

A high-angle, wide shot of an orchestra performing in a grand, ornate concert hall. The conductor stands at the front center, facing the ensemble. The musicians are seated in a semi-circle, holding sheet music. The hall features a high, vaulted ceiling with recessed lighting and classical architectural details. The overall atmosphere is formal and professional.

AMERICAN
BACH
SOLOISTS

Jeffrey Thomas - Artistic Director

2011/12 • 23rd Season

2011/12
Our 23rd
Season

AMERICAN
BACH
SOLOISTS

"a flawless ensemble...a level of musical finesse
one rarely encounters"

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"a thoughtful, passionate rendition of great music, attuned to both
the stylistic characteristics of the past and to the
artistic requirements of our own time"

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"The professional American Bach Choir
sets the standard in choral singing."

SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE

The American Bach Soloists engage and inspire audiences through historically informed performances, recordings, and educational programs that emphasize the music of the Baroque, Classical, and Early Romantic eras.

Founded in 1989, the ensemble has achieved its vision of assembling the world's finest vocalists and period-instrument performers to bring this brilliant music to life.

For more than two decades, Jeffrey Thomas has brought thoughtful, meaningful, and informed perspectives to his performances as Artistic and Music Director of the American Bach Soloists. *Fanfare Magazine* proclaimed that "Thomas' direction seems just right, capturing the humanity of the music... there is no higher praise for Bach performance."



CLARENCE E. HELLER
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



THE BERNARD
OSHER
FOUNDATION



ART WORKS.
arts.gov

Welcome to our 23rd Season

Just a few months ago, ABS inaugurated San Francisco's very own Summer Bach Festival: the **American Bach Soloists Festival & Academy**. The programs of masterworks, chamber music, and cantatas were universally praised by media journalists and arts writers, and were heard by sold-out audiences.

Now offering *year-round* concerts of the brilliant and timeless music of J. S. Bach and his contemporaries, featuring hand-picked virtuoso performers, we enter **Our 23rd Season** of concerts that ignite the heart, stimulate the mind, and soothe the soul.

Join us for Bach like you've never heard it performed before: an exciting and rarely performed version of the St. Matthew Passion; Concertos for 2, 3, and even 9 instruments; and the two most essential Bach cantatas paired with the glorious Easter Cantata featuring trumpets, kettledrums, and the masterful singing of the American Bach Choir. Four exceptional vocal soloists will make their ABS debuts. And don't miss our annual sell-out performances of Handel's perennial hit, *Messiah*, in San Francisco's magnificent Grace Cathedral.

And to satisfy your intellectual interests and curiosities, join us for our **free events** that include public master classes, an annual choral workshop, pre-concert "Insights," and collaborations with some of the greatest Northern California arts organizations including the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Cal Performances, the San Francisco Early Music Society, and the Berkeley Festival and Exhibition. See you there!



Jeffrey Thomas
Artistic & Music Director

DECEMBER 2011

SAN FRANCISCO Thursday December 15 2011 7:30 pm
Grace Cathedral

SAN FRANCISCO Friday December 16 2011 7:30 pm
Grace Cathedral

DAVIS Sunday December 18 2011 4:00 pm
UC Davis Mondavi Center

Tickets for *Messiah* at UC Davis must be ordered directly from the Mondavi Center Box Office: (530) 754-ARTS

Handel's MESSIAH

A Bay Area Holiday Tradition

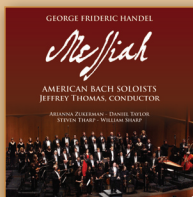
Mary Wilson soprano
Ian Howell countertenor
Charles Blandy tenor (debut)
Jesse Blumberg baritone
American Bach Choir

"Magnificent...Glorious"
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

"For those who treasure *Messiah*,
Thomas' version is revelatory."
BAY AREA REPORTER

Always a sell-out, ABS's performances of Handel's enduring masterwork have garnered critical praise year after year. A stellar quartet of vocal soloists and the superbly polished American Bach Choir join the period instrument specialists of American Bach Soloists under the adroit musical direction of Jeffrey Thomas for one of Northern California's most treasured holiday traditions.

These performances are generously sponsored by Kim & Judith Maxwell.



ABS's *Messiah* on CD

"I doubt the *Messiah* choruses have been sung with greater attention to detail anywhere...the team of soloists is uniformly excellent, each giving an uncommonly beautiful performance."

SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE

americanbach.org/recordings

FEBRUARY 2012

BELVEDERE Friday February 24 2012 8:00 pm
St. Stephen's Church

BERKELEY Saturday February 25 2012 8:00 pm
First Congregational Church

SAN FRANCISCO Sunday February 26 2012 7:00 pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

DAVIS Monday February 27 2012 8:00 pm
Davis Community Church

Bach's ST MATTHEW PASSION

Wesley Rogers tenor (Evangelista)
Joshua Copeland baritone (Christus)
Cecilia Leitner soprano (debut)
Jay Carter countertenor
Danielle Reutter-Harrah alto
Derek Chester & Aaron Sheehan tenors
Jesse Blumberg & Robert Stafford baritones
American Bach Choir
Pacific Boychoir

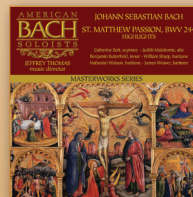


"propelled by the riveting performance of
tenor Wesley Rogers as the Evangelist"
SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE

"the most compelling *Matthew Passion* that I
have heard" EARLY MUSIC REVIEW

In the rarely performed 1740s manuscript version of the world's greatest passion setting, the dramatic narrative is heightened by Bach's intensely scored scenes that render the immediacy of the passion story in finely honed detail. These performances feature the use of one of Bach's favorite keyboard instruments, the *Lautenwerk* or lute-harpsichord.

These performances are generously sponsored by Hugh Davies & Kaneez Munjee.



ABS's *St. Matthew Passion* on CD
"a profoundly moving experience"

FANFARE

"The cleanness and technical polish of the singing and playing are exemplary." AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE

americanbach.org/recordings



MARCH/APRIL 2012

Bach's DOUBLE CONCERTOS

John Abberger oboe
Andrew Fouts & Katherine Kyme violins
Corey Jamason & Leon Schelhase harpsichords

Concerto for Oboe & Violin in C Minor
Concerto for 2 Violins in D Minor
Concerto for 2 Harpsichords in C Major
Concerto for 3 Violins in D Major
Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major

"It's the high level of ensemble throughout ABS...that can permit an individual [soloists'] contribution its brilliance in turn."

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

Bach composed nearly all of his instrumental concertos for the lavish court of Cöthen—where he spent the happiest years of his life—or for the public concerts produced by Leipzig's Collegium Musicum. ABS Young Artist Competition winner Andrew Fouts and Goldberg Prize winner Leon Schelhase join a dynamic lineup of soloists—including virtuoso oboist John Abberger—for this program of concertos for multiple instruments, including Bach's famous Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, a triple-triple romp for 9 soloists!

These performances are generously sponsored by Jan Goldberg. The Davis performance is sponsored by Jim & Janet Steelquist.

BELVEDERE	Friday March 30 2012 8:00 pm St. Stephen's Church
BERKELEY	Saturday March 31 2012 8:00 pm First Congregational Church
SAN FRANCISCO	Sunday April 1 2012 7:00 pm St. Mark's Lutheran Church
DAVIS	Monday April 2 2012 8:00 pm Davis Community Church



MAY 2012

Bach's EASTER ORATORIO & FAVORITE CANTATAS

Kathryn Mueller soprano (debut)
Judith Malafronte alto
Jon Lee Keenan tenor (debut)
Mischa Bouvier baritone
American Bach Choir

Christ lag in Todesbanden • CANTATA 4
Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott • CANTATA 80
Kommt, eilet und laufet • EASTER ORATORIO

"ABS promises an exciting exploration of a rich pocket of the baroque literature... The spontaneity of the musicians, who manifestly enjoy making this music, is palpable and infectious." *SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER*

Easter Day celebrations at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig were grand and glorious affairs. Bach created a work that brings the characters of Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Peter, and John to the liturgical stage, sparing no expense in its lavish orchestration that includes the brilliance of trumpets and timpani, and the sweet strains of pastoral recorders. One of Bach's earliest cantatas is paired with the quintessentially noble "A Mighty Fortress."

These performances are generously sponsored by Dan & Lee Drake.

BELVEDERE	Friday May 4 2012 8:00 pm St. Stephen's Church
BERKELEY	Saturday May 5 2012 8:00 pm First Congregational Church
SAN FRANCISCO	Sunday May 6 2012 7:00 pm St. Mark's Lutheran Church
DAVIS	Monday May 7 2012 8:00 pm Davis Community Church



ABS's Brandenburg Concertos on CD
"Thomas united enlightened historical performance practice with native musical intelligence."

