

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

Contents

Date: 8 June 2023

»BACH for Future«

- I. Schedule for media representatives
 - Schedule on the first day of the festival
 - Lectures and discussions
- II. Press release: The 2023 Leipzig Bachfest at a glance
- III. Short texts
- IV. Statements
 - Dr. Skadi Jennicke, Deputy Mayor for Culture of the City of Leipzig
 - Dr. Harald Langenfeld, President and CEO Sparkasse Leipzig (main sponsor)
 - Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman, President of the Leipzig Bach Archive
 - Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation
 - Andreas Reize, Thomaskantor
 - Lang Lang, Artist of the Leipzig Bachfest
 - Daniel Hope, Artist of the Leipzig Bachfest
 - Prof. Dr. Michael Maul, Artistic Director of the Leipzig Bachfest
 - Jörg Widmann, Composer:
Presentation of Cantata for Soloists, Choir and Orchestra
- V. Presentation of the 2023 Bach Medal to THOMANERCHOR Leipzig
- VI. Leipzig Bach Museum during the Bachfest
- VII. Statistics
- VIII. Services
- IX. Recordings of Bachfest events
- X. 2023 Leipzig Bachfest Press Office
- XI. The Bachfest wishes to thank (list of patrons/sponsors)

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

I. Schedule for media representatives on the first day of the festival

Thursday, 8 June

10am

Bach Museum,
Sommersaal

Press Conference

Panel: Dr. Skadi Jennicke, Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman,
Claus Jürgen Wizisla, Jörg Widmann and
Prof. Dr. Michael Maul

5pm

No 1: St. Thomas'
Church

Opening concert

St. Thomas' Church organist Johannes Lang, soloists,
THOMANERCHOR Leipzig, Leipzig Gewandhaus
Orchestra,
Conducted by: Thomaskantor Andreas Reize

7:15pm approx.:

Altes Rathaus

Reception by the Mayor of Leipzig

Banqueting Hall, Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall)

Please note: admittance for Bachfest press ticket holders only.

8pm:

No 2: St. Nicholas'
Church

Best of the annual cycle of cantatas 1

Works by J. S. Bach
Soloists, choir and orchestra of the
J. S. Bach Foundation of St. Gallen
Conducted by: Rudolf Lutz (presenter)

Accredited journalists admitted.

10pm:

No 3: Schumann House

Bachfest Lounge

DJ Johannes Malfatti
Bachfest Leipzig artists
*A partnership project by the Bachfest, Gewandhaus,
Mendelssohn House and Schumann House*

Accredited journalists admitted.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

I. Schedule for press representatives: lectures and discussions

Monday, 12 June

11:30am:

No 54: Blauer Salon

Leipzig seeks talent – the long road to Thomaskantor of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Lecture by Dr. Michael Maul (with translation)

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

3pm:

No 56: Ariowitsch-Haus

Bach's Passion according to St. Matthew – really a message about »the obstinacy of the Jews«?

Lecture by retired Bishop
Prof. Dr. em. Christoph Kähler

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

Tuesday, 13 June

11:30am:

No 72: Blauer Salon

What Bach found on arrival in Leipzig – the cantorate of St. Thomas' in 1722-23.

Lecture by Dr. Markus Zepf

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

3pm:

No 75: Blauer Salon

Critics' Quartet

Discussion of recordings of J. S. Bach's
Magnificat (BWV 243)

Panel: Dr. Eleonore Büning, Regine Müller, Peter Korfmacher and Prof. Dr. Michael Maul (musicologist and artistic director of the Bachfest).

A partnership project between Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik e. V. and the Bachfest

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

I. Schedule for press representatives: lectures and discussions

Wednesday, June 14

11:30am:

No 88: Blauer Salon

Three candidates for the cantorate, three styles – comparing Bach, Telemann and Graupner

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

3pm:

No 90: Blauer Salon

Bach network in dialogue

Dialogue-format panel discussions based on the latest Bach research (in English), with Michael Marissen, Ruth Tatlow, Yo Tomita, Szymon Paczkowski, Barbara Reul, Andrew Frampton and others.

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

Thursday, 15 June

11:30am:

No 102: Blauer Salon

The concerto around 1720 and its influence on Johann Sebastian Bach

Lecture by Dr. Wolfram Enßlin

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

3pm:

No 104: Blauer Salon

Michael Schneider (Camerata Köln) and Bachfest Artistic Director Prof. Dr. Michael Maul talk about the *Brandenburg Concertos*

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

I. Schedule for press representatives: lectures and discussions

Friday, June 16

11:30am:

No 117: Blauer Salon

BachSprechstunde – a time for talking about Bach

The audience puts the questions, the experts from the Bach Archive Research Department provide the answers.

