

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The 37th Baroque Music Festival takes a novel approach, June 18-25**

With “A Festival of Novelties,” the 37th annual Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar, promises a fresh approach, unique elements and unusual repertoire in a program sure to delight its fortunate audiences. Over an eight-day period, June 18–25, 2017, an extraordinary group of Baroque musicians will perform at venues in Corona del Mar and Newport Beach in five individual concerts.

This year’s inspired program is the creation of world-renowned Baroque violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock, the Festival’s artistic director. Blumenstock has performed throughout the U.S. and abroad playing a 17th-century Guarneri violin. She serves as concertmaster with California’s finest period ensembles and teaches at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as well as the Juilliard School of Music.

Below is a sneak preview of this year’s exciting program:

*Sunday, June 18 · Newport Harbor Lutheran Church, 4 p.m.*

### **All a Bout: Dialog in Music & Fencing**

Highlighting an all-string afternoon of Baroque concertos from Bach, Biber and Schmelzer is a short fencing demonstration set to music. The *Brandenburg Concerto No. 6* by J.S. Bach provides a familiar accent to this concert.

*Monday, June 19 · Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, 8 p.m.*

### **Four Viols at Play**

A delightful consort of violas da gamba features in a program of works from 16th- and 17th-century English and Northern German composers, including Purcell, Byrd and Jenkins.

*Wednesday, June 21 · Sherman Library & Gardens, 8 p.m.*

### **Music from Monticello**

Thomas Jefferson’s vast music library provides an authentic source for a program of chamber and vocal music, featuring soprano Jennifer Ellis Kampani, as well as relevant readings from the period.

Friday, June 23 · Sherman Library & Gardens, 8 p.m.

## **Beyond Baroque**

Elizabeth Blumenstock (violin), David Shostac (flute), Timothy Landauer (cello), Andrew McIntosh (violin, viola) and Lara Wickes (oboe) perform a program of Classical chamber works by J.C. Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Cambini and Albrechtsberger.

Sunday, June 25 · St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 4 p.m.

## **Festival Finale: A Quire of Choirs**

In this program, subtitled “Polyphonic Music from the Edge of the Baroque,” instrumentalists playing cornettos, sackbuts and strings join with vocalists to present majestic works of Gabrieli and Monteverdi, in collaboration with Tesseræ, a Los Angeles–based Baroque ensemble. A special pre-concert performance of Italian folk music begins at 3:15 p.m.

## **Audience Perks**

In addition to the concert programs, audiences are invited to enjoy Baroque music performed *al fresco*, beginning 45 minutes before curtain time, by the South Coast Brass — except on June 25, when a special event is planned instead. Following each concert performance, audience members and musicians enjoy mingling for conversation and refreshment at a wine and waters reception.

## **Information and Tickets**

The Baroque Music Festival offers a subscription for all five concerts at \$280 that provides premium seating at each event and a private post-concert dinner following the Festival Finale on Sunday, June 25. Additional information about the 2017 Baroque Music Festival, as well as ticket sales for this year’s series or single concerts (ranging from \$30 to \$50), may be found at the Festival website — [www.bmf-cdm.org](http://www.bmf-cdm.org) — or by calling (949) 760-7887.

## **About the Festival**

Since 1981, the Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar, has evolved as both an esteemed and popular cultural institution in Orange County, California. Acclaimed instrumentalists and vocal soloists assemble for the annual Festival in June, performing primarily on period instruments in intimate settings. Concert-goers have described the performances as “rapturous” and “riveting”; music reviewers from the *Los Angeles Times*, *Orange County Register* and other local publications consistently offer glowing reviews. The Festival’s all-volunteer Board of Directors is committed to presenting high-quality Baroque music every summer.

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