



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **The Bach Society of Saint Louis presents the 2025 St. Louis Bach Festival with events across the city**

*Closing its 84th season, BSSL offers a vibrant lineup of concerts and free community events honoring J.S. Bach. in April and May*

**ST. LOUIS, (January 14, 2025)** The Bach Society of Saint Louis (BSSL) will bring its 84th season to a close with a vibrant lineup of concerts and community events during the 2025 St. Louis Bach Festival in April and May. The festival offers something for everyone to enjoy with concerts set across the city. Highlights of the festival include all six of Bach's ***Brandenburg Concertos***, **Bach at the Bistro** and the ***Mass in B Minor***.

The festival begins on Friday, April 11 with a **Free Education Concert** that provides a behind-the-scenes look at pursuing a music career. Students will enjoy an exciting lineup of musical theatre and classical favorites performed by the talented 2024-2025 Bach Society Young Artist award recipients: soprano Rita Schien, mezzo-soprano Calista Goldwasser, alto Kelly Beekman and baritone Jack McFarling. They'll hear directly from these singers about their unique journeys and the experiences that inspired them to follow their passion for music.

"As a former recipient of The Bach Society Young Artist Award, I know firsthand the transformative power of this program. It not only provides young musicians with invaluable performance experience and confidence but also fosters a strong sense of community and opens doors to diverse career paths in the arts," shared Executive Director Melissa Payton. "Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we are able to sustain this vital program year after year. The Young Artist Showcase and Education Concert offer these talented young singers unique opportunities to showcase their artistry and inspire the next generation of music lovers."

The first weekend of the festival continues with a rare opportunity to experience all six of J.S. Bach's ***Brandenburg Concertos*** in one unforgettable afternoon on Saturday, April 12. Among the most beloved works in classical music, each concerto offers a unique mix of technical brilliance, emotional depth and enduring musical beauty. Led by Concertmaster Lenora-Marya Anop, members of The Bach Society Orchestra will share these masterpieces.

On April 27, The Bach Society of Saint Louis will perform a triumphant rendition of J.S. Bach's monumental masterwork ***Mass in B minor***. Led by Music Director and Conductor A. Dennis Sparger, The Bach Society Chorus and Orchestra bring this vibrant testament of deep faith to

life.

“Bach’s six Brandenburg Concertos have been audience favorites for over 300 years. Each is a unique experience and features different solo instruments, often making technical demands on the instrument as well as the player. Concertmaster Lenora-Marya Anop brings all of this to life with members of The Bach Society Orchestra,” shared Sparger.

Experience the magnificence of one of the most celebrated works in classical music. Guest soloists are soprano Clara Rottsoik, praised for her "clear, appealing voice" (The New York Times), mezzo-soprano Luthien Brackett, noted for her "silken voice capable of extraordinary power" (San Diego Union-Tribune), tenor Lawrence Jones, applauded for his "elegance and ardor" (The Boston Globe), and bass-baritone Michael Dean, described as having "a penetrating wake-up call" of a voice (San Jose Mercury News).

“Hearing a performance of Bach’s powerful and moving *Mass in B minor* by the Bethlehem (PA) Bach Choir led William Heyne to establish The Bach Society in St. Louis. His vision that St. Louisans should always be able to hear Bach’s music remains our guiding light. Since its founding in 1941, The Bach Society has performed this masterpiece 27 times and it continues to inspire our listeners today.”

The festival continues with **Bach at the Bistro: Broadway Reimagined** at Jazz St. Louis on May 6. Programmed and directed by Assistant Conductor Stephen Eros, this one-of-a-kind evening features the talented voices of individual Bach Society Chorus members. The audience will enjoy clever mashups and reimagined Broadway hits, blending timeless classics with contemporary favorites. This fun and memorable event offers a fresh perspective on the show tunes.

The 2025 St. Louis Bach Festival will conclude on Saturday, May 10 highlighting the extraordinary talents of the 2024-2025 Bach Society Young Artist award recipients. The **Young Artist Showcase** is packed with a dynamic mix of operatic and oratorio pieces.

Tickets and full details for each event are available at [bachsociety.org/festival](https://bachsociety.org/festival).



[Click here](#) to access high-quality images.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**Education Concert**

**The 2024-2025 Bach Society Young Artist Award Recipients**

First Baptist Ferguson, Saint Louis

Friday, April 11, 2025, 10 AM

Free Admission, Advanced Registration Required

**Brandenburg Concertos**

**The Bach Society of Saint Louis Chamber Orchestra**

Salem United Methodist Church, Saint Louis

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 3 PM

Tickets are \$30–\$52 with \$10 student tickets available at the door

**Bach's Mass in B minor**

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

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, Saint Louis

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 3 PM

Tickets are \$32–\$55 with \$10 student tickets available at the door

### **Bach at the Bistro: Broadway Reimagined**

#### **Individual Members of The Bach Society Chorus**

Jazz St. Louis, Saint Louis

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 6 PM

Tickets are \$52

### **Young Artist Showcase**

#### **The 2024-2025 Bach Society Young Artist Award Recipients**

Saint Margaret of Scotland, Saint Louis

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 2 PM

Free Admission, Advanced Registration Required

### **ABOUT THE 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. 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](http://bachsociety.org).

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