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

3pm:

No 119: Blauer Salon

Panel discussion

Composed for the Thomanerchor – the motet collections of Schütz, Schein and Bach.

Bachfest artistic director Michael Maul talks with Thomaskantor Andreas Reize

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

Saturday 17 June

10:30am:

No 131: Blauer Salon

Presentation of the 2024 Bachfest

Artistic Director Prof. Dr. Michael Maul presents the 2024 Bachfest.

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

II. Press release

THE 2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST AT A GLANCE

With its programme entitled »BACH for Future«, the 2023 Leipzig Bachfest is commemorating an important anniversary: on the 1st Sunday after Trinity 1723, Bach took up his post as Thomaskantor in Leipzig. The first Sunday of the 2023 Bachfest will mark the tricentenary of this momentous occasion.

During his first year in office, Johann Sebastian Bach presented his audience with an incredibly rich and complex musical cosmos that radiated far into the future and which, at the 2023 Leipzig Bachfest, will be revealed in all its numerous facets, in the original venues, and interpreted by renowned artists. Numerous concerts will feature works that Bach put to paper during his first year of service.

One focus will be on Bach's first Leipzig annual cycle of cantatas. From the 1st Sunday after Trinity 1723 to the Feast of the Trinity 1724, the newly appointed Thomaskantor performed nothing but his own works in the church services at St. Thomas' and St. Nicholas': 63 cantatas in all, 38 of which were new compositions. In the »Best of Annual Cycle 1« series, four top experts on Bach's cantatas – Philippe Herreweghe, Ton Koopman, Hans-Christoph Rademann und Rudolf Lutz – will not only perform their favourite pieces from Bach's first Leipzig annual cycle of cantatas with their own ensembles; they will also explain what they find so fascinating about these pieces and what ostensible or hidden messages they discover in Bach's music.

»BACH for Future« also presents Bach's music in new contexts, with fresh new formats and many surprising adaptations and reinterpretations of well-known works. More than 160 events are scheduled for this festival season in more than 30 venues in and around Leipzig.

The Leipzig Bachfest is funded by the City of Leipzig and the Ministry of Science, Culture and Tourism of the Free State of Saxony. The main sponsor of the Leipzig Bachfest is Sparkasse Leipzig.

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

III. Short texts

Ensembles and conductors

Many of the best-known Bach interpreters will be performing at the Leipzig Bachfest, including the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir led by Ton Koopman, the Bach Collegium Japan led by Masaaki Suzuki, Camerata Köln, Capricornus Consort Basel led by Péter Barczy (violin), the choir and orchestra of the J. S. Bach Foundation in St. Gallen led by Rudolf Lutz, Collegium Vocale Gent led by Philippe Herreweghe, Europa Galante led Fabio Biondi (violin), Gaechinger Cantorey led by Hans-Christoph Rademann, Les Passions de l'Âme led by Meret Lüthi (violin), Musica Fiata and La Capella Ducale led by Roland Wilson, Neues Bachisches Collegium Musicum led by Reinhard Goebel, Solomon's Knot, and Vox Luminis led by Lionel Meunier. Also, besides THOMANERCHOR Leipzig, a »Boys' Choir Summit« will feature the Dresdner Kreuzchor, Knabenchor Hannover and Windsbacher Knabenchor.

Soloists

Performing with the 2023 Leipzig Bachfest ensembles are soloists such as Amarcordplus, Elvira Bill (alto), Hana Blažíková (soprano), Maarten Engeltjes (countertenor), David Erler (countertenor in the alto vocal range), Miriam Feuersinger (soprano), Bach Prize winner Patrick Grahl (tenor), Roberta Invernizzi (soprano), Bach Prize winner Daniel Johannsen (tenor), Benedikt Kristjánsson (tenor), Philipp Lamprecht (percussion), Tilman Lichdi (tenor), Bach Medal laureate Klaus Mertens (bass), Alex Potter (countertenor in the alto vocal range), Bach Prize winner Benno Schachtner (countertenor in the alto vocal range), Stefan Temmingh (recorder), Bach Prize winner Geneviève Tschumi (alto) and Hanna Zumsande (soprano).

