



BY MARLON DANIEL

Shining Knight

The extraordinary life and legacy of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges (1745-1799)

The name Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges may not strike a chord because history has all but forgotten this historical musical figure of the classical period. His celebrity and outstanding qualities deserve recognition for far more than the racist moniker and misnomer to which he is often referred: "Black Mozart." And while he crossed paths with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Saint-Georges was, in fact, the more popular composer in Europe in his day. His influence on music, arts and culture was remarkable. U.S. President John Adams declared that "Saint-Georges was the most accomplished man in Europe." While today Mozart's memory shines most and his works continue to be played by all major orchestras, Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges remains virtually unknown.

BEGINNINGS

Joseph Bologne was born in 1745 on the island of Guadeloupe, a French Colony in the Caribbean. At a time when colonial slavery was the norm, he was not only free but also became an aristocrat. Saint-Georges was the illegitimate son of a wealthy white plantation owner, George Bologne, and Anne Nanon, an enslaved Guadeloupe woman of African descent, and was given his father's name. Bologne, Young Joseph received an exemplary education. He attended Tessier de La Botassière's famed Académie royale polytechnique des armes et de l'équitation (fencing and horsemanship) and also studied music. He was a true savant, a Jack of all trades, and master of them all.

Saint-Georges was considered a Superman of his time for this athletic prowess. His swimming, horseback riding, dancing, shooting, boxing, and especially fencing exploits are well-documented. He was renowned as the greatest fencer in Europe. He won matches over celebrated swordsmen, including the famous duel with fencing master Alexander Picard, which earned him his knighthood and a place as King Louis' only Black knight in his private guard. His duel with the crossdressing spy Chevalier d'Étin is famously portrayed in the painting by Alexandre-Auguste Robineau (1747-1828) and hangs in the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace in London.

But music was Saint-Georges' greatest love. While nothing definitive is known about his early music training, his teachers likely included composer François Gossec and violinist-composers Antonio Lolli and Jean-Marie Leclair. A prolific composer, Saint-Georges' surviving works include 14 violin concertos works, 10 keyboard sonatas, eight sinfonia concertante, three sets of six string quartets, three sonatas for violin and keyboard, two symphonies, a sonata for harp and flute, the opera "The Anonymous Lover," various songs, and arias from incomplete operas. And this — but a small representation of his output — is more than enough to define him as a major composer and influence of the 18th century.

In addition to his being an innovative composer, Saint-Georges was a contemporary music advocate, conductor, and virtuoso violinist, as one can deduce from his many string works. In 1769, Saint-Georges joined Gossec's new orchestra

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Drawing by Sho-mei Pelletier, artist, courtesy of the Rachel Barton Pine Foundation, Music of Black Composers, LudwigMasters Publications, musicbyblackcomposers.org

https://issuu.com/muphiepsilon/docs/trianglefall114032020_web

OPERAWIRE: Chevalier de Saint-Georges & Systematic Racism in Classical Music



<https://operawire.com/q-a-marlon-daniel-on-the-chevalier-de-saint-georges-systematic-racism-in-classical-music/>

Meet Marlon Daniel, The Conductor Who Premiered Chevalier de Saint-Georges' Only Opera 236 Years After It Was Written

August 27, 2020 · Anna Heflin



<https://classicalpost.com/read/meet-marlon-daniel-leading-interpreter-of-saint-georges>

INTERCULTURAL MUSIC INITIATIVE: Spotlight on Marlon Daniel

The image shows the logo for the Intercultural Music Initiative (IMI) on the left, which consists of three stylized human figures in green, purple, and orange. To the right of the logo is the text: "INTERVIEW WITH CONDUCTOR MARLON DANIEL ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR OF FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE MUSIQUE SAINT-GEORGES". Below this is the IMI logo again, followed by the text "Intercultural Music Initiative". On the far right is a portrait of Marlon Daniel, wearing a white blazer over a red shirt, holding a baton, against a blue and white textured background.

