

Bach Festival Society OF WINTER PARK

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Bach Festival Society's 74th Annual Bach Festival
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME LIVE MUSIC GAVE YOU GOOSEBUMPS?
THE BACH FESTIVAL SOCIETY HAS BEEN PRODUCING THEM FOR 74 YEARS.

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

All performances take place in Knowles Memorial Chapel on the Rollins College Campus

Carol Williams, Organ Recital

Sunday, February 15, 2009 at 3 p.m.
Tickets: \$20 General Admission Seating

Rossini's *Stabat Mater* & Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*

Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: Tickets range in price from \$25 to \$50, depending on seat location.

Baroque Classics with guitarist Sharon Isbin and J.S. Bach's *Easter Oratorio*

Sunday, February 22, 2009 at 3 p.m.
Tickets: Tickets range in price from \$20 to \$60, depending on seat location.

Brahms' *German Requiem* & Dvořák's *New World Symphony*

Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 3 p.m.
Sunday, March 1, 2009 at 3 pm
Tickets: Tickets range in price from \$25 to \$50, depending on seat location.

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

All educational offerings are free and open to the public.

Classical Music 101

Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 7 p.m.
Tiedtke Concert Hall

Rossini Weekend - Lecture with Dr. Edmund LeRoy

Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 6 p.m.
Bush Auditorium

Concert talk-back with guitarist Sharon Isbin

Sunday, February 22, 2009 *following performance*
Knowles Memorial Chapel

Festival Lecture by Terry Teachout

"Does Classical Music Have a Future?"
Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 1 p.m.
Bush Auditorium - *followed by a reception for Mr. Teachout*

The Bach Festival Society's 74th Annual Bach Festival will take place **February 15, 2009 – March 1, 2009**. With an array of performances, lectures, educational programs, and more, this year's Festival offers an enriching experience for everyone. Highlights include GRAMMY Award–winning guitarist Sharon Isbin, the Bach Festival Society's first performance of J.S. Bach's *Easter Oratorio*, and soprano Mary Wilson's two-week residency with the Festival. **The Bach Festival Society is also pleased to host Terry Teachout, respected journalist, critic, and author, as Festival Lecturer delivering the lecture “Does Classical Music Have a Future?”**

Festival headliner **Sharon Isbin** has been called the “pre-eminent guitarist of our time” by *Boston Magazine*. **Winner of two GRAMMY awards**, Ms. Isbin offers a catalogue that includes over 25 recordings. She has performed all over the world and is the founder of The Juilliard School's guitar department, making her the first and only guitar instructor in the institution's history. Known for commissioning new works, Ms. Isbin has been acclaimed for expanding the guitar repertoire. “Sharon Isbin is the finest classical guitarist of our time. Her recordings and Grammys in multiple genres demonstrate her strong technique and versatility. We pride ourselves as a Society on bringing top artistic talent to Central Florida, and we are delighted to have Sharon Isbin as part of the 74th Annual Bach Festival,” said Artistic Director John Sinclair. Ms. Isbin will be **performing works by Antonio Vivaldi and Spanish composer Joaquín Rodrigo**.

The Bach Festival Society and Orlando Opera are partnering to bring a Rossini Weekend to Central Florida. Orlando Opera performances of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* will bookend the Festival's *Stabat Mater* on Friday, February 20, and Sunday, February 22. To tie the two programs together, Rollins College Professor of Music Dr. Edmund LeRoy will lecture on Rossini's life and the significance of his works on Saturday, February 21, before the performance of the *Stabat Mater*.

Gioachino Rossini is best known for his operas. Though operatic in nature, his ***Stabat Mater*** is a masterpiece on its own. **Written after great personal tragedy** and a struggle with depression, the *Stabat Mater* is **full of rich melodies** that dramatically portray the story of Mary's deep love for her son and the agony of watching him perish on the cross. This piece is paired with Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*, performed by acclaimed violinist Alvaro Gomez.

The Bach Festival Society will be performing J.S. Bach's *Easter Oratorio* for the first time in its 74-year history on this year's Festival. In this dance-like work, four character-soloists

along with the choir tell the story of the discovery of Jesus' resurrection. Peter, portrayed by tenor Daniel Weeks; John, portrayed by bass Daniel Lichti; Mary, the mother of James, portrayed by soprano Mary Wilson; and Mary Magdalene, portrayed by mezzo-soprano Elspeth Franks, make up the soloist cast. **The Bach Festival Choir will perform this work in its original German text.** It will be paired in concert with the Bach Festival Orchestra's performance of works with guitarist Sharon Isbin.

Johannes Brahms wrote the *German Requiem* from 1865 to 1868 amidst the Austro-Prussian War. Unlike other Requiems, it was written to console the living, not commemorate the dead. Clara Schumann said of the piece, "It is a truly tremendous piece of art that moves the entire being in a way little else does." Rather than using the traditional liturgical Latin text, Brahms carefully selected personally significant text from the Lutheran Bible and set it to music in the vernacular German language. **To honor Brahms' original intent to make the piece accessible to his audience, the Bach Festival Choir will be performing this work in English.** Paired with this work is **Dvořák's *New World Symphony***, No. 9. Written while Dvořák was in America, this piece displays his love of American music and folk melodies. It is his most popular symphony, and its second movement was later written into the folk-song spiritual *Goin' Home* by Henry T. Burleigh.

American **soprano Mary Wilson** is one of today's most exciting young talents. She joined the Bach Festival Society for *Carmina Burana* in the 2007–2008 Season and returns to the Society for a two-week residency during the 74th Annual Festival. Performing Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, Bach's *Easter Oratorio*, and Brahms' *German Requiem*, she **will leave you with goosebumps**, as more than one critical review has stated.

About the Bach Festival Society

The Bach Festival Society, located in Winter Park, Florida, is one of the longest continuously operating Bach Festivals in the country and among America's great oratorio societies. The Bach Festival Society brings the highest caliber of classical music to Central Florida. Performances are held in the intimate settings of Tiedtke Concert Hall and Knowles Memorial Chapel on the beautiful campus of Rollins College.

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