Among the performers of **recitals and chamber and organ concerts** you will have a chance to hear pianists Sergei Babayan, Bach Medal laureate Angela Hewitt, Alexander Paley and Bach Prize winner Ragna Schirmer, harpsichordist Pieter Dirksen, lutenist Edin Karamazov, organist Olivier Latry and recorder player Dorothee Oberlinger as well as violinist Leila Schayegh, who will perform together with harpsichordist Andreas Bötticher. Johannes Pramsohler (violin) und Philippe Grisvard (harpsichord) will together perform two concerts of Bach's sonatas for violin and obbligato harpsichord.

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

III. Short texts

THOMANERCHOR and Gewandhaus Orchestra

As is the tradition, Leipzig's own Thomanerchor and Gewandhaus Orchestra will perform the festival's opening concert. Besides works by Bach, they will perform a **commissioned composition by Jörg Widmann** as a pendant to Bach's own inaugural work of 1723. This famous boys' choir will also be singing a programme of motets in St. Thomas' Church on 15 June, can be heard at the »Tribute to Bach« concert on Leipzig's Marktplatz and will provide the musical accompaniment at the church service, based on the liturgy of Bach's time, in St. Thomas' Church on 18 June.

Partnership projects and third-party events

The open-air anniversary gala concert, **Tribute to Bach**, on 9 June will bring leading musicians – including **Lang Lang** and **Daniel Hope** – together on Leipzig's Marktplatz to pay a musical homage to Bach. This open-air Bach event of the year is organised in partnership with Deutsche Grammophon. The concert, produced by Heliodor, will be recorded by Armida Film and broadcast live: by ARTE Concert in German and French-speaking European countries and worldwide for STAGE+ subscribers, the new streaming service of Deutsche Grammophon (stage.plus/Bach300). An edited version of the concert will be broadcast on ARTE on 3 September.

Leipzig's two composer houses, Mendelssohn House and Schumann House, as well as the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the MDR Symphony Orchestra and Leipzig Opera will again be playing a large role in the festival programme with productions of their own.

Bach research and panel discussions at the Bachfest

Leipzig Bach researchers present a wide-ranging academic programme at the Bachfest, with free lectures, pre-concert talks and panel discussions. The central event here is a **Musicology Conference** (15-17 June) on the appointment of the new Thomaskantor in 1723 and the history of the Protestant church cantata around 1720, organised jointly by the Leipzig Bach Archive, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz. You can enjoy another **Critics' Quartet** at this year's festival, this time with a discussion of recordings of J. S. Bach's *Magnificat*, BWV 243.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

III. Short texts

BachStage 2023

BachStage will kick off on Marktplatz at 6pm on 10 June with the programme all about the **1723 competition for the cantorate of St. Thomas'**: Miriam Feuersinger, one of the leading Bach sopranos of our time, and another award-winning musician, recorder player Stefan Temmingh, will be accompanied by Capricornus Consort Basel. The works will be presented by Bachfest's artistic director, Michael Maul. Later in the evening, in **Bach meets Heavy Metal** (10 June, 7:30pm), the stage will rock to the sound of heavy metal band Son of a Bach performing classics such as Bach's famous *Air on a G String* as you've never heard them before. Another highlight on 10 June is the WDR Big Band conducted by Jörg Achim Keller. With their programme, **Goldberg with Big Band**, the ensemble will be building bridges between the Baroque art of variation and modern orchestral jazz (9:15pm).

The second day of BachStage starts with an **open-air church service** featuring the brass ensemble of St. Thomas' Church, Leipzig University Choir and Pauliner Barockensemble conducted by the University music director David Timm (11 June, 10am). **Onde bachiane – Bach waves** is an attempt to investigate the rhythmic elements in Bach's music and amplify its harmonic depths using live electronic media and various percussion instruments. The performers are percussionist Philipp Lamprecht and sound designer Matthias Leboucher (11 June, 7:30pm). The BachStage finale features instrumental classics by Bach to which singer **Noa** – vocally somewhere between theatre, scat and rap – has written texts in English and Hebrew (11 June, 9:15pm).

BachStage 2023 is presented by the Bachfest's main sponsor Sparkasse Leipzig.

