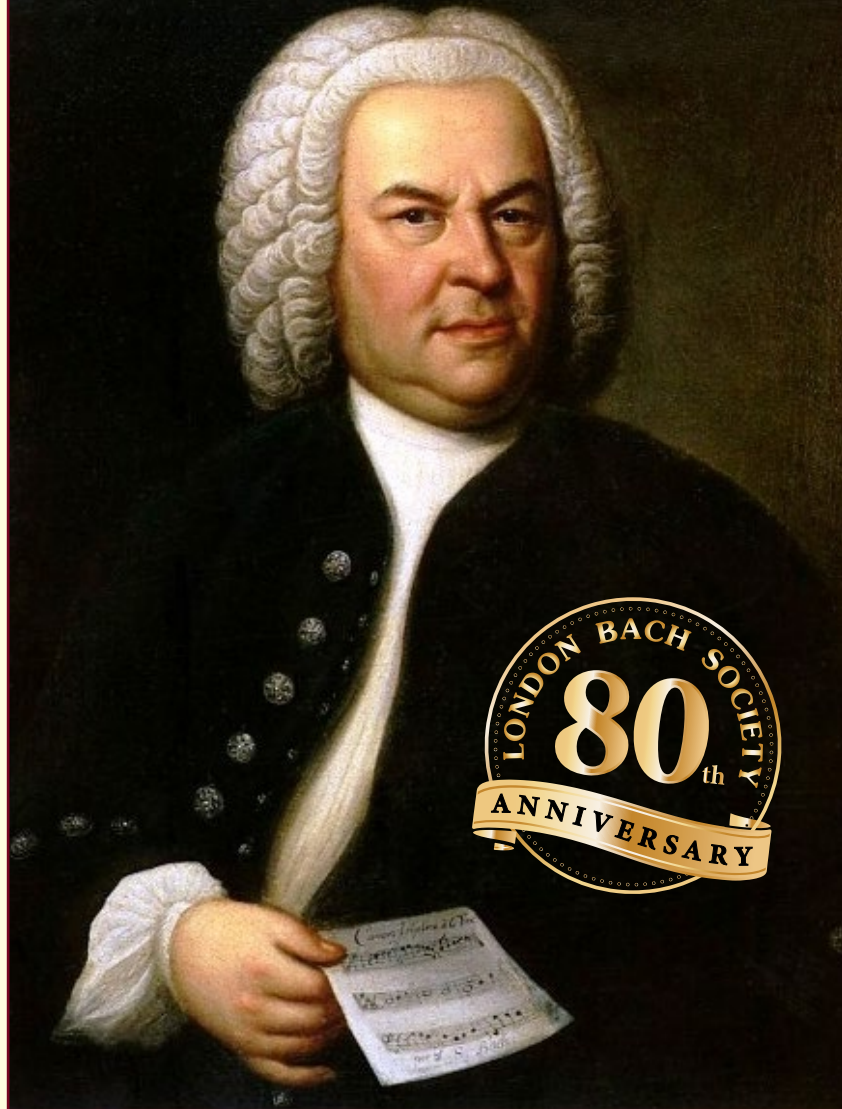




BACHFEST 2026

9 OCTOBER - 10 NOVEMBER 2026



www.bachlive.co.uk

From the Artistic Director

It wouldn't be LBS if we didn't bring some of the lesser known cantatas to our platform, now would it? Three church cantatas and one spectacular secular gem reflect Bach's Leipzig life 300 years ago... and his third cantata cycle in particular.

For our 36th Bachfest in our 80th anniversary year we are focussing upon some inspired works that rarely if ever receive a performance, given in the historic setting of St. Bartholomew-the-Great in the city of London where so many of our ground-breaking projects have been presented.



At the same time, we pay tribute to all who have been part of our story and especially to Bach scholar and conductor Paul Steinitz who founded the Society as the country emerged from wartime rubble in 1946. Much has been achieved since that is both innovatory and historic.

To reflect LBS as it is today, we are also creating opportunity for the musicians of today and tomorrow with our 8th Bach Singers Prize Competition and special Bach vocal consort. The consort will perform with the hand-picked members of Steinitz Bach Players (SBP) director and solo violin, Rodolfo Richter.

The Rautio Piano Trio also make a return Bachfest appearance at Wax Chandlers Hall, a city Livery Hall, with an enticing programme entitled *"Patronage and influence: From J C Bach and Marianne Martines to Beethoven"*.

Come, enjoy and celebrate some stellar Bach performed by some stellar musicians and new talent.

Margaret Steinitz
Artist Director, London Bach Society



"In 1726..."

Friday 30 October at 7.00pm (ends 9.15pm)

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

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



Rodolfo Richter *Director*

Bach's reputation as a recycler of earlier material in his later compositions is almost as well known as the new works he created using such material. Indeed, the two cantatas featured in our opening concert were used later as a basis for his Lutheran Masses BWV235 and BWV236.

The music of his third cousin Joh. Ludwig Bach is enjoying something of a revival at present and Rodolfo Richter has made a new edition of the cantata by JLB that we are performing. Johann Bernhard Bach is Bach's second cousin and a relation whose music we rarely hear, an ideal choice for a special concert series like ours. So let's get on our time bicycles.

