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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bach: The Master and His Milieu

A Bach-Fest for the Baroque Music Festival's 39th Season: June 23-30

Our 39th season will offer five concerts over eight days in beautiful Orange County, California. Our theme of "Bach: The Master and His Milieu" will celebrate the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, his contemporaries and his influencers. We will enjoy the talents of extraordinary musicians playing Baroque instruments, and of singers who are sensitive to historical styles, performing in intimate venues in Corona del Mar and Newport Beach.

Following the success of the Festival's last Bach-Fest, in 2015, this year's annual season includes a tantalizing selection of the composer's masterpieces, including his *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5*, the *Magnificat*, two of the orchestral suites, a cantata and a solo cello suite.

Elizabeth Blumenstock, now in her ninth year as the Festival's artistic director, is an internationally renowned Baroque violinist. She 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 with California's finest period ensembles, and teaches at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as well as the Juilliard School.

Programming this year's Festival, Blumenstock explains, "Bach is the supreme musical storyteller, holding us spellbound, and all the while feeding our souls."

By placing Bach in the musical context of his world, we will also hear works by his close friend Georg Telemann, sons C.P.E. Bach and W.F. Bach, influencer Buxtehude and others. The annual Festival includes Sunday performances that feature the Festival Orchestra. Three concerts positioned between these "bookends" showcase a solo recital — this year with award-winning guitarist Marc Teicholz — and small chamber ensembles. The Festival Finale, "Bach The Magnificent," features perhaps his most popular large-scale vocal work, the *Magnificat*. We welcome back vocal soloists Jennifer Ellis Kampani and Corey Carleton (sopranos), Clifton Massey (countertenor), Jon Lee Keenan (tenor) and Brett McDermid (bass).

In addition to the ticketed concerts, audiences are invited to enjoy Baroque music performed *al fresco*, by 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.

Continued

Program information – Bach: The Master and His Milieu, June 23-30, 2019

Sunday, June 23, 4 p.m. — St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach

Back to Bach Concertos

Elizabeth Blumenstock leads the Festival Orchestra and soloists in Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major*, BWV 1050, and the *Orchestral ("Flute") Suite No. 2 in B Minor*, BWV 1067. Concertos by Leclair (violin), Schultze (recorder) and Telemann complete the program. Our opening concert will spotlight instrumental soloists including Baroque flutist Stephen Schultz, recorder player Judith Linsenber and harpsichordist Ian Pritchard.

Monday, June 24, 8 p.m. — Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Corona del Mar

Glories of the Guitar

A recital of Bach favorites and Spanish pieces presented by the award-winning guitarist Marc Teicholz, who performs his own transcriptions of Bach solo works alongside music by Santiago de Murcia and Gaspar Sanz.

Wednesday, June 26, 8 p.m. — Sherman Library & Gardens, Corona del Mar

Passionate Voices: Music of Longing, Devotion and Joy

Chamber pieces from Bach, Buxtehude, Bruhns and Schütz, with guests Kyle Stegall (tenor) and Tanya Tomkins (cello). Join us in the Gardens for Bach's *Suite for Solo Cello No. 1 in G Major*, BWV 1007; his cantata *Ich armer Mensch, ich Südenknecht*, BWV 55; and beautiful small-scale vocal and instrumental works by his predecessors.

Friday, June 28, 8 p.m. — Sherman Library & Gardens, Corona del Mar

Bach's Sons, Friends and Rivals

An entertaining 18th-century chamber music program. Elizabeth Blumenstock (violin), David Shostac (flute), Lara Wickes (oboe), Michael Kaufman (cello) and Gabriel Arregui (harpsichord) perform works by C.P.E. Bach, W.F. Bach, Telemann and others.

Sunday, June 30, 4 p.m. — St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach

Festival Finale: Bach the Magnificent

Our Festival concludes with Bach's *Orchestral Suite No. 4 in D Major*, BWV 1069; the choral motet *Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied*, BWV 225; and the *Magnificat*, BWV 243, featuring the Festival Orchestra and soloists with sopranos Jennifer Ellis Kampani and Corey Carleton, alto Clifton Massey, tenor Jon Lee Keenan and bass Brett McDermid.

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 30th. Additional information about the 2019 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 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. Concertgoers have described the performances as "rapturous" and "riveting"; music critics 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.