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

IV. Statements

Dr. Skadi Jennicke, Deputy Mayor for Culture of the City of Leipzig

»With a festive programme celebrating the tricentenary of the beginning of Johann Sebastian Bach's incumbency as cantor of St. Thomas', in 2023 ›music city‹ Leipzig is honouring a significant event in the history of music. From 1723, as Thomaskantor and the city's *director musices* Bach performed new works with the Thomanerchor almost every week. Exactly 300 years later, we will be celebrating this important anniversary for Leipzig in a befitting way – including at the Leipzig Bachfest together with numerous Bach lovers from all over the world and an official ceremony which for me, as Leipzig's Deputy Mayor for Culture, is a particular source of pride and joy: during the past 300 years, no ensemble has done more to uphold Bach's legacy than ›Bach's own ensemble‹ itself. This is why, at the opening concert of the 2023 Leipzig Bachfest, THOMANERCHOR Leipzig is to be awarded the City of Leipzig Bach Medal!«

Dr. Harald Langenfeld, President and CEO Sparkasse Leipzig (main sponsor and presenting partner of BachStage):

»With a richly diverse programme in authentic venues and outstanding performers, the Bachfest is again attracting music-lovers from all over the world to Leipzig this year. Exactly 300 years after the famous Thomaskantor took up his post, a very special anniversary festival awaits us with musical performances of the very highest quality that are sure to offer unique concert experiences. Sparkasse Leipzig has been a partner of the Bachfest for many years. This is our contribution to keeping the unique musical heritage of that great composer alive and allowing people from all over the world to hear and enjoy it in Leipzig.«

Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman, President of the Leipzig Bach Archive:

»My links to the Leipzig Bach Archive go back more than 30 years: back when I was producing my complete recordings of Bach's cantatas and organ works, I was in constant contact with the institution and my role as president of the Foundation since 2019 fills me with pride and gratitude! It is amazing how continuing research is forever making new findings and scholarship and performance practice go hand in hand in such a unique way. It is a great pleasure for me to be a part of this institution – and also a performer at a Bachfest which will again be bringing the international Bach community together here in Leipzig for eleven days and which in the meantime has attained the top league of international classic music festivals.«

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

Andreas Reize, Thomaskantor

»With the awarding of this year's Bach Medal, THOMANERCHOR Leipzig is receiving an extraordinary and wonderful acknowledgement of its intensive, unstinting and constant labours to cultivate Bach's music. Like many generations before us, the present choristers and myself enjoy the uninterrupted interest and unfailing gratitude of our listeners in our weekly motets and concerts. The works of Johann Sebastian Bach have always been at the centre of the musical activities of the Thomanerchor and its cantors. Whatever the period, the Thomanerchor has always been an important part of the great, worldwide Bach family. For me personally, it is both a great honour and a challenge to perform the works of my predecessor, Johann Sebastian Bach, in their original venues, and in contemporary and at the same time moving performances together with the Thomaner choristers – thus continuing this long tradition.«

Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation

»The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation is delighted that the Leipzig Bachfest is celebrating the 300th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's incumbency with a world premiere. Jörg Widmann has repeatedly proved not only that he is not shy of large-scale historical forms, but also that he has perfect mastery of the particular challenges they represent in terms of compositional technique and counterpoint. The fact that in his new work, Widmann takes up the theme of Bach's inaugural cantata and reminds us of the transience of life is a historically judicious gesture, but also one which, once again, proves the topicality of Bach's works. The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation enthusiastically supports this composition commission by the Leipzig Bachfest.«

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

Lang Lang, Artist of the Leipzig Bachfest

»Of course, Bach is one of the greatest - not only for me as a musician, but for me as a human being. Like most musicians, his music has accompanied me all my life. For decades I studied the Goldberg Variations, took lessons with baroque specialists. In this way I came closer and closer to the work and equally to its creator. Giving a concert with the Goldberg Variations at Bach's place, the Thomaskirche, in 2020 was an incredible experience for me, a concert full of magic. I look forward to coming back to the vibrant city of Leipzig to celebrate 300 years of Bach the Thomaskantor.«

Daniel Hope, Artist of the Leipzig Bachfest

»I am delighted to be performing and presenting the open air concert ›Tribute to Bach‹ in Leipzig on June 9. In the world of music, as far as I am concerned, Bach is the ›Boss! How fitting that Leipzig and the esteemed Thomanerchor and Gewandhausorchester will gather together to pay tribute to the city's most esteemed citizen. Thanks to the ARTE television network, the whole world can enjoy the concert too. Bach's music is both timeless and inspirational. He is the great consoler, and I believe that we need him now more than ever.«

Prof. Dr. Michael Maul, Artistic Director:

