



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Bach Society of Saint Louis announces the 2024 St. Louis Bach Festival

The Bach Society of Saint Louis to present 6 events, including free community concerts and programs celebrating the works of J.S. Bach

ST. LOUIS, (October 6, 2023) - The Bach Society of Saint Louis (BSSL) will conclude their 83rd season with a full roster of concerts and community events for the 2024 St. Louis Bach Festival.

The festival will begin with the **Bach at the Bistro: A Night at the Movies** on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at Jazz St. Louis. The eclectic program will move through the decades with classics from the Gershwin brothers and Rodgers and Hammerstein to contemporary hits from Stephen Sondheim, Jason Robert Brown and more. This evening of favorite musical theatre hits from the silver screen is programmed and directed by Stephen Eros with performances by individual members of The Bach Society Chorus.

On April 20, 2024, The Bach Society of Saint Louis will bring J.S. Bach's **Brandenburg Concertos** to life at Salem United Methodist Church. Concertmaster Lenora-Marya Anop will lead the Bach Society Orchestra in some of Bach's most famous works. From the lively Brandenburg Concertos No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 5, to the beautiful Concerto for harpsichord, strings, and Continuo No. 4, this concert will showcase Bach's timeless talent and versatility.

"Among the most beloved works by Sebastian Bach are his Brandenburg Concertos. Even after 300 years, audiences continue to love hearing them," says Bach Society Music Director and Conductor, A. Dennis Sparger.

The 2024 festival includes a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into pursuing a career in music during a **Free Education Concert** on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Ferguson. The 2023-2024 Bach Society Young Artist award recipients will perform a range of musical styles from musical theatre to classical favorites. Audience members will hear directly from early-career singers about the various paths that led them to pursue a career in music.

The 2024 St. Louis Bach Festival promises to be one we'll remember for years to come. Among concerts celebrating some of Bach's most memorable works, we're also excited to offer unique perspectives into professional music careers with a Free Education Concert and the Young Artist

Showcase. Events like these are an integral part of our goal to remove barriers, allow access and expose young people to classical music,” says Executive Director, Melissa Payton.

The festival continues with the **Young Artist Showcase** on April 28, 2024, at Second Presbyterian Church. The 2023-2024 Bach Society Young Artist award recipients present a free community concert showcasing their talent. The performance, in collaboration with the Coutts Music Series at Second Presbyterian Church, includes a wide selection of music from operatic and oratorio repertoire.

The audience will have an opportunity to sing along with members of the Bach Society Chorus during the **Community Spring Sing** on May 4, 2024, BSSL and local choruses welcome members of the public to sing together accompanied by the Bach Society Orchestra. Participants will sing beloved choral works including Schubert’s *Mass in G Major*, a work composed when he was only 18 years old. This free event takes place at The Church of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois.

Concluding the festival, BSSL will present **The Heart of Bach, Choral Motets and Organ Chorales** on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Peace Lutheran Church. Led by Music Director and Conductor, A. Dennis Sparger, The Bach Society Chorus and Orchestra will perform the motets which have enjoyed an uninterrupted performance history. The performance also includes captivating organ solos, interwoven with audience participation all accompanied by cello and bass.

“At the heart of Bach’s vocal works lies the chorale. He provided his unique harmonization for 371 of these German hymns and included many of them in his motets, cantatas, passions, and oratorios, as well as organ works. Experience all six of Bach’s motets, organ preludes based on chorale melodies, and join us in singing familiar chorales accompanied by a Baroque organ built by St. Louis master organ builder Martin Ott,” says Bach Society Music Director and Conductor, A. Dennis Sparger.

Individuals can purchase tickets for any event through the unique ticketing link on the concert page for each event by going to bachsociety.org/festival.



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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Bach at the Bistro: A Night at the Movies

Individual Members of The Bach Society Chorus

Jazz St. Louis, Saint Louis

Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$25–\$52 with \$10 student tickets available at the door

Brandenburg Concertos

The Bach Society of Saint Louis Orchestra

Salem United Methodist Church, Saint Louis

Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$25–\$52 with \$10 student tickets available at the door

Free Education Concert

The Bach Society Young Artist Award Recipients

First Baptist Ferguson, Saint Louis

Free Admission, Advanced Registration Required
Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 10 a.m.

Young Artist Showcase

The Bach Society Young Artist Award Recipients

Second Presbyterian Church, Saint Louis

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 4 p.m.

Free Admission, Advanced Registration Required

Community Spring Sing

The Bach Society of Saint Louis Chorus and Orchestra

The Church of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 11 a.m.

Free Admission, Advanced Registration Required

The Heart of Bach, Choral Motets and Organ Chorales

The Bach Society of Saint Louis Orchestra

Peace Lutheran Church, Saint Louis

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 3 P.M.

Tickets are \$25–\$52 with \$10 student tickets available at the door

ABOUT THE BACH SOCIETY OF SAINT LOUIS.

The Bach Society of Saint Louis (BSSL) was founded in 1941 and is now in its 83rd season as St. Louis' oldest continuous choral society. BSSL is dedicated to performing [choral works](#) by Johann Sebastian Bach and other classical and contemporary composers. Under the direction of [Dr. A. Dennis Sparger](#), BSSL delivers a varied and exciting season to an ever more diverse public. The organization's mission is to provide stimulating and enriching musical and educational experiences for audiences and performers in the tradition of Johann Sebastian Bach. Each season, BSSL provides free concert tickets, education concerts, and masterclasses to area high school and college students. BSSL has a robust education program that offers free events and support to local teachers and students including the Young Artist Scholarship Program, Bach & Jazz, Finding Your Voice Program and more. Learn more at bachsociety.org.

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