

Programme notes by Chris Darwin: use freely for non-commercial purposes

J.S. Bach (1685-1750) Harpsichord Concerto No 5 in F minor BWV 1056 (1738)

[no tempo marking]

Largo

Presto

This concerto is one of a set of six for single harpsichord and strings that Bach assembled in Leipzig around 1738-9. Little is known of their provenance or purpose, but some are clearly identical to earlier surviving concertos written for a different solo instrument such as violin or oboe. For example, No 3 in D is a transposition of the violin concerto in E - the shift down a tone allowing its top note to remain within the compass of contemporary harpsichords.

Unfortunately, no precursor of the F minor concerto still exists, but it is thought that the outer movements may also have come from a now lost violin concerto (in G minor), and the *Largo* from an oboe concerto in F major which in turn may have been inspired by a Telemann flute concerto in G !