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

americanbach.org/recordings



ABS's Cantatas 4 & 80 on CD
"a wealth of effective stylistic ideas... both stylistically apposite and emotionally satisfying" *GRAMOPHONE*
americanbach.org/recordings

JULY 12 THROUGH 22, 2012
AT THE
SAN FRANCISCO
CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

AMERICAN
BACH
SOLOISTS
FESTIVAL
& ACADEMY

SAN FRANCISCO'S SUMMER BACH FESTIVAL

Masterworks Series

Annual performances of Bach's Mass in B Minor and concert performances of selected works from Baroque oratorio and opera. Jeffrey Thomas conducts the American Bach Soloists Academy Orchestra and soloists, joined by the American Bach Choir and Festival Chorus.

Chamber Series

Virtuoso performances by the American Bach Soloists of both favorite and lesser-known masterpieces by Bach and his contemporaries.

Academy Series

"Academy-in-Action" performances featuring ABS Academy participants—the next generation of early music virtuosi—as they perform Bach cantatas conducted by Academy co-director Corey Jamason, and chamber music by masters of the Baroque.

Lecture Series

Join the students of the American Bach Soloists Academy for a series of enlightening and informative public lectures presented by the Academy faculty. (Free)

Master Class Series

The ABS Academy opens its doors to the public to witness the artistic transformations that make Master Classes so tremendously exciting. You'll take with you knowledge and insights usually known only to performers and their master teachers. (Free)



Highlights of our upcoming 2012 Festival...

Bach's Mass in B Minor

Rameau's *Pygmalion*

Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*

TICKETS FOR THE 2012 FESTIVAL & ACADEMY
GO ON SALE JANUARY 1ST.

all events at the
San Francisco Conservatory of Music

music

FALL FREE FOR ALL!

Join us for our *free* performance on the campus of UC Berkeley when the American Bach Soloists perform with flutist Janet See and soprano Christine Brandes in an all-Bach program:

Non sa che sia dolore • CANTATA 209
Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B Minor

Sunday September 25 2011 3:00 pm
Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley



FREE ANNUAL CHORAL WORKSHOPS



Each year, ABS presents a Choral Workshop designed specifically for experienced choral singers. Under the leadership of ABS Artistic Director Jeffrey Thomas, historically informed performance practice and aesthetics regarding Baroque vocal technique, phrasing, tempos, choral balance, and rhetoric are examined and cultivated in a musically

enlightening and enriching event. The workshop is provided completely free of charge, but space is limited so early registration is encouraged.

Saturday January 28 2012 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

For more information, please visit:
americanbach.org/workshop

FREE TICKETS FOR MUSIC EDUCATORS

All K-12 music educators are invited to attend one of our concerts free of charge in exchange for their input regarding our educational programs. And each educator may purchase one additional companion ticket at 50% off.

For more information, please call (415) 621-7900 or go to:
americanbach.org/educators

FREE MASTER CLASSES

ABS will present three Master Classes in collaboration with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, during our 2011-2012 Season. All Master Classes are free and open to the public. No tickets or advance reservations are required.

Jeffrey Thomas conductor
Monday January 30 2012 7:30 pm

John Abberger oboe
Monday March 26 2012 7:30 pm

Tanya Tomkins violoncello
Monday April 9 2012 7:30 pm

San Francisco Conservatory of Music
50 Oak Street at Van Ness
San Francisco CA 94102



INSIGHTS

Learn more about the programs! One hour prior to each performance from February through May, enjoy a free and informative lecture given by ABS musicians and guest luminaries.

Steven Lehning
February 2012
St. Matthew Passion

Corey Jamason
March/April 2012
Double Concertos

Debra Nagy
May 2012
Easter Oratorio & Cantatas



ORDER TODAY and SAVE

ABS Subscribers receive the greatest discounts and exclusive perks.

- **Great Seats at Excellent Performances** – Subscribers are guaranteed the best seats in the house year after year!
- **Financial Savings** – Subscribers receive an average discount of more than 15% off individual ticket prices, and are *never* charged a handling fee regardless of how orders are placed.
- **Free Ticket Exchange and Replacement** – Only subscribers can exchange their tickets for another concert date and location.
- **Discounts for family and friends** – Only subscribers can purchase additional tickets for family and friends at the same discounted rate. Please note that in order to take advantage of these special prices you must order those discounted tickets now, along with your subscription order, by using the order form or by calling our office at (415) 621-7900 (not available online).

