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The American Bach Soloists
Jeffrey Thomas, Artistic Director

announce the



SAN FRANCISCO'S SUMMER BACH FESTIVAL
JULY 15 – 23, 2011

This summer, Bay Area early music specialists **American Bach Soloists** (ABS) will inaugurate an annual **Bach Festival & Academy**, the world's newest, in San Francisco from July 15 through 23. Building on the 20-year foundation of its acclaimed concert series and recording catalog, American Bach Soloists has expanded its summer programming to present a host of offerings, including chamber music performances, public lectures, and colloquia. Members of the Academy—the young artists component of the Festival—are showcased in special cantata and chamber music concerts as well as public master classes with the Academy faculty. The festival culminates when the artists of American Bach Soloists join forces with Academy participants and Music Director Jeffrey Thomas for annual performances of Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and a major work from the operatic or oratorio literature.

The Bach Festival will be held in the splendid facilities of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music at 50 Oak Street. With its founding in the Civic Center's Performing Arts hub, the Festival's artistic mandate of historically informed performance practice is realized along with those of the traditional, neighboring institutions: the Symphony, Opera, and the Ballet of San Francisco. As the world's newest Bach Festival, and the first of its kind in San Francisco, the American Bach Soloists Festival & Academy takes its place alongside the other great Bach Festivals held in Carmel CA, Eugene OR, and Bethlehem PA, and summer music festivals such as the Aspen Music Festival, the Marlboro School and Festival, and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival.

Last summer, the American Bach Soloists founded its **Academy**, North America's newest annual professional training program in historically informed performance practice. Drawing on its distinguished roster of performers, the American Bach Soloists Academy offers conservatory-level students and emerging professionals the opportunity to study and perform Baroque music in a multi-disciplinary learning environment. In addition to in-depth coaching and technical studies with masters of their particular instruments, instrumentalists and singers work, rehearse, and perform with all faculty, thereby gaining the additional perspectives of seasoned professional artists from a variety of disciplines.

With its successful initiation last year, the Academy is now reconceived as a rich strand in the Festival's larger fabric. And, in an echo of the organization's origins, which brought artists together to perform Bach cantatas, the Academy-in-Action Series features the next generation of early music specialists performing cantatas and chamber music under the leadership of Academy co-director Corey Jamason.

The **American Bach Soloists Festival** is characterized by a wide range of diverse but interlocking activities. The Chamber Series concerts on July 15 and 16 showcase the American Bach Soloists in performances of favorite and lesser-known works by Bach. For the Master Class Series (July 18 through 22) the ABS Academy opens its doors to the public to witness the mentorship and artistic growth of young performers at work with their teachers. A Lecture Series (July 18 through 22) and Public Colloquia on July 16 provide free and informative opportunities for public education and discussion on a host of subjects.

The festival reaches its zenith in the Masterworks Series, annual performances of special works carefully selected from the Baroque repertoire. Capping the opening and closing weekends of the Festival on July 17 and 23, Thomas conducts members of American Bach Soloists with Academy soloists and orchestra in performances of J.S. Bach's *Mass in B Minor*. This magisterial summation of baroque art is a fitting choice to anchor the annual performance calendar in future years of the summer Festival. The Masterworks series also includes an annual production from the operatic or oratorio literature. For its inaugural presentation, the Festival presents G.F. Handel's *Ariodante*, a gripping story of passion, deception, jealousy, and the triumph of faith and love, vividly rendered by Handel's colorful music.

Music Director Jeffrey Thomas sees the summer Bach Festival as part of a vital national heritage. "As a teenager I was fortunate to live just a few miles from the great Bethlehem Bach Festival, presented annually by the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, the oldest in the United States. I remember the

powerful feelings of excitement and anticipation that all who attended those performances experienced. The tradition of annual Bach festivals is now nearly two centuries old, and the cities that host them enjoy a status of celebrity and rank that is cherished by their followers. San Francisco and the entire Bay Area is distinguished by a number of fine early music organizations and we—the American Bach Soloists—are thrilled to focus our energies on this important and valuable achievement: San Francisco's own summer Bach Festival.”

In founding such a festival with a training academy in the city center, American Bach Soloists solidify an enduring legacy in the historical performance movement, whose national significance in recent decades has been spurred on in no small part by the passionate commitment of musicians, listeners, and supporters in the San Francisco Bay Area. A rousing finale to its annual concert series from December to May, the Festival lends momentum to ABS events throughout the year and strengthens the organization’s presence in the Bay Area’s performing arts scene.

