARITIES**
Can you help?

During 2021, I will perform Bach's epic "48" (the *Well-Tempered Clavier*), complete. 48 times. Once in each of the 48 counties of England.

Bach wrote this massive and magnificent collection "*for the benefit and use of the musical youth eager to learn, as well as for the special pastime of those already skilful in this study.*" Part of the purpose of this project, then, is **to fundraise for musical charities** who provide much-needed help to those categories of people today - musicians young and old.

Would you like to host one of these performances? Read this Q&A to help your thinking.

What kind of venue is appropriate? Honestly - absolutely anything, from cathedral to pub to shopping centre to primary school. Or an actual concert hall of course. Outdoors is also, quite seriously, a possibility in these Covid times. My plan is that every performance should feel different.

How good should the piano be? The piano should be good enough to do the music justice: it needn't be a full-size concert Steinway (though lovely when it is!), but it should be respectable. Having said that - if there's a compelling reason for performing somewhere with a battered-up old instrument (in a school, in an old people's home, in a prison, at the top of a mountain), I'm open to discussion.

How long will the performance be? The 48 is arranged in two books (24 preludes and fugues in each). Each book lasts around 2 hours. So there are various possible formats. Two evening performances on consecutive nights, of one book each. Four or eight shorter performances staggered through a day. Music on the hour every hour, day and night. A procession around 48 different pianos in a city, one prelude and fugue on each.... The options are endless, and again, I'm keen that each rendition feels different.

How will the finances work? I will take a modest fee for each performance, after which all profits go towards the nominated musical charities of the project: Help Musicians, Youth Music, Live Music Now, and Future Talent. So events could be ticketed, or could be run on a donation basis, or underwritten by patrons in the area - but they do need to make money for the fundraising pot! The project cannot pay hire fees for venues or pianos, so if your suggested setup includes these, they need to be funded locally.

Who is in charge of publicising the event? You are. There will of course be some more general publicity that comes with the project as a whole, but in terms of drumming up an audience, that needs to be done locally.

Is there scope for an educational component too? Yes, categorically, and enthusiastically! A university or school masterclass, a talk to introduce the music, a workshop for local amateur pianists, a school assembly.... Offer up your ideas and let's see what we can concoct!

If you would like to be involved, please drop me a line (libby@libbyburgess.com). There is more information available on the whole project at www.bachproject48.co.uk. Thank you in advance for any support and assistance you're able to offer!