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## THE BACH SOCIETY OF SAINT LOUIS ANNOUNCES 84TH CONCERT SEASON

Performance highlights include a collaboration with St. Louis Cathedral Concerts and the annual Christmas Candlelight Concert

ST. LOUIS (August 2, 2024) – Today, **The Bach Society of Saint Louis (BSSL) Executive Director Melissa Payton** announced the performances for its 84th concert season. The highlights include the opening concert, **Rachmaninoff Vespers**, presented in collaboration with St. Louis Cathedral Concerts; the annual **Christmas Candlelight Concert**, a St. Louis tradition since 1951 at 560 Music Center; **Brahms Requiem**, a powerful concert that evokes a profound sense of peace and reflection; and **Bach's Mass in B minor**, one of the most celebrated works in classical music. Tickets for Rachmaninoff *Vespers* are available online at [bachsociety.org](http://bachsociety.org).

"It's the rich variety in repertoire that excites me most about our upcoming season. From the beautiful and serene a cappella setting of the *Vespers* by Rachmaninoff to the triumphant and consoling sounds of the Brahms *Requiem*, to the magnificent and spiritual *Mass in B minor* by Bach and St. Louis' favorite Christmas Candlelight Concert, this is an incredible season! I hope you'll join me for every single performance!" shared Music Director and Conductor A. Dennis Sparger.

"Our musicians are especially excited about the 2024-25 concert season and we know our audience will be too! This lineup is filled to the brim with so many exciting performances," shared Executive Director Melissa Payton.

The Bach Society opens the season with **Rachmaninoff Vespers** on **Sunday, October 6, 2024**. Held in the awe-inspiring Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, this concert reflects Rachmaninoff's deep spiritual devotion while showcasing intricate harmonies, rich textures and emotional depth. Witness the chorus' stunning display of vocal artistry under the direction of Music Director and Conductor A. Dennis Sparger in this timeless a cappella masterpiece, presented in collaboration with St. Louis Cathedral Concerts. The concert features guest soloists mezzo-soprano Emily Marvosh and tenor John Ramseyer.

The season continues with the **Christmas Candlelight Concert** on **Wednesday, December 18, 2024**, and **Thursday, December 19, 2024**. The Bach Society Chorus and Orchestra will fill the air with joy and festive spirit as they perform timeless classics like "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and

Vivaldi's "Gloria." Under the direction of Music Director and Conductor A. Dennis Sparger, this concert features guest soloists mezzo-soprano Kate Tombaugh and returning to the concert stage soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg. Audiences of all ages are invited to join for one of two festive performances filled with heartwarming music and holiday spirit at the 560 Music Center.

On **Saturday, March 22, 2025**, at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, The Bach Society will share **Brahms Requiem**. Under the direction of Music Director and Conductor A. Dennis Sparger, The Bach Society Chorus and Orchestra will present the touching *A German Requiem*, enhanced by guest soloists soprano Bethany Worrell and bass-baritone David Newman. Seamlessly blending solo voices, chorus and orchestra, the audience will experience a performance that resonates deeply with the human spirit.

"A cornerstone of the choral repertoire, Brahms *Requiem* is always powerful, emotional and so much fun to sing," said Payton. "It's rarely performed in St. Louis, so we encourage our audience to purchase their tickets sooner rather than later."

The final concert of the regular season will be **Bach's Mass in B minor** on **Sunday, April 27, 2025**. Led by Music Director and Conductor A. Dennis Sparger, The Bach Society Chorus and Orchestra will return to First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood to bring the vibrant testament of deep faith to life. Concertgoers will experience one of the most celebrated works in classical music featuring guest soloists soprano Clara Rottsolk, mezzo-soprano Luthien Brackett, tenor Lawrence Jones, and bass-baritone Michael Dean.



[Link to high-quality images](#)

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

***Rachmaninoff Vespers***

**The Bach Society of Saint Louis Chorus and Orchestra**

The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

Sunday, October 6, 2024, 7:30 PM

Tickets on sale now at [bachsociety.org/vespers](https://bachsociety.org/vespers)

***Christmas Candlelight Concert***

**The Bach Society of Saint Louis Chorus and Orchestra**

560 Music Center

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 7:30 PM & Thursday, December 19, 2024, 7:30 PM

Tickets on sale now at [bachsociety.org/christmas](https://bachsociety.org/christmas)

***Brahms Requiem***

**The Bach Society of Saint Louis Chorus and Orchestra**

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 3 PM

***Bach's Mass in B minor***

**The Bach Society of Saint Louis Chorus and Orchestra**

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 3 PM

**ABOUT BACH SOCIETY OF SAINT LOUIS.**

**The Bach Society of Saint Louis (BSSL)** was founded in 1941 and is now in its 84th 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](https://bachsociety.org).

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