»As both an academic and music manager, I never cease to be fascinated by Bach's 300-year-old music: it truly does not age, the history of its reception is ›in flux‹. Where it comes from, what it can tell us today and how it can also shape our future – all these things are to be investigated at the 2023 Bachfest. One focus of this year's festival is Bach's musical debut in Leipzig, his first Leipzig annual cantata cycle. ›BACH for Future‹ also presents Bach's music in new contexts, with fresh new formats and many surprising adaptations and reinterpretations. I am looking forward to eleven days full of shared concert experiences and stimulating conversations – hopefully once again with numerous visitors from near and far.«

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

Jörg Widmann, composer:

Presentation of *Cantata for Soloists, Choir and Orchestra*

(on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the beginning of Johann Sebastian Bach's incumbency as Thomaskantor)

How, after a meditation for bells and bass clarinet, could a cantata in the year 2023 – in tempore belli – begin in any other way than with Matthias Claudius' ›Tis war! 'Tis war!‹ – bloody, pale and wan. O God's angel, oppose it and have your say in it! Profound doubts as to the existence of God are also formulated in movement 3: ›Is there no God?‹, based on the nightmare from Jean Paul's Speech of the dead Christ from the edifice of the world that there is no God. A possibly deceptive intermediary conclusion (›... And that's the end of that!‹) is provided by the setting of the 1920s Brecht poem *Lasst Euch nicht verführen!* (›Do not be led astray‹) as a four-part chorale. This complacent exhortation to enjoy life to the full is interrupted by an angry Old Testament God sternly asking people if that is the comfort on which they build. But in a section leading into a vocal quartet with texts from Timothy and Matthew and, lastly, the famous passage from the Corinthians, a gradually mellowed, New Testament God invokes the power of love. ›While all the powers of good aid and attend us‹, Dietrich Bonhoefer's haunting poem, written in great distress, rises up from the chorus, soloists, organ and orchestra, unfolds through all seven stanzas and finally leads into a celebration of peace (an old but ever-fresh text by Paul Gerhardt) and a Hallelujah. With all its doubts and contradictions. Paul Gerhardt's message is a universal truth: we are the ones who start and pursue war; not God.

»Wir sind und bleiben böse,
Gott ist und bleibet treu,
Hilft, daß sich bei uns löse

Der Krieg und sein Geschrei.«

»We're only evil ever,
God's true continually,
He helpeth to deliver

From war and misery.«

Jörg Widmann, May 2023

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.



2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

V. Presentation of the 2023 Bach Medal to THOMANERCHOR Leipzig

At the opening of the 2023 Leipzig Bachfest on 8 June, the 2023 City of Leipzig Bach Medal will be awarded to THOMANERCHOR Leipzig. The Bach Medal is the highest distinction for music awarded by the City of Leipzig. The Thomanerchor has a history which goes back 800 years and from 1723 to 1750 was led by Johann Sebastian Bach. With regular performances of Bach's cantatas, Passions, oratorios and motets, the ensemble sets international standards. Admirers of the choir and its services to Bach's music have included Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Clara and Robert Schumann.

The distinction is awarded to all present and former choir members. The jury, consisting of the president of the Bach Archive, Ton Koopman, and its director, Professor Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny, Gewandhauskapellmeister Andris Nelsons and the rector of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy University of Music and Theatre in Leipzig, Prof. Gerald Fauth, gave the grounds for their decision: *»No other ensemble has done so much over the past 300 years, and through the most diverse times, to uphold and disseminate Bach's church music as the Thomanerchor. In the tricentenary year of Bach's appointment as cantor, there could not be a more fitting laureate.«*

The Bach Medal of the City of Leipzig will be awarded by the mayor of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung, and the director of the Bach Archive, Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny. At 5pm that evening, the ensemble will perform cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach and premiere a commissioned work for soloists, choir and orchestra by the composer Jörg Widmann, under the direction of the current Thomaskantor, Andreas Reize.

In recognition of their special services to the upholding of Bach's work, the City of Leipzig Bach Medal has previously been awarded to such figures as Sir András Schiff (2022), Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schulze and Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Christoph Wolff (2021), Angela Hewitt (2020), Prof. Dr. h. c. Robert Levin (2018), Masaaki Suzuki (2012), Herbert Blomstedt (2011), Philippe Herreweghe (2010), Nikolaus Harnoncourt † (2007), Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman (2006), Sir John Eliot Gardiner (2005), Helmuth Rilling (2004) and Gustav Leonhardt † (2003).

