

bach

PRESS KIT



Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

Contents

Date: 12 June 2025

»Transformation«

- I. Schedule for media representatives
 - Schedule on the opening day of the festival
 - Lectures and discussions
- II. Press release: The 2025 Leipzig Bachfest at a Glance
- III. Short texts
- IV. BachStage 2025
- V. Statements
 - Dr. Skadi Jennicke, City of Leipzig Deputy Mayor for Culture
 - Dr. Harald Langenfeld, President and CEO Sparkasse Leipzig (main sponsor)
 - Dr. Thorsten Ahrend, Programme Manager and Managing Director of Literaturhaus Leipzig e. V.
 - Prof. Dr. Michael Maul, Artistic Director of the Leipzig Bachfest
- VI. Awarding of the 2025 Bach Medal to Marcel Ponselee
- VII. Leipzig Bach Museum during the Bachfest
- VIII. Statistics
- IX. Services
- X. Recordings and streaming of Bachfest events
- XI. 2025 Leipzig Bachfest Press Office
- XII. The Bachfest wishes to thank (list of patrons/sponsors)

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · Director Prof. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · Acting Managing Director Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

I. Selected events for media representatives on the opening day of the festival

Thursday, 12 June

10am:

Leipzig Bach Museum,
Summer Hall

Press Conference

Podium: Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman, Volkmar Müller,
Jan Čmejla and Prof. Dr. Michael Maul (in German)

5pm:

No 1: St. Thomas' Church

Opening concert

St. Thomas' Church organist Johannes Lang, soloists,
THOMANERCHOR Leipzig, Leipzig Gewandhaus
Orchestra,
Conducted by: Thomaskantor Andreas Reize
Presented by ACL

7:15pm approx.:

Altes Rathaus
(Old Town Hall)

Reception by the Mayor of Leipzig

Banquet Hall, Altes Rathaus

Please note: admittance for Bachfest press card holders only.

8pm:

No 2: Gewandhaus,
Großer Saal auditorium

**Solo recital: Jan Čmejla, Winner of the 1st Prize in
the 2025 Leipzig Bach Competition, Piano Category**

Works by J. S. Bach and others:
*Organised jointly by Julius Blüthner Pianofortefabrik
and the Bachfest*

Admittance for accredited journalists.

10.30pm:

No 3: St. Thomas' Church

The Art of Fugue

J. S. Bach: The Art of Fugue, BWV 1080
(and excerpts) in new arrangements by
M. Otto, P. Tornayi, C. Boccodaro, S.-D. Sandström,
F. Cruixent, B. Franke, A. Sadikova and E. Milch-
Sheriff (premiere)

Admittance for accredited journalists.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · **Tel.** +49 341 9137-121 · **Fax** +49 341 9137-125 · **Email** von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

I. Schedule for media representatives: admission-free lectures and discussions

Monday, 16 June

11.30am:

Lecture

No 82: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

Transformation I: Bach's Process of Parody – lecture
by Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny (with English
translation)

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

3.30pm:

Discussion series »Michael Maul meets«

No 88: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

... the organist of St. Thomas', Johannes Lang:
Organ Transformation Hour

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

Tuesday, 17 June

11.30am:

Lecture

No 101: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

Transformation II: Bach's Adaptations – lecture by Dr.
Christine Blanken (with English translation)

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

3.30pm:

Discussion series »Michael Maul meets«

No 104: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

... the Critics' Quartet, with Dr. Eleonore Büning,
Susann El Kassar and Albrecht Thiemann:
Bach's Cello Suites – a comparison of interpretations

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

I. Schedule for media representatives: admission-free lectures and discussions

Wednesday, 18 June

11.30am:

Lecture

No 117: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

Transformation III: Bach Arranges – lecture by
Dr. Bernd Koska (with English translation)

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

3.30pm:

Discussion series »Michael Maul meets«

No 119: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

... Ton Koopman and Klaus Mertens: Transformed by
Bach – a whole life long

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

Thursday, 19 June

11.30am:

Lecture

No 131: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

Transformation IV: Everything is possible! Bach
arrangements of the 19th and 20th centuries – lecture
by Dr. Christiane Hausmann (with English
translation)

Please register your attendance in the Press Office

3.30pm:

Discussion series »Michael Maul meets«

No 134: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

... Film critic and Bach nerd Knut Elstermann: Bach in
film – a very illustrative book presentation

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · **Tel.** +49 341 9137-121 · **Fax** +49 341 9137-125 · **Email** von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

I. Schedule for media representatives: admission-free lectures and discussions

Friday, 20 June

11.30am:

No 144: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

BachSprechstunde – a time for talking about Bach

Everything you ever wanted to know about Bach. Just ask the researchers at the Bach Archive

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

3.30pm:

No 149: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

Discussion series »Michael Maul meets«

...Reinhard Goebel: »Der Kopf macht die Musik« – It's the head that makes the music, ever-changing and always new!

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

Saturday 21 June

11am:

No 165: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

Presentation of the 2026 Leipzig Bachfest

Artistic Director Prof. Dr. Michael Maul presents the 2026 Bachfest.

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

2pm:

No 170: Blauer Salon
(Blue Salon)

Bach network in dialogue

Dialogue-format panel discussions based on the latest Bach research (in English) on the festival theme »Transformation«

Please register your attendance at the Press Office.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

II. Press release

LEIPZIG BACHFEST 2025 AT A GLANCE

From 12 to 22 June, the Leipzig Bachfest will shed light on transformation processes in the work of Johann Sebastian Bach. Entitled »Transformation«, the programme, which for the first time encompasses over 200 events, is broader and more diverse than ever before, mixing traditional concerts with experimental and interdisciplinary formats. Even Bach himself will be appearing in person 24 times at the Bachfest.

Transformation, or change, is not only a key concept in current debate culture, it is also deeply anchored in Bach's music – in the Passions and in the *B Minor Mass*, as well as in the parody technique which set Bach's compositions in new contexts. Bach avidly studied the music of his European contemporaries to develop his own style.

The 2025 Leipzig Bachfest focuses on works Bach's works and compositions by others which Bach remodelled, as well as music in which he imitated and adapted different European styles. Similarly, numerous new and surprising concert formats reflect the festival motto of »Transformation«.

Bach's body of cantatas focuses sharply on the themes of transience, death and eternal life. Death is portrayed as a transformation process in which the faithful soul is awakened by Jesus in Paradise. In one special series of performances on cantatas for Sundays with biblical stories of raisings from the dead, the performers include Bach authorities such as Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Diego Fasolis, Leonardo García Alarcón and Solomon's Knot in the churches of St. Thomas and St. Nicholas.

The 500th anniversary of Auerbach's Cellar will be marked in 2025 by a performance of *Bach's Faust*, a *Singspiel* adaptation of Goethe's drama with music by Bach. Moreover, the Leipzig Bachfest is inviting great thinkers of our time to discuss Bach's work. Augmented reality will be bringing Bach back to life virtually in the Leipzig Bach Museum, where he will recount episodes from his life while performing on the harpsichord.

The Leipzig Bachfest is funded by the City of Leipzig and the Ministry of Science, Culture and Tourism of the Free State of Saxony. The main sponsor of the Leipzig Bachfest is Sparkasse Leipzig.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

III. Short texts

Ensembles and conductors

Numerous well-known Bach interpreters will be performing at the Leipzig Bachfest, including ensembles such as the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Choir with Bach Medal laureate Ton Koopman, the Galilee Chamber Orchestra (Nazareth) with Florian Lohmann, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra with Jakub Hruša, Coro della Radiotelevisione svizzera, I Barocchisti and Diego Fasolis, Il Gardellino and Alexander Grychtolik, La Cetra Vokalensemble Basel, La Cetra Barockorchester Basel with Andrea Marcon, the Neues Bachisches Collegium Musicum with Bach Medallist Reinhard Goebel, Opera Fuoco Orchestra with David Stern, Solomon's Knot, and The Constellation Choir & Orchestra with Bach Medal laureate Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

Soloists

The ensembles at the festival will perform with soloists including Hana Blažíková (soprano), Elisabeth Breuer (soprano), Maarten Engeltjes (altus), Miriam Feuersinger (soprano), Bach Prize winner Patrick Grahl (tenor), Bach Prize winner Daniel Johannsen (tenor), Benedikt Kristjánsson (tenor), Tