

“  
*About 1725  
- inspiration  
for today*  
”

# BACHFEST 2025

30 OCTOBER - 15 NOVEMBER 2025



[www.bachlive.co.uk](http://www.bachlive.co.uk)

## From the Artistic Director

By 1725 Bach was settled into his post as the city of Leipzig's Cantor and, having finished his second cycle of cantatas, was into his third. His music was performed in either the Thomaskirche or Nikolaikirche, the city's main churches. Bach was also responsible for music in both the New Church and St. Peter's church. The post was a tall order but what the genius composer delivered still resonates today and his music adds a precious dimension to peoples' lives.

Bach also knew how to capitalise on his city's assets and developments, timing the publication of some works including *Clavierübung III*, at the 1739 Leipzig Fair for example, hoping no doubt to attract some of the vast crowd of visitors that packed the city. The Bach household bustled with visitors too, a lifestyle not unfamiliar today- a thrilling prospect.

It is 300 years ago this year that Bach performed the second version of his beloved *Johannes-Passion*. We shall open our own musical offering inspired by that same 1725 performance. We also create a platform for today's generation of emerging solo singers for this and the cantata concerts that follow.

Our collaboration with the British German Association enables us to cast the audience net wider and our guest is the Artistic Director of the Leipzig Bach Festival, Prof. Michael Maul, who will tell us more about how his work builds on the rich musical heritage at Leipzig with which he is entrusted.

Come and enjoy some stellar Bach with us.



Margaret Steinitz  
Artist Director, London Bach Society



# Johannes-Passion BWV 245.2

**Joh. Seb Bach** *First performed Leipzig, Good Friday 1725*



Thursday 30 October at 7.00pm (ends 9.15pm)



St. Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield, EC1 (St. Paul's or Barbican tube)

- Sebastian Hill *Evangelist*
- Florian Störtz *Christus*
- Bachfest Consort of Voices
- Steinitz Bach Players
- Rodolfo Richter *Director*

Much has been written in recent years about the whys and wherefores of Bach's great Passion according to St John, the first and most familiar version performed on Good Friday 7 April 1724.

Was Bach satisfied with it or was it pressure of work around Passiontide the following year that inspired him to look again, revise and create what became his second version first performed on Good Friday 30 March 1725. Come and judge for yourselves. We may even have a chorale or two for you to sing.



Sebastian Hill



Rodolfo Richter *Director*

## Tickets

**Tickets: £30, £25, £20 £15** (*All unreserved. Available from 10 September*)

**Bach Club Tickets: FREE** (*For 18-30s*)



**01883 717 372** (*with credit/debit card*)



**www.bachlive.co.uk**



**Or at the door from 6.15pm**



# Celebrating Bach: An evening of British-German Musical Heritage



**Tuesday 4 November at 7.00pm (ends 9.00pm)**



**St George's Church, Hanover Square W1 (Oxford Circus tube)**

- **Florian Störtz** *Baritone*
- **Professor Dr Michael Maul**  
Artistic Director, Leipzig Bachfest

A special to mark the 300th anniversary of Bach's Johannes-Passion, the second cycle of church cantatas, Bach's 275th Anniversary (1750) St. George's Hanover Square Foundation 300th (1725). Today is also the anniversary of Mendelssohn's death at Leipzig in 1847.



St George's Hanover Square

An invitation to join with the British-German Association for an event in the London Bach Society's 2025 Bachfest is too good to miss, and to acknowledge together the musical anniversaries that fall this year, is a truly mouthwatering prospect. St. George's Church Hanover Square W1 where the composer Handel was a parishioner is marking the 300th anniversary of the foundation. So, we shall be enveloped in a rich musical heritage and make new friends.

## STOP PRESS

### **Mayfair Organ Concerts** **Laura Schlappa (Munich)**

**Tuesday 4 November at 1.10pm**

Programme includes works by  
Bach and Mendelssohn

St George's Hanover Square W1  
Admission Free with Retiring Collection

We have invited Prof. Dr Michael Maul, Artistic Director of the Leipzig Bachfest, to deliver the address complete with Q and A, and the recital surrounding will be a new programme that includes music by Bach and Brahms devised by the young prizewinning German Baritone Florian Störtz. All are very welcome. We are promised a lively evening.

## Tickets

**Tickets: £25.00** (*BGA Members, LBS and General Public*)

**U25: £15.00** (*At the door with ID*)

- ☎ **01883 717 372** (*with credit/debit card*)
- 🌐 **[www.bachlive.co.uk/www.britishgermanassociation.org/Eventbrite](http://www.bachlive.co.uk/www.britishgermanassociation.org/Eventbrite)**
- 🎫 **Or at the door from 6.15pm**



**British-German  
Association**



# London Bach Society's Foundation Day

## 7 November 1946



Friday 7 November at 7.00pm (ends c.8.30pm)



St. Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield, EC1 (St. Paul's or Barbican tube)

- Bachfest Consort of Voices
- Steinitz Bach Players
- Rodolfo Richter *Director and solo violin*

We return to the historic setting of St. Bartholomew-the-Great for the first of two cantata concerts that reflect the Festival theme and one of the society's musical priorities – Bach's corpus of church cantatas. BWV 168 is from the third cycle, and BWV 42 is the first cantata performed at Leipzig after second version of Johannes-Passion. It is the only one in the second cycle of cantatas to begin with an extended Sinfonia. Magic!