Advance purchasers who place their orders at least 48 hours in advance receive discounts, too!

- Order online at americanbach.org/tickets and get **automatic discounts** from full prices at the door.
- We never charge any online fees...*no per ticket charges and no delivery charges for advance online orders!*
- Choose your seats from online seating maps and get the tickets that you want, where you want them.

Tickets may be available at the door for some performances. But why pay full price or ticketing fees? Order in advance **online** to save!

ORDER TODAY for the Best Savings and the Best Seats.

PLEASE INVEST IN GREAT MUSIC

Ticket sales cover **less than half** the cost of bringing American Bach Soloists performances and educational programs to you and your community.

- **Won't you please consider including a tax-deductible donation to help us bridge the gap?** All ABS donors receive special benefits. For more information, please call (415) 621-7900 or visit: americanbach.org/support.

Thank you!

2011/12 SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's easy to become part of the ABS Family of Subscribers...



- **USE THIS ORDER FORM** – Indicate the venue/city for your concerts and let us know if you wish to add *Messiah* in Grace Cathedral. Mail to the address below or FAX to (415) 621-7920
- **ORDER ONLINE** – americanbach.org/subscribe
- **BY PHONE** – We can take your call Monday through Friday between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. Call (415) 621-7900.

1

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

Email _____

2

SUBSCRIPTION SERIES prices reflect a 15% discount	Section A Qty. / Price	Section B Qty. / Price	Section C Qty. / Price	Total
Four Concerts (includes MESSIAH)	x \$189	x \$129	x \$68	=
Three Concerts (no MESSIAH)	x \$129	x \$90	x \$51	=
ADDITIONAL SINGLE TICKETS only with subscriptions	Section A	Section B	Section C	Total
Messiah in Grace Cathedral	x \$60	x \$39	x \$17	=
All Others	x \$43	x \$30	x \$17	=
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here to request balcony seating			SUBTOTAL FOR TICKETS	=

SELECT PERFORMANCE DATES & VENUES
Indicate # of seats next to each applicable date

Messiah	_____ 12/15 Grace SF	_____ 12/16 Grace SF		
St. Matthew Passion	_____ 2/24 Belvedere	_____ 2/25 Berkeley	_____ 2/26 SF	_____ 2/27 Davis
Double Concertos	_____ 3/30 Belvedere	_____ 3/31 Berkeley	_____ 4/1 SF	_____ 4/2 Davis
Oratorio/Cantatas	_____ 5/4 Belvedere	_____ 5/5 Berkeley	_____ 5/6 SF	_____ 5/7 Davis

3

MAIL American Bach Soloists	TICKETS from above	=
44 Page Street, Suite 504	Tax-Deductible Contribution	+
San Francisco CA 94102-5973	No Handling Charge	+ \$0.00
	TOTAL PAYMENT	=

Check enclosed and made payable to American Bach Soloists

Charge my Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card # _____ Exp. MONTH / YEAR _____



2011/12 SINGLE TICKETS

Order in advance to save!

- ONLINE** - americanbach.org
No per ticket and delivery charges (online only)
Choose your exact seat locations through interactive seating charts.
- BY MAIL OR FAX**
Less control over specific seats.
Simply complete the form below. Three easy steps...
- BY PHONE** - call (415) 621-7900 Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.
For *Messiah* in the UC Davis Mondavi Center call (530) 754-ARTS.
- Please note that ticket prices are higher at the door.



1

INFO

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

Email _____

2

CHOICES

Messiah		Section A	Section B	Section C	Total
Choose date		\$72/\$65*	\$47/\$42*	\$20/\$18*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thu 12/15	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri 12/16	QUANTITY X PRICE	QUANTITY X PRICE	QUANTITY X PRICE	=
February through May	Balcony?	Section A	Section B	Section C	Total
Indicate date	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$53/\$48*	\$38/\$34*	\$20/\$18*	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	QUANTITY X PRICE	QUANTITY X PRICE	QUANTITY X PRICE	=
	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	x	x	=
	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	x	x	=
	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	x	x	=

3

PAYMENT

* Lower price is for seniors over 65, students with ID, and children.