Cantata "Alles nur nach Gottes Willen" BWV 72	Joh. Seb. Bach
Cantata "Er machet uns lebendig"	Johann Ludwig Bach
Ouverture No 1 in g minor	Johann Bernhard Bach
Cantata "Wer Dank opfert, der preiset mich" BWV 17	Joh. Seb. Bach

Tickets

Tickets: £25, £20, £15 unreserved (available from 1st September 2026)

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

01883 717 372 (in advance with card) or online

www.bachlive.co.uk

Or at the door from 6.15pm



LBS 8th Bach Singers Prize Competition

 Friday 9 October – Friday 6 November
 St George's Church, Hanover Square W1 (Oxford Circus tube)

Competition Entry 2026

Open to postgraduate singers in the age range 21-34 years.
 Application form and details can be downloaded from www.bachlive.co.uk.
 Deadline for entry 30 September.
Past winners include Anna Harvey, Nick Pritchard, Jess Dandy and Sebastian Hill.

Prize First Round	Thursday 22 October	<i>Held in private</i>
Semi Final	Monday 26 October 7.00pm	<i>Open to public</i>
The Final	Friday 6 November 7.00pm	<i>Open to public</i>

A Bach Master Class & German Language Session

 Friday 9 October from 10.30-5.00pm
 Voces8 Centre, Gresham Street, EC2 (St. Paul's tube)

What makes singing Bach different?

Led by Director and harpsichordist **Christopher Bucknall** and German language expert Gerhard Gall. The day is open to postgraduate singers, competition participants or non-participants, in the age range 21-34 years.
 Participation is FREE but must be reserved in advance by emailing lbs@lonbachsoc.co.uk.
 Observers £10 at the door.

Tickets

Tickets for Semi Final & Final £20 unreserved (available from 1st September 2026)
 Bach Club Tickets: FREE (for 18-30s)

 01883 717 372 (in advance with card) or online
 www.bachlive.co.uk
 Or at the door from 6.15pm



Patronage and Influence: From J C Bach and Marianne Martines to Beethoven

 Wednesday 4 November at 7.00pm (ends 9.00pm)
 Wax Chandlers Hall, 6 Gresham Street, EC2 (St. Paul's tube)

- Jane Gordon
- Victoria Simonsen
- Jan Rautio

The programme explores three forces that shaped musical life in the Classical era: the public concert, the private salon, and aristocratic patronage.

From Johann Christian Bach's pioneering Bach-Abel Concerts in London to Marianne Martines's influential Viennese salon, we take a step into an age that was beckoning as Sebastian Bach's life was drawing to a close and given in the salon by our friends the Rautio Piano Trio.

There has been a Wax Chandlers Hall on site since 1501.

Supported by the Continuo Foundation.



Rautio Piano Trio

Piano Trio in E flat, Hob.XV:22	Josef Haydn
Trio in E flat	CPE Bach
Trio in G	Joh. Christian Bach
Keyboard Sonata in E (<i>transcribed By Jan Rautio</i>)	Marianne Martines
Trio in G Op.1 No 2	Ludwig van Beethoven

Tickets

Tickets: £25 unreserved (available from 1st September 2026)
 Bach Club Tickets: FREE (for 18-30s)

 01883 717 372 (in advance with card) or online
 www.bachlive.co.uk
 Or at the door from 6.15pm



For the Church and the City

 **Tuesday 10 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*

BWV 130 was composed for the Feast of the Archangel Michael and performed at the service at Leipzig on 29 September 1724. To reflect the text by Paul Eber, Bach has provided a suitably robust work including a challenging obbligato for trumpets, no doubt originally played by Gottfried Reiche and his team.



Rodolfo Richter *Director*

The much-favoured violin concerto is possibly dated from Coethen in the 1720s and the substantial secular cantata performed at Leipzig on 11 December 1726. The latter was composed to celebrate the Leipzig University appointment of Professor Gottlieb Kortte as Professor of Roman Law (Jurisprudence) to a text by Picander. Once again Bach drew on earlier material, featuring the opening movement of Brandenburg Concerto No 1 in the opening chorus.

The solo singers have 'character parts', so we shall complete our 80th anniversary by performing a work in the form as near to an opera as Bach reached.

Cantata "Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir" BWV 130	Joh. Seb. Bach
Violin Concerto in a minor BWV 1041	Joh. Seb. Bach
Cantata "Vereinigte Zwietracht der wechselnden Saiten" BWV 207	Joh. Seb. Bach

Tickets

Tickets: £25, £20, £15 unreserved (available from 1st September 2026)
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**



St. Bartholomew-the-Great,
West Smithfield



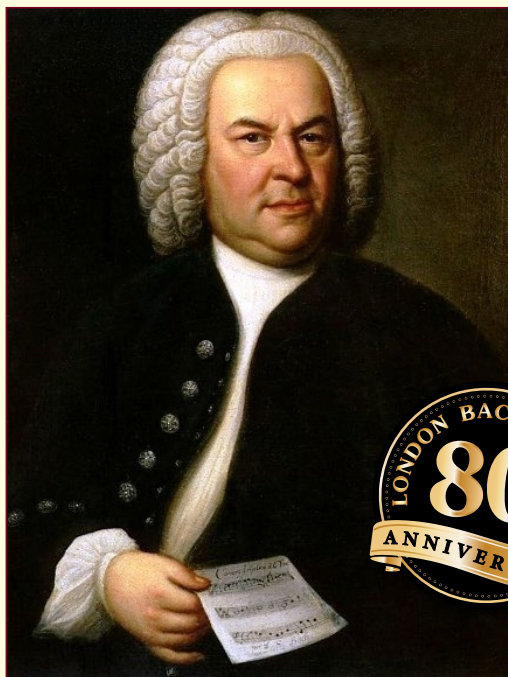
Thomaskirche, Leipzig



St George's Church,
Hanover Square



City of Leipzig



Chairman of the LBS Council: Rupert Fraser

Artistic Director: Margaret Steinitz

Orchestra and Concerts Manager: Philippa Brownsword

☎ +44 (0)1883 717372

✉ lbs@lonbachsoc.co.uk

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♿ Access for the disabled at all concerts

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