

# BACH AND THE STORY OF AN “ARIA TEMPO DI POLONAISE” FOR JOACHIM FRIEDRICH FLEMMING

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## JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH AND THE FLEMMING BROTHERS

On 7 May 1724, a *Cantate* Sunday,<sup>1</sup> Count Joachim Friedrich von Flemming (Lord of Harthau, Golobach, Nödelschitz and Klein-Wölckau, General of the Saxon cavalry, Knight of St. John of Jerusalem, and hitherto the commander of the Schievelberg fortress), arrived at Leipzig in his new capacity as City Governor.<sup>2</sup> He moved into a splendid residence at the Pleissenburg Castle not far from the Thomaskirche. On 23 June, the new governor had notices posted on the city gates demanding obedience from the citizens of Leipzig and from the city council.<sup>3</sup> The ceremonial assumption of his official duties took place on 31 July 1724.<sup>4</sup>

The governor was an official representative at Leipzig of the royal-electoral court (i.e., the Polish-Saxon court), and his areas of competency were primarily the command of the troops stationed in Leipzig and the fiscal issues in the city. Joachim Friedrich was an elder brother

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<sup>1</sup>Fourth Sunday after Easter.

<sup>2</sup>Christoph Ernst Sicul, Christoph Ernst Sicul / ANNALIVM LIPSIENSIVM MAXIME ACADEMICORVM / SECTIO XVIII / Oder Leipziger Jahr-Buchs / Zu dessen Dritten Bande / Dritte Fortsetzung Des Jahrs 1724, 421. On the same day, Count von Seckendorff stepped down from his position as Governor of Leipzig to become Governor of the Philippsburg Fortress.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., 699.

<sup>4</sup>On that occasion, a *dramma per musica* was performed in honour of the new governor and in the presence of his wife, Countess Christiana Charlotte von Watzdorff. Titled *Der eifersüchtige Mars über das Vergnügen der Pallas*, it had a libretto by Picander. The composer is not known. See also *Picanders Ernst=Schertzbauffe und Satyrische Gedichte* (Leipzig, 1727), I, 24–28.