



THE BACH SOCIETY
OF SAINT LOUIS

Bach & Jazz Clinic Des Lee Fine Arts Collaborative

Description

Today, Johann Sebastian Bach is recognized as one of the greatest composers of all time, but during his lifetime, he was known as a master of improvisation. Students who participate in “Bach & Jazz” will experience the similarities and differences between improvised jazz and Bach’s music, giving students a deeper understanding of how the “Master of Baroque” still continues to influence modern jazz. Students will learn more about improvisation, rhythmic transformation, re-harmonization, and group interplay, which are musical devices used in both types of music.

Mission

The mission of the Bach Society of Saint Louis is to provide stimulating and enriching musical and educational experiences for audiences and performers in the tradition of Johann Sebastian Bach. “Bach and Jazz” highlights Bach’s music alongside American jazz, demonstrating to young audiences that music composed over 300 years ago is still modern, relevant, and exciting.

Performance Details

- Duration: 45-50 minutes
- School should provide: tuned piano, music stand, one chair, sound system (depending on space), guitar amp and a wireless speaker
- Piano tuning: piano should be tuned within 3 days of the performance and the tuner should invoice the Bach Society of Saint Louis for fees. We can provide a piano tuner upon request.
- Desired space: large music room (choral or band) or theatre/auditorium
- Audience size: minimum of 30
- Target grade levels: 6-12

Learning Objectives

After the program, students will:

- Have the ability to define improvisation and apply it within their musical studies.
- Aurally identify the differences between Johann Sebastian Bach’s original compositions and improvisation.
- Explain how Bach’s music is relevant to today’s music.

Music Grade Level Expectations

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Music Grade-Level Expectations:

- MU:Cr3B. ENSEMBLES (Novice - HS Adv.): Creating
- MU:Pr4B. ENSEMBLES (Novice - HS Adv.): Performing
- MU:Pr4C. ENSEMBLES (Novice - HS Adv.): Performing
- MU:Pr6A. ENSEMBLES (Novice - HS Adv.): Performing
- MU:Re7B. ENSEMBLES (Novice - HS Adv.): Responding

Fees

While the full cost of the Bach and Jazz Program to the Bach Society is \$800, schools may participate at the discounted fee of \$300. Limited services are available at this rate.

Artists/Musicians

Kim Portnoy is a composer, arranger, jazz pianist, and Director of Composition Studies at Webster University, St. Louis. He has been commissioned by such diverse organizations as the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America, the St. Louis Children's Choir and the St. Louis Low Brass Collective. He was recently awarded one of ten 2018 Regional Arts Commission Fellowships.

<http://www.kimportnoy.com>

Steve Schenkel is the guitarist and orchestra manager for the Fox Theater, guitarist for the Muny Opera and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and a freelance jazz musician. He recently retired after 37 years at Webster University, where he founded the Jazz Studies program, the Webster Jazz Concert Series, and the Jazz Studies/Music Technology program.

<http://www.steveschenkel.com>

Debby Lennon can be found performing on stages all over St. Louis. She has been a featured soloist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and is a founding member of "Pieces of 8." Ms. Lennon is active in the St. Louis opera, jazz and musical theatre scenes. She is an adjunct voice professor and director of The Vocal Jazz Program and The Webster Jazz Singers at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, and she is an adjunct professor at Lindenwood University. She also serves at St. Joseph's Academy as vocal coach and maintains a private voice studio.

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