



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The 38th Baroque Music Festival takes a French twist, June 17–24

This year's annual Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar, features a charming French repertoire in a program cast as "French Fare with a Dash of Handel" that is sure to delight. Set in a delicious menu of five individual concerts within an 8-day period – June 17–24, 2018 – an extraordinary mix of Baroque musicians will perform at three select venues in Corona del Mar and Newport Beach.

In her eighth year as the Festival's artistic director and concertmaster, Elizabeth Blumenstock has created yet another inspired program. An internationally renowned Baroque violinist, Blumenstock has performed throughout the world, playing a 17th-century Guarneri violin. In addition to her musical leadership of the Baroque Music Festival, she serves as concertmaster of both Philharmonia Baroque and the American Bach Soloists, and teaches at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School of Music.

The program for the 38th annual Baroque Music Festival includes Sunday performances that feature the Festival Orchestra. The three concerts positioned between these "bookends" showcase solo recitals and small chamber ensembles. The Festival Finale – that "dash of Handel" – also includes a pair of stunning sopranos.

In addition, audiences are invited to enjoy Baroque music performed *al fresco* by the South Coast Brass beginning 45 minutes before each concert. Following all performances, audience members and musicians enjoy mingling for conversation and refreshment at a wine and waters reception.

*Sunday, June 17 · St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 4 p.m.*

### Parisian Divertissements

Elizabeth Blumenstock leads the Festival Orchestra in a mélange of French concertos by Leclair and Telemann, plus Corelli's *Christmas Concerto* and Rameau's ballet suites.

*Monday, June 18 · St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, 8 p.m.*

### Bach and the French Style

A recital by extraordinary organist Jonathan Dimmock, cofounder of the American Bach Soloists, and the first American to hold the prestigious position of Organ Scholar of Westminster Abbey.

*Wednesday, June 20 · Sherman Library & Gardens, 8 p.m.*

## **Stylus Phantasticus**

Harmonically adventurous and texturally rich chamber music from Becker, Biber, Scheidt, Schein and Schmelzer.

*Friday, June 22 · Sherman Library & Gardens, 8 p.m.*

## **Les Petits Concerts**

Elizabeth Blumenstock (violin), David Shostac (flute), Andrew McIntosh (violin, viola), Michael Kaufman (cello) and Lara Wickes (oboe) perform chamber works by Boismortier, Guilleman and Telemann.

*Sunday, June 24 · St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 4 p.m.*

## **Festival Finale: Handel's 'Orlando'**

A spirited concert version of this charming opera with the Festival Orchestra, sopranos Amanda Keenan and Josefien Stoppelenburg, alto Robin Bier, countertenor Clifton Massey and bass Graham Bier, accompanied by an entertaining narrative.

### **Information and Tickets**

The Baroque Music Festival offers a subscription for all five concerts at \$280 that includes priority seating at each event and a private post-concert dinner following the Festival Finale on Sunday, June 24th. Additional information about the 2018 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.

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 bringing high-quality Baroque music to Corona del Mar every summer.

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