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

VI. Leipzig Bach Museum during the Bachfest

Leipzig Bach Museum and museum shop

Thomaskirchhof 15/16, 04109 Leipzig

Open daily from 10am to 6pm for the duration of the Bachfest

Public guided tours during the festival period:

Special exhibition: »Clear the Stage for Johann Sebastian Bach«:

Fri 9 June/ Sat 10 June/Mon 12 June/Wed 14 June/Fri 16 June/Sun 18 June,

at: 10am (in German) / 11am (in English)

Meeting place: Leipzig Bach Museum, Thomaskirchhof 16

Tickets: €15

Special exhibition in the Old Town Hall & Bach Museum: »From Bach to Bach«:

Sun 11 June / Tues 13 June / Thurs 15 June / Sat 17 June,

at 10am (in German) / 11am (in English)

Meeting place: Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall), Markt 1, 1st floor

Tickets: €18

Audio guides are available for use free of charge in the Bach Museum. These are available in eleven languages: Chinese, German, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Dutch, Polish, Russian, Spanish.

Guides are also available in simple language, for the blind and partially sighted and in German sign language (video guide).

Current special exhibition:

»Clear the stage for Johann Sebastian Bach, Act 1: Church Music in Praise of God«

When Bach became Thomaskantor in Leipzig in 1723, a new chapter began in the history of music. He went on to shape Leipzig's musical life for 27 years, and it was from here that his works began their triumphal march around the world. But what exactly is the secret of Bach's music – and what makes it so innovative? On the occasion of the anniversary celebrating »Bach300 - 300 Years of Bach in Leipzig«, the Leipzig Bach Museum presents the tripartite special exhibition, »Clear the stage for Johann Sebastian Bach«. The first act began on 21 March – the 338th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's birth – and will continue to shed light on Bach's »Church Music in Praise of God« until 9 July 2023.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

This special exhibition in the Leipzig Bach Museum invites visitors to explore Bach's musical cosmos. It deciphers complex compositions such as the *St. Matthew Passion* and the *Goldberg Variations* in an easy-to-understand way and encourages visitors to engage with Bach's music with a wealth of aural examples, hands-on activities, games and puzzles. Scenes from Bach's life are re-enacted in new 3D audio recordings. The exhibition shows how Bach has inspired composers from Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Gustav Mahler to the Beatles and Lady Gaga, as well as how his works are reflected in modernist visual arts.

The exhibition is a pendant to the Leipzig Museum of City History's new »Bach Parcours« (opened on 1 June 2023), which addresses Bach's achievements as seen through the eyes of his employers in Leipzig. Themed tours of both museums, concerts and workshops for youngsters round out the exhibitions.

The tripartite exhibition series »Clear the Stage for Johann Sebastian Bach« in the Leipzig Bach Museum is funded by Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung together with Sparkasse Leipzig and the Cultural Foundation of the German Federal States, with additional funding from tax revenues on the basis of the budget adopted by the Saxon State Parliament. The main sponsor of the Leipzig Bachfest is Sparkasse Leipzig. The »Bach300 - 300 Years of Bach in Leipzig« project is funded by the City of Leipzig and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

Leipzig Bachfest wishes to thank:



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien



Stadt Leipzig



Sparkasse
Leipzig



Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung
gemeinsam mit der
Sparkasse Leipzig

mit Hilfe des PS-Lotterie-Sparens



LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

VII. Statistics

Events:

160, including 25 partnership projects and 25 third-party events

Venues:

34 in Leipzig, 7 outside Leipzig (Altenburg, Dresden, Köthen, Naumburg, Störmthal, Zeitz and Zschortau)

Participants (events organised by the Bachfest):

A total of 2,503, including:

- 36 choirs with a total of 1,478 singers
- 35 orchestras with a total of 647 musicians
- 188 members of chamber music ensembles
- 129 vocal soloists, 37 conductors
- 32 speakers & presenters
- 16 organists in church services
- 78 instrumental soloists

Advance ticket sales:

- tickets for events organised by the Bachfest were sold in 52 different countries (as of 6 June), including: Australia, Brazil, Chile, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Colombia, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Singapore, South Korea, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United States of America and the People's Republic of China
- Ticket prices: From €3 to €200
- Group tours: 37 tour operators from 12 countries

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

VIII. Services

Info/Ticket tent

Petersstrasse/corner of Markt square: information, tickets and meeting point for Bach lovers.

