



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Beloved Christmas Candlelight Concert Returns to Powell Hall for The Bach Society of Saint Louis' 85th Season**

*Acclaimed soprano Emily Birsan and the festive Candlelight Processional featured highlights of the concert*

**ST. LOUIS, (November 11, 2025) - The Bach Society of Saint Louis (BSSL)** continues its historic 85th season with the ***Christmas Candlelight Concert*** on **Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Powell Hall.**

“As we celebrate our 85th anniversary season, bringing our beloved Christmas Candlelight Concert back home to Powell Hall is really a dream come true,” said Executive Director Melissa Payton. “The hall’s festive energy and beautiful new look are the perfect backdrop for this magical concert, which has truly become a treasured annual tradition for so many families.”

Since 1951, this beloved St. Louis Tradition has been bringing joy to audiences of all ages. Recognized as one of the "Top 20 Live Christmas Events in North America" by BBC Music Magazine, the concert provides an opportunity to experience the magic of the season and sing carols together. The Bach Society Chorus and Orchestra, under the direction of Music Director and Conductor A. Dennis Sparger, will present John Rutter’s *Magnificat*, a radiant centerpiece for this joyful time of year, along with other holiday favorites.

“Traditional classics are complemented by stunning new settings of traditional carols to create a heartwarming experience that brings peace and goodwill,” said Music Director and Conductor A. Dennis Sparger.

The concert opens with a completely new version of the ancient hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” and a festive setting of “My soul magnifies the Lord,” featuring soprano Emily Birsan, described as “luminous” (The Guardian) and “radiant” (The London Telegraph). Birsan, who has previously collaborated with The Bach Society, has

performed leading roles worldwide and in renowned venues including Carnegie Hall, Lyric Opera, and the BBC Symphony. Guests will also experience an awe-inspiring Candlelight Processional.

“Following the Candlelight Procession are exciting new arrangements of familiar carols such as Away in a Manger, Joy to the World, and Angels We Have Heard on High, as well as traditional audience carols O Come, All Ye Faithful and Hark, the Herald-angels Sing. The evening concludes on a high note with a version of the 12 Days of Christmas with each day represented by a different musical period,” Sparger shared.

Tickets (\$26 to \$157) are available for purchase through The Bach Society of Saint Louis website, [bachsociety.org/christmas](https://bachsociety.org/christmas). To purchase tickets by phone, call the Powell Hall Box Office at 314-534-1700.

This concert is presented by Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. with support from CBIZ, Dr. Richard & Gaylene LaBore and Welsch Heating & Cooling.

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CELEBRATING 85 YEARS

**THE BACH SOCIETY**  
OF SAINT LOUIS

**CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025 | 8 PM  
Music Director and Conductor, A. Dennis Sparger

Click the above image to access press photos.

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

***Christmas Candlelight Concert***  
**The Bach Society of Saint Louis Chorus and Orchestra**

Powell Hall, 718 N Grand Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63103  
Tuesday, December 23, 2025, 8:00 PM

**ABOUT THE BACH SOCIETY OF SAINT LOUIS.**

**The Bach Society of Saint Louis (BSSL)** was founded in 1941 and is now in its 85th 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 is dedicated to supporting local students and teachers through its Finding Your Voice Free Lessons Program and its Young Artist Scholarship Program. Learn more at [bachsociety.org](http://bachsociety.org).

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