In the church year, Bach cantata cycles are from the first Sunday after Trinity to Trinity Sunday.



Rodolfo Richter *Director*

**Cantata "Tue Rechnung! Donnerwort" BWV 168**  
*9th Sunday after Trinity, Leipzig 29 July 1725*

*Joh. Seb. Bach*

**Violin Concerto in E major BWV 1042**  
*Composed at Köthen c.1720s (?)*

*Joh. Seb. Bach*

**Cantata "Am Abend aber desselbigen Sabbats" BWV42**  
*1st Sunday after Easter Leipzig 1725*

*Joh. Seb. Bach*

## Tickets

**Tickets: £25, £20, £15** (*All unreserved. Available from 10 September*)

**Bach Club Tickets: FREE** (*For 18-30s*)



**01883 717 372** (*with credit/debit card*)



**www.bachlive.co.uk**



**Or at the door from 6.15pm**



# Bach, the original recycler?



Wednesday 12 November at 7.00pm (ends c.8.30pm)



St. Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield, EC1 (St. Paul's or Barbican tube)

- Julia Doyle *soprano*
- Bachfest Consort of Voices
- Steinitz Bach Players
- Rodolfo Richter *Director and solo violin*

For our final concert in the series, we have chosen to perform three cantatas, each with a particularly colourful feature.

The opening Sinfonia to the solo Cantata 52 is from Brandenburg 1, BWV 88 is the first new cantata in Bach's fourth year as Thomaskantor and the Sinfonia to BWV 174 is an imaginative reorchestration of Brandenburg 3, which closes Bachfest. Joyous!



Julia Doyle Credit: Louise O'Dwyer

Solo Cantata "Falsche Welt, dir trau ich nicht" BWV 52  
23rd Sunday after Trinity Leipzig 24 November 1726

*Joh. Seb. Bach*

Cantata "Siehe, ich viel viel Fischer aussenden" BWV 88  
5th Sunday after Trinity Leipzig 21 July 1726

*Joh. Seb. Bach*

Cantata "Ich liebe den Höchsten von ganzem Gemüte" BWV 174  
2nd Day of Pentecost (Monday) Leipzig 6 June 1729

*Joh. Seb. Bach*

## Tickets

Tickets: £25, £20, £15 (All unreserved. Tickets available from 10 September)

Bach Club Tickets: FREE (For 18-30s)



01883 717 372 (with credit/debit card)



[www.bachlive.co.uk](http://www.bachlive.co.uk)





Or at the door from 6.15pm



# A Bach Study Day

## *Led by Christopher Bucknall and Julia Doyle*

 **Saturday 15 November from 10.00am (ends 5.00pm)**

 **Voces8 Centre, Gresham Street, EC2 (St Paul's tube)**

Following the success of our 2024 Prize won by the tenor Sebastian Hill, we are planning a Bach Singers Prize competition in October/November 2026.

The LBS Study Day is designed to prepare prospective entrants for the Competition, covering language, text, recitative, repertoire plus other aspects of performance, and a Master Class.

The competition itself is open to postgraduate singers in the age range 21-34 years, and the public Final will be with Steinitz Bach Players, directed by Rodolfo Richter.



*Christopher Bucknall*

### **Competition Entry 2026**

Application Forms will be available from


[www.bachlive.co.uk](http://www.bachlive.co.uk) from 1 July 2026.

**Deadline for applications – 30 September 2026.**

### **Tickets**

**Study Day: Free for singers**

**£15 for observers who are also welcome**

 **Singers: 01883 717 372** (to book your place by 24 October)

 **[www.bachlive.co.uk](http://www.bachlive.co.uk)**

 **Observers can book in advance or at the door from 10.00am**







Professor Dr Michael Maul




Felix Mendelssohn




Florian Störtz



**Artistic Director:** Margaret Steinitz


**Orchestra and Concerts Manager:** Philippa Brownsword

 +44 (0) 1883 717372

 [lbs@lonbachsoc.co.uk](mailto:lbs@lonbachsoc.co.uk)

 [www.bachlive.co.uk](http://www.bachlive.co.uk)

  Follow us on Facebook and twitter

 Access for the disabled at all concerts

Registered Office: LBS, 73 High Street, Old Oxted, Surrey RH8 9LN.  
LBS is a Company Limited by guarantee with charitable status. Reg in England.  
Company No 3895782 Charity No 1082788.