Opening times: daily from 10am to 8pm for the duration of the Bachfest, on 18 June until 6pm.

Tickets for the Leipzig Bachfest are available at www.bachfestleipzig.de and www.bachfestleipzig.de/tickets. Ticket reservations can also be made by phone on 01806-99 90 00-345 (€0.20 per call from a landline phone in Germany or no more than €0.60 per call from the German mobile phone network, or, from outside Germany, on 0049-1806-99 90 00-345 (local rates apply) Monday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm (CEST).

Tickets are available in Leipzig at Oelsner music shop, Ticketgalerie and the Bach Museum shop.

Box office sales are at the respective venues.

Festival Pass

The Festival Pass (price €77) entitles the holder to a 25% discount on tickets for events organised by the Bachfest.

The pass is not valid for guided tours and concerts organised by third parties.

The Bachfest for waverers: last-minute tickets

Fifteen minutes before the start of the concert, admission costs only €15 for a selection of concerts. (Offer stands only in the case of remaining capacity; available only at box offices; no choice of seats.) Last-minute tickets: No 2 / No 10 / No 20 / No 29 / No 41 / No 47 / No 58 / 63 / No 79 / No 92 / No 93 / No 125 / No 141 / No 142 / No 149 / 159

2024 Leipzig Bachfest:

7-16 June 2024: »CHORal TOTAL«

Start of advance ticket sales: 20 November 2023

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

IX. Recordings and streaming of Bachfest events

Thursday 8 June 2023, Thomaskirche | 5pm

No 1, OPENING CONCERT

The concert will be recorded by MDR KULTUR and broadcast deferred at 8.05pm.* The concert will also be available online for a short period via MDR's *Klassik im Netz*. SR2 Kulturradio, WDR 3 and SWR2 will broadcast the concert at a later date. The concert broadcast will also be available as audio on demand from October as one of the *Deutsche Welle Festival Concerts* on the English-language culture page of Deutsche Welle.

Friday, 9 June 2023, Markt | 7pm

No 12, TRIBUTE TO BACH

The concert, produced by Heliodor, will be recorded by Armida Film and broadcast live: by ARTE Concert in German and French-speaking European countries and worldwide for STAGE+ subscribers, the new streaming service of Deutsche Grammophon (stage.plus/Bach300). An edited version of the concert will be broadcast on ARTE on 3 September.

Saturday 10 June 2023, Thomaskirche | 8pm

No 26, BEST OF THE ANNUAL CYCLE OF CANTATAS 1

The concert will be recorded by Rondeau and livestreamed on the Deutsche Welle YouTube channel DW Classical Music and on the Bach Archive Facebook channel. The audio files will be available on the Deutsche Welle YouTube channel after the concert. Excerpts from the concert will also be available from October as audio on demand as one of the *Deutsche Welle Festival Concerts* on the English-language culture page of Deutsche Welle. MDR KULTUR will broadcast excerpts from the concert at a later date.

Sunday 11 June 2023, Thomaskirche | 8pm

No 45, BEST OF THE ANNUAL CYCLE OF CANTATAS 1

The concert will be recorded by Rondeau and livestreamed on the Deutsche Welle YouTube channel DW Classical Music and on the Bach Archive Facebook channel. The audio files will be available on the Deutsche Welle YouTube channel after the concert. The concert broadcast will also be available from October as audio on demand as one of the *Deutsche Welle Festival Concerts* on the English-language culture page of Deutsche Welle. MDR KULTUR will broadcast excerpts from the concert at a later date.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

Sunday 13 June 2023, Thomaskirche | 8pm

No 79, A MAGNIFICAT AMONG COLLEAGUES

The concert will be recorded by Deutschlandfunk Kultur and broadcast on 15 June at 8.03pm*.

Thursday, 15 June 2023, Haus Leipzig | 5pm

No 105, CONCERTS AVEC PLUSIEURS INSTRUMENTS II

The concert will be recorded by Deutsche Welle (radio). The concert broadcast will also be available from October as audio on demand as one of the *Deutsche Welle Festival Concerts* on the English-language culture page of Deutsche Welle.

Saturday 17 June 2023, Paulinum – Aula und Universitätskirche St. Pauli |

12 noon

No 135, CONCERTS AVEC PLUSIEURS INSTRUMENTS IV

The concert will be recorded by Deutsche Welle (radio). The concert broadcast will also be available from October as audio on demand as one of the *Deutsche Welle Festival Concerts* on the English-language culture page of Deutsche Welle.