The backbone of the Festival & Academy is to be found in the outstanding roster of the American Bach Soloists, having assembled from its own ranks a first-rate set of faculty, teachers, and coaches. In addition to founding Artistic Director Jeffrey Thomas, who co-directs the Academy with keyboardist Corey Jamason, the Festival features string players Elizabeth Blumenstock and Robert Mealy, violin; Katherine Kyme, viola; Tanya Tomkins and Elisabeth Reed, violoncellos and viola da gamba; and Steven Lehning, violone. Winds and brass are represented by Sandra Miller, flute; Debra Nagy, oboe and recorder; and John Thiessen, trumpet. Baritone Max van Egmond, alto Judith Malafronte, and soprano Yulia Van Doren round out the vocal artist roster.

The **American Bach Soloists Festival** kicks off with an opening night Gala on Friday, July 15 at 5:30pm, and extends through Saturday, July 23. The Festival features a number of free events, including lectures, colloquia, and master classes. Admission to Masterworks, Chamber, and Academy Series performances range from \$8.50 to \$50. Tickets may be purchased online at americanbach.org or by calling (415) 621-7900. Three subscription packages—Masterworks and Chamber Series, Academy Series, and an all-inclusive Festival Pass—are available. All events take place at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco, 94102, near the intersection of Van Ness and Market Streets, conveniently located near the Civic Center BART and the Van Ness Muni stations. For more information, visit sfbachfestival.org.

Schedule of Events

(programs subject to change)

All events (except the Opening Night Gala) take place at the
San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco CA 94102

FRIDAY JULY 15

5:00 p.m. Opening Night Gala Dinner at Restaurant
Paul K

8:00 p.m. **Chamber Series - Music by J. S. Bach**

- Sonata in E Minor for Violin and Basso continuo
- Suite VI in D Major for Unaccompanied 'Cello
- Sonata in G Minor for Oboe and Harpsichord
- Brandenburg Concerto V in D Major

SATURDAY JULY 16

2:30 p.m. Public Colloquia *

- **"Early Music: Making it Happen!"**

8:00 p.m. Chamber Series - **Music by J. S. Bach**

- Concerto for Oboe in G Minor
- Arias from Cantatas
- Sonata III in E Major for Flute and Basso continuo
- Sonata II in A Minor for Unaccompanied Violin
- *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen*

SUNDAY JULY 17

2:00 p.m. Masterworks Series

- **Bach: *Mass in B Minor***

MONDAY JULY 18

2:30 p.m. Master Class Series: Harpsichord *

5:00 p.m. Lecture Series: Steven Lehning on Bach
Cantatas *

8:00 p.m. Academy Series

- **Bach Cantatas and works by Baroque masters**

TUESDAY JULY 19

2:30 p.m. Master Class Series: Violin *

5:00 p.m. Lecture Series: Judith Malafronte "Pop
Tunes in the Pulpit" *

8:00 p.m. Academy Series

- **Bach Cantatas and works by Baroque masters**

WEDNESDAY JULY 20

2:30 p.m. Master Class Series: Voice *

5:00 p.m. Lecture Series: Debra Nagy "Leipzig's
Collegium Musicum" *

8:00 p.m. Academy Series

- **Bach Cantatas and works by Baroque masters**

THURSDAY JULY 21

2:30 p.m. Master Class Series: Violoncello/Viola da
gamba/Violone *

5:00 p.m. Lecture Series: John Thiessen "Bach's
Trumpet" *

FRIDAY JULY 22

2:30 p.m. Master Class Series: Winds & Brass *

5:00 p.m. Lecture Series: Max van Egmond "Bach circa
1960" *

7:00 p.m. Masterworks Series

- **Handel: *Ariodante***

SATURDAY JULY 23

5:00 p.m. Lecture Series: Jeffrey Thomas on Bach's
Mass in B Minor *

8:00 p.m. Masterworks Series

- **Bach: *Mass in B Minor***

Single Tickets (adult/senior, child, student with ID):

Masterworks \$45/\$41, \$35/\$32, \$25/\$23; Chamber \$40/\$36, \$30/\$27, \$20/\$18; Academy \$10

Subscription Series - 15% discount:

Festival Pass (7 concerts) \$168, \$134, \$100

Masterworks/Chamber (4 concerts) \$144, \$110, \$76

Academy (3 concerts) \$24

* Public Colloquia, Master Classes, and Lectures are free events.

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