

PRAISE / PERFORMANCES

John Bullard's concert **Bach, Banjos and the Hero's Journey** was a thoroughly enjoyable and inspirational evening of music...John took the audience on a journey with him, using music as the shared experience.

ELIZABETH BRACEY, FRANKLIN PARK ARTS CENTER

John's program **Bach, Banjos and the Hero's Journey** was a perfectly written story...he brought the listeners along for a true journey...a well-balanced program of entertainment, education and gifted performance skills.

JESSICA CORBITT, WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY, RICHMOND, VA

Beautiful music, beautifully performed. John Bullard presents an evening of music that is entertaining and informative. If you have the opportunity to see him, do it. Our audience was on their feet.

BILL HURD, PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

John Bullard has played two concerts for Market Street Music, delighting the audience both times. Besides his obvious talent at playing the banjo in non-traditional repertoire, his delight in the instrument's flexibility and beauty is clearly communicated and infectious. Hear him!

DAVID SCHELAT, MARKET STREET MUSIC, WILMINGTON, DE

John Bullard presented an outstanding program on the theme of the Hero's Journey. John carefully chose pieces to illustrate the stages of an individual going from a place of innocence, through experiences of trial and illumination, and emerging as a changed, improved and stronger person...his technique and musicality are flawless and mesmerizing.

FRAN WALINSKY, MULDOON CONCERT SERIES, ANNANDALE, VA

John Bullard is breaking ground and ushering the Banjo into new territory as a legitimate instrument in the classical chamber setting. The audience waited with anticipation and was energized by the newness of the banjo's versatility of sound as it effortlessly transitioned from traditional banjo repertoire to the exciting new setting of traditional chamber music. The audiences' thunderous applause and whispers of approval clearly demonstrated Bullard is on to something good.

CATHERINE AND MARY ROTH CONCERT SERIES, WASHINGTON, DC

One of the finest concerts we have ever had in our Fine Arts Series. John's artistry and ability to present the banjo as a classical instrument was amazing. The addition of his very talented ensemble made for a most enjoyable evening.

MUSIC ON MARKET STREET, WILMINGTON, NC

We thoroughly enjoyed having John Bullard here at Barns of Rose Hill. Not only is he a wonderful player and performer, but everyone attending loved hearing classical music played on the five-string banjo. In the audience there were many who I knew to be classical music fans and musicians as well as bluegrass and folk fans and musicians, and everyone was equally delighted. It was a musical education and experience that showed the versatility of the banjo and broke genre barriers. As an arts center that presents many styles of music and likes to educate audiences about the relationship they have to each other, it was right up our alley!

MORGAN MORRISON, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, THE BARNs OF ROSE HILL

The music was well chosen and skillfully performed, drawing the audience in. The accompanist, Markus Compton, was sensitive to the music and to John Bullard's banjo. Just enough history and education between pieces made the performance more fascinating. I would like to hear more of the original compositions, even though the transcriptions were fabulous. Icing on the cake was that Mr. Bullard was a delight to work with.

NANCY SALMON, MUSIC AT PENN ALPS CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

John Bullard's recent solo banjo concert was a tremendous delight for all in attendance. John played everything—including Baroque miniatures by Bach and friends, pieces he has recently commissioned, and his own compositions—with deep musical understanding and effortless grace. In his comments from the stage that preceded each set of pieces, he offered a combination of personal history and musicological insight. As an audience, we really got to know both John the person and John the performer. It was a lovely evening all around, and a concert that will linger long in the memory.

SCOTT SOLAK, MD SAINT LUKE'S PRESBYTERIAN, ALEXANDRIA, VA

John Bullard performed for our Bach's Lunch series in Greensboro, NC on March 23, 2018 and was sensational! His music and commentary were perfect for our forum and his musicianship is impeccable. We have a reputation for presenting the best professional musicians from our region (NC, SC, VA, TN, etc.) and John's concert was played to a capacity crowd who thanked him with a spontaneous standing ovation and demanded an encore, which he graciously provided. The juxtaposition of classical, even baroque music with banjo seems uncanny... until you hear it. Once you experience John's performance you'll think it's the most natural thing in the world. In addition to his artistry, John is a complete gentleman to work with and we will do our utmost to have him back as our musical guest very soon!

ROBERT OVERMAN, STARMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NC

What can I say about John Bullard? He plays Bach, he plays bluegrass. And he does it with heart, soul and oh-my-goodness claws. All for the cause of advancing the possibilities of his chosen instrument...The Banjo! In all of its varied, storied and marvelous shapes and sizes. Bravissimo Banjo Man!

BENJAMIN K. ROE, HEIFETZ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC INSTITUTE

John Bullard is one of the foremost exponents of the classical banjo. His tireless work in creating a repertoire for the classical banjo, along with his brilliant performances and recordings, has garnered him praise nationally. Besides being a master of the instrument, he is a sensitive musician and a dedicated artist. His performances on the VCU Guitar Series and the Guitar and Other Strings Series demonstrated both craftsmanship and emotion and were always well-attended and well-received. John Bullard is particularly well-known for his transcriptions of the music of J.S. Bach. Much as Andres Segovia did for the great classical guitar, John Bullard has demonstrated that the classical banjo is a “most poetic instrument.”

**JOHN PATYKULA, ASSISTANT CHAIR, DEPT. OF MUSIC
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**

John Bullard recently performed at Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton, VA, to an enthusiastic audience. Bach on banjo was a sound most of the audience had never experienced, but one that drew us in and enthralled us. In addition to his technically and musically expert playing, Mr. Bullard gave commentary to go along with his program, played on several different instruments, and introduced us to a couple of his own unique compositions. It was a perfect afternoon of music-making, and people are asking to have him back again soon!

**FLORENCE JOWERS, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
STAUNTON, VA**

John Bullard recently presented a 30-minute concert of “classical banjo” music for the Christ Church (Charlottesville VA) “Bach’s Lunch” concert series. Mr. Bullard has developed a unique style of adapting classical music (music of all periods, with emphasis on Renaissance and Baroque) to the banjo. But there is also an element of bluegrass in the pieces he chooses, which makes the concert especially fun. John brought three banjos (including one big “alto” banjo) and played on all of them at one time or another during the program. His speaking was interesting and informative, and his playing was masterful. The audience gave him a standing ovation.

ALICE LAYMAN, CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

PRAISE / RECORDINGS

"As exceptionally brilliant as it is masterful, 'The Perfect Southern Art' enacts a heartfelt decree, opening up classical music to a world not yet discovered. A novel revelation."

CONCERTONET.COM

"What Segovia did for the guitar John Bullard may well do for the five-string banjo; elevate it to a respected classical instrument!"

WIRELESS CATALOG

"This is a recording that reexamines a much-maligned folk instrument that sounds – in the right hands– as if it can do practically anything. Bullard's hands are clearly the right ones."

INFODAD.COM

"Bullard's style is remarkably fluid when he's playing such delicate passages in works by Handel, Bach, Telemann, and Marcello. Filling in the empty space is a taller order when it comes to "Three Romances for Oboe and Piano" by Schumann and "Lyric Pieces" by Grieg, but he and producer Jayme Stone pull off the arrangements as if the music world were waiting for such a combination."

POPMATTERS

"The Fugue from Bach's G minor Violin Sonata becomes a dexterous tour-de-force, and there's an irresistible transcription of a Marcello oboe concerto...Three Schumann Romances for oboe and piano are gorgeous, and six of Grieg's Lyric Pieces are sublime when played on banjo and solo strings. Absolutely enchanting – one for banjophiles everywhere."

THE ARTSDESK.COM

"Bullard deserves an additional award for transcribing and developing a classical repertoire...and then having the audacity to play this music so masterfully."

ACOUSTIC MUSICIAN

"This is a fun album, and once you get into it, a serious classical album as well...Even though I can picture a great look of concentration and feeling on John's face as I imagine him playing, I do think I see a corner of his mouth turning up in a grin."

THE NEW TIMES, SEATTLE