Sunday, 18 June 2023, Altes Rathaus | 12 noon

No 158, CLIMATE CONCERT

The concert will be recorded on behalf of the ensemble by Leipzig Media GmbH / Stagefox Entertainment GbR. The recording will additionally be made available after the Bachfest on the Bach Archive's YouTube channel.

Sunday 18 June 2023, Thomaskirche | 6pm

No 160, CLOSING CONCERT

Accentus Music GmbH will record the concert on behalf of the Japanese television company NHK auf.

If you need recordings of the radio productions for press purposes, please contact the persons below:

MDR KULTUR Isabel Roth (isabel.roth@mdr.de, Tel.: Tel.: +49 (0) 341 300 – 8602)

Deutsche Welle Gaby Reucher (gaby.reucher@dw.com, Tel. +49 (0) 228-429 4489)

*Broadcast times subject to change.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

X. Press Office

Press Office during the Bachfest, 8 to 18 June 2023:

Location: Leipzig Bach Archive,
15/16 Thomaskirchhof, 04109 Leipzig (interior courtyard)

Opening times:

8 June: 11am to 8pm

9-17 June: daily 9am-8pm

18 June: 9am-6pm

Phone: +49 341 9137-351 or +49 341 9137-353

Fax: +49 341 9137-125

Email: presse@bach-leipzig.de

Contact: Franziska von Sohl (Press Officer)

Press team: Bernadette Birr, Elena Fedotova, Christina Mamtoundou, Naïma Märker, Lisa Thomae (Bach300 project communications officer) and Max Uhlmann

We are happy to answer questions, organise interviews and provide photographic material.

Registration/access to Bachfest photo service: <https://presse.bach-leipzig.de>

Please note: You can pre-order photos of the opening concert of the 2023 Leipzig Bachfest and/or the awarding of the City of Leipzig Bach Medal free of charge as of now by supplying your email address. The photos will be sent to you on 8 June by 7:30pm at the latest. Photo credits: Bachfest Leipzig/Jens Schlüter

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2023 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

XI. Leipzig Bachfest wishes to thank

bach fest
LEIPZIG **DANKT:**

SEINEM HAUPTFÖRDERER

 **Sparkasse
Leipzig**

SEINEN PRÄSENTATIONSPARTNERN

 American Friends of the
Leipzig Bach Archive

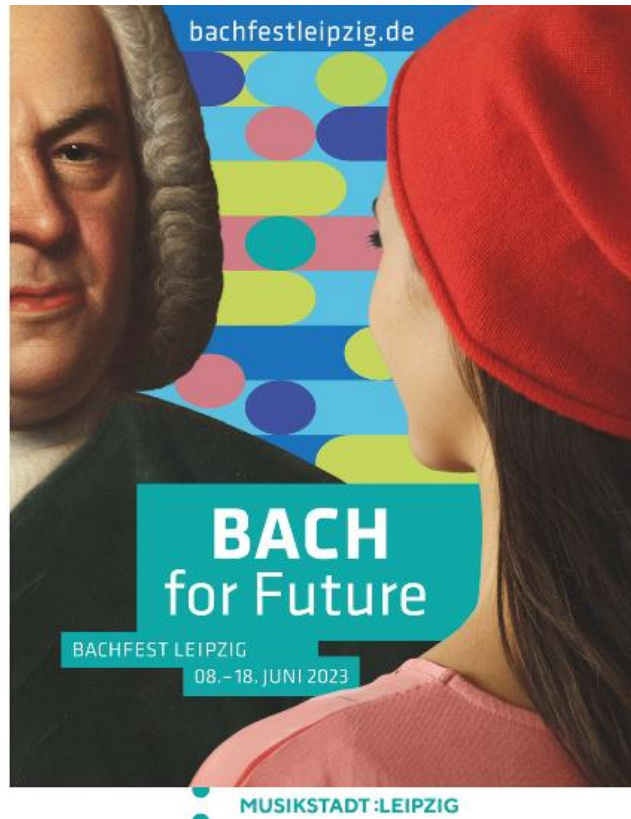
 





SEINEN FÖRDERERN

SEINEN KULTUR- UND MEDIENPARTNERN

DEN ÖFFENTLICHEN FÖRDERERN

ORGANISIERT DURCH



LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Ulrich Wingerter

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.