SUBTOTAL FOR TICKETS = _____

Tax-Deductible Contribution + _____

(order ONLINE for no handling charge: americanbach.org) Handling Charge + \$4.00

TOTAL PAYMENT = _____

Check enclosed and made payable to American Bach Soloists

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Card # _____ Exp. MONTH / YEAR _____

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San Francisco CA 94102-5973

PHONE (415) 621-7900
FAX (415) 621-7920
EMAIL info@americanbach.org

SEASON-AT-A-GLANCE

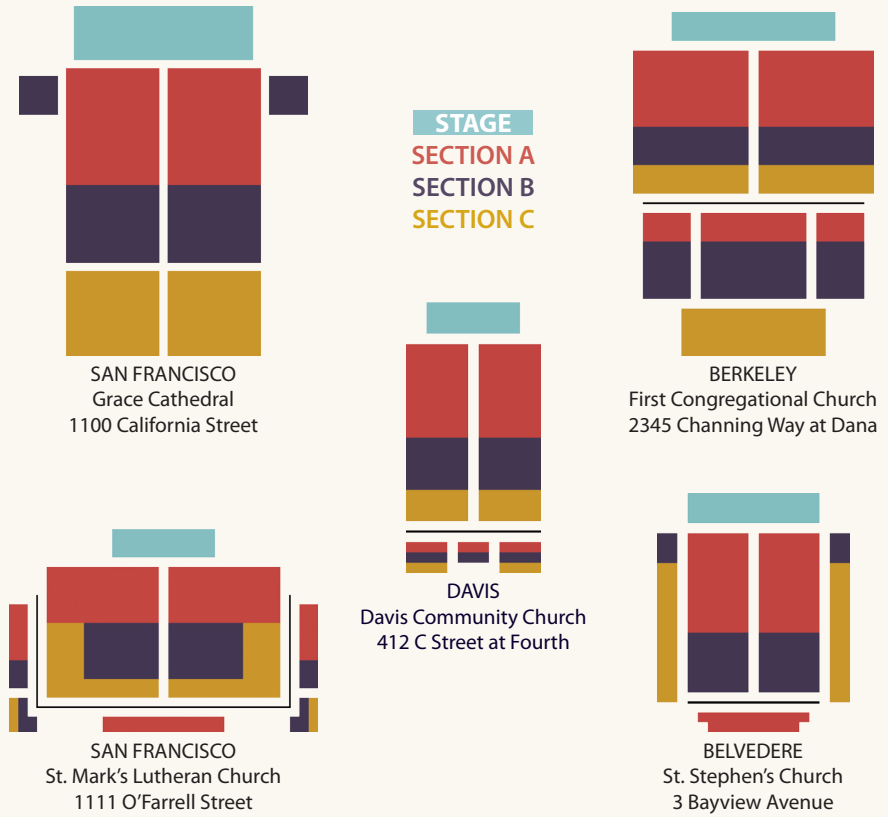
	BELVEDERE	BERKELEY	SAN FRANCISCO	DAVIS
Handel's Messiah			Thu Dec 15 Fri Dec 16 7:30 pm	Sun Dec 18 4:00 pm Call (530) 754-ARTS
St. Matthew Passion	Fri Feb 24 8:00 pm	Sat Feb 25 8:00 pm	Sun Feb 26 7:00 pm	Mon Feb 27 8:00 pm
Double Concertos Brandenburg 3	Fri Mar 30 8:00 pm	Sat Mar 31 8:00 pm	Sun Apr 1 7:00 pm	Mon Apr 2 8:00 pm
Easter Oratorio Cantatas	Fri May 4 8:00 pm	Sat May 5 8:00 pm	Sun May 6 7:00 pm	Mon May 7 8:00 pm

All sales are final. Programs and artists are subject to change.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Gene Kosoy, with additional photos by Jacque Brund, Shelby Lewis, Matthew Washburn, and others.

CONCERT VENUES AND SEATING

- All seats are reserved** except Section C in St. Stephen's Church (Belvedere), which includes some seats with partially obstructed views.
- Balcony seating** is not available in Grace Cathedral or sections B and C in Belvedere. To request balcony seating, please check the box on the order form.



For more venue information, including seating diagrams, maps, and directions, please visit:
americanbach.org/venues



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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-5973

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2011/12

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“breathtaking stylistic fervor”

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