

# BACH SOCIETY OF SAINT LOUIS

A. Dennis Sparger, Music Director and Conductor

## 79<sup>th</sup> Concert Season 2019-2020

Dates, repertoire and venues subject to change



THE BACH SOCIETY  
OF SAINT LOUIS

### MOZART REQUIEM

*Sponsored by Lutheran Church Extension Fund*

**Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Kirkwood**

Mozart's profound masterpiece, the unfinished *Requiem in D minor*, never fails to embrace and inspire audiences. Although Mozart's student Franz Xaver Süssmayr gave his best effort to finish the Requiem after Mozart's death, Süssmayr's technical shortcomings marred the work's true potential. Our performance will instead utilize the 1971 version by Franz Beyer that corrects these shortcomings and follows Mozart's model more closely. The Requiem is paired with Bach's festive setting of the *Magnificat* in the brilliant key of D major, composed for his first year in Leipzig! Guest soloists soprano Emily Birsan, mezzo-soprano Alice Anne Light, tenor Gene Stenger, and bass David Rugger join the Bach Society Chorus and Orchestra.

### CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

Ranked by *BBC Music Magazine* as one of the Top 20 Christmas concerts in North America

*Sponsored by Emerson*

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Powell Hall**

Now ranked among the finest in North America, our Christmas Candlelight Concert has long been a St. Louis tradition! Powell Hall is beautifully decorated for the season and provides the perfect setting to experience the music that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas, including Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. Plan now to join us to be uplifted by new and familiar carols, the beloved candlelight processional, and even a few audience carols, plus... a special appearance by The St. Louis Children's Choirs. A beautiful and lasting memory is assured.

### BACH'S ST. JOHN PASSION

*It is more beneficial to ponder Christ's Passion just once than to fast a whole year or to pray a psalm daily. ~ Martin Luther*

*Sponsored in part by Carol Sagner*

**Sunday, March 22, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Webster Groves Presbyterian Church**

Bach's *St. John Passion* is a dynamic telling of Christ's journey to the cross that reaches right into the listener's soul. Indeed, John Eliot Gardiner asserts that it "packs a more powerful dramatic punch than any Passion setting before or since." Singing the role of the Evangelist is tenor Steven Soph, while the words of Jesus are sung by Alexander Dobson. The meditative arias sung by soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg, countertenor Jay Carter, tenor Kyle Stegall, and bass Elijah Blaisdell offer time for the audience to "soak in" and contemplate personal meaning from each scene.

### THE BEGINNING AND END OF ALL MUSIC

**Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Kirkwood**

More than any other composer, Bach had the capacity to absorb every musical style he encountered. Additionally, his enormous contributions inspired many composers who followed him. No wonder composer Max Reger called him the "beginning and end"! This concert explores some of the composers who came before Bach and influenced him, as well as those who were influenced by his music, such as Palestrina, Gallus, Pachelbel, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Gounod, to name just a few.

**Plus... ST. LOUIS BACH FESTIVAL 2020**