



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Bach Society of Saint Louis presents the 2026 St. Louis Bach Festival as part of the historic 85th Anniversary Season

A multi-month celebration of J.S. Bach's enduring legacy featuring intimate performances, community collaborations and free public events across St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, (January 22, 2026) — The Bach Society of Saint Louis is proud to announce the 2026 St. Louis Bach Festival, running from March through May. As a cornerstone of The Society's landmark 85th anniversary season, the festival celebrates the timeless genius of J.S. Bach, bringing together music lovers from across the region. This year's festival highlights the incredible breadth of Bach's influence, from intimate performances to spirited community collaborations and everything in between.

"At its heart, the St. Louis Bach Festival is about bringing people together. This year, we are especially proud of the diversity of our collaborations, which allow us to meet our audience exactly where they are, whether that's through a reflective afternoon of art and music at the St. Louis Artists' Guild or inspiring local students at our free Education Concert in Ferguson," shared Executive Director Melissa Payton. "These partnerships allow us to celebrate Bach's enduring legacy while also ensuring that the joy and inspiration of classical music are accessible to every member of our community."

The festival begins on March 28 with ***The Art of the Concerto*** at Salem United Methodist Church. Under the direction of A. Dennis Sparger, The Bach Society Chamber Orchestra will bring the energy and virtuosity of Baroque chamber music to life through works by J.S. Bach, Telemann and Handel.

"What I love about our chamber orchestra concerts is the intimacy, the closeness of our audience as they experience the virtuosity and expressiveness of our musicians," said Music Director and Conductor A. Dennis Sparger. "This selection of concertos by Bach, Handel, Telemann, and Vivaldi really encapsulates some of the best of the Baroque. I'm especially looking forward to the Triple Concerto by Bach."

The festival also offers a unique educational opportunity, designed for middle and high school students, during the free **Education Concert** on April 17 at First Baptist Church Ferguson. The Bach Society's Young Artists will perform a range of musical tastes from classical to musical theatre favorites, and share how their passion for music continues to shape their lives, on stage

and beyond. Students will walk away inspired to find out for themselves how music contributes to a fulfilling life, no matter their chosen career.

The celebration continues on April 18 with ***Clearly Human: Journey of the body and soul***, a unique collaboration with the St. Louis Artists' Guild. Members of The Bach Society Chorus will perform a musical journey inspired by the *Clearly Human VI* art exhibition, offering a reflective complement to the human figure through sound and sight.

On April 26, the festival invites audiences to St. Peter's Episcopal Church for ***Bach and the Baroque Organ Masters***, a free, collaborative concert with the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. This early music-focused program features the artistry of local organists Sarah Bereza, Matthew Gerhardt and David Sinden, showcasing works by J.S. Bach and those who inspired him.

The following week, the ***Young Artist Showcase*** takes place on May 3 at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, featuring the 2025-2026 Bach Society Young Artist Award recipients. Soprano Rita Schien, Tenor Kevin Neace and Mezzo-Sopranos Calista Goldwasser and Kelly N. Beekman will present a dynamic mix of operatic arias and powerful oratorio pieces during this free concert.

On May 8, ***A Beer with Bach*** at Das Bevo invites the public to raise a glass and sing along with The Bach Society and Beer Choir STL during this lively collaboration.

The intimacy of the festival is showcased on May 9 during ***A Suite Treat*** at the St. Louis Woman's Club featuring cellist Ken Kulosa. Since 1997, Kulosa has established himself as one of the region's premier performers, honored as the Missouri ASTA "Artist of the Year." A renowned specialist in historical performance, he will bring his mastery of the cello to three of Bach's most recognizable suites: the First, Third, and Fifth Suites, accompanied by wine and sweet treats.

The 2026 St. Louis Bach Festival reaches its grand finale on May 17 at Peace Lutheran Church with ***Bach's Magnificat***. This performance pairs J.S. Bach's joyous *Magnificat* with C.P.E. Bach's bold *Magnificat*, marking a triumphant close to the Society's 85th season.

Tickets and full details for each event are available at bachsociety.org/festival.



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

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

The Art of the Concerto

The Bach Society of Saint Louis Chamber Orchestra

Saturday, March 28, 2026, 3 PM

Salem United Methodist Church, Saint Louis

Tickets are \$30–\$55, with \$10 student tickets available at the door

Education Concert

The 2025-2026 Bach Society Young Artist Award Recipients

First Baptist Ferguson, Saint Louis

Friday, April 17, 2026, 10 AM

Free Admission, Advanced Registration Required

Clearly Human: Journey of the body and soul

Presented in collaboration with the St. Louis Artists' Guild

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 3 PM

St. Louis Artists' Guild, Saint Louis

Tickets are \$40

Bach and the Baroque Organ Masters

Presented in collaboration with the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 3 PM

St. Peter's Episcopal, 110 N Warson Rd, St. Louis, MO 63124

Free Admission

Young Artist Showcase

The 2025-2026 Bach Society Young Artist Award Recipients

Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, Saint Louis

Saturday, May 3, 2026, 2 PM

Free Admission, Advanced Registration Required

A Beer with Bach

Presented in collaboration with Beer Choir STL

Friday, May 8, 2026, 7 PM

Das Bevo, Saint Louis

Free Admission

A Suite Treat

Cellist Ken Kulosa

Saturday, May 9, 2026, 2 PM

St. Louis Woman's Club, Saint Louis

Tickets are \$55

Bach's Magnificat

The Bach Society of Saint Louis Chorus and Orchestra

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 3 PM

Peace Lutheran Church, Saint Louis

Tickets are \$32-\$55, 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 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.

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