<https://imusici.org/voam/marlondaniel>

PLUTON MAGAZINE: High Profile Arts Feature



High-Profile: Marlon Daniel un maestro déterminé

home slider, Musique, Théâtre Danse Musique © août 14, 2020 Pluton Magazine



<https://pluton-magazine.com/2020/08/14/high-profile-marlon-daniel-un-maestro-determine/>
ENGLISH: <https://pluton-magazine.com/2020/09/11/marlon-daniel-a-maestro-on-a-mission/>



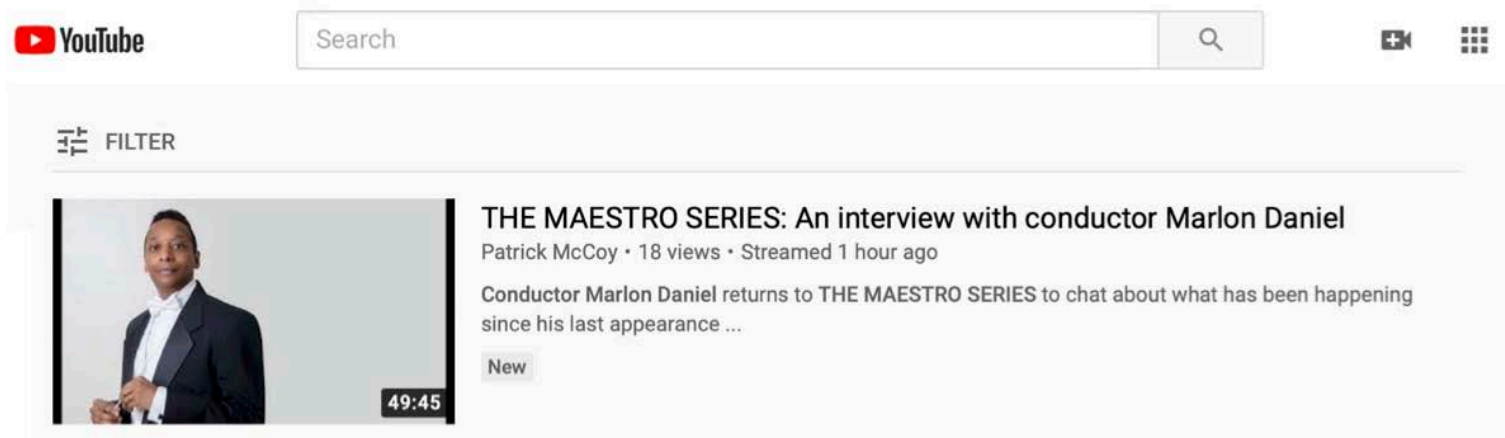
<https://www.wqxr.org/story/mostly-mozart-evening-broadcast-joseph-boulogne/>

SPEAKING OF THE ARTS: The Arts in the Time of Masks



https://www.kopn.org/?fbclid=IwAR2Qs_BflIf1PUZFGGPzVx2rX6FQIGu2TdjisX2uwSELgAhbzAPuI8Fi4M0

ACROSS THE ARTS: The Maestro Series – Marlon Daniel on Chevalier de Saint-Georges



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amrMnDcsxgU&t=406s>

CLASSICS TODAY: A Champion for the Chevalier



A Champion For The Chevalier:
Victor Carr writes about Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges and the Festival dedicated to him in Guadeloupe

<https://www.classicstoday.com/a-champion-for-the-chevalier/>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akrPYIga_Sk

BLACK AMERICA: Interview with Carol Jenkins



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzqIOu9WBCs&t=104s>

CBS EVENING NEWS: Changing the Color of Classical Music



<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/changing-the-color-of-classical-music-charleston-south-carolina-festival/>

WIKIPEDIA: Article



Saint-Georges International Music Festival

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Saint-Georges International Music Festival (French: Festival International de Musique Saint-Georges) is a prominent music festival held in Guadeloupe, celebrating the life and works of Joseph Bologne, Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges. It had its inaugural launch in 2011 and has since become one of the largest classical music festivals in the Caribbean.[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint-Georges_International_Music_Festival



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QNmSoJOMts>

GUADELOUPE 1re: National Report on Festival International de Musique Saint-Georges



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a83jKR6xmIM>

GUADELOUPE SOIR: Interview of Marlon Daniel, Artistic Director of Festival International de Musique Saint-Georges



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN7IiUYY_Hk&t=243s

CARIBBEAN JOURNAL: Article – The Best Classical Music Festival in Guadeloupe



<https://www.caribjournal.com/2019/02/25/the-caribbeans-best-classical-music-festival-is-in-guadeloupe>

Guadeloupe Islands French Tourism: Festival International de Musique Saint-Georges Official Listing



<http://www.guadeloupe-islands.com/saint-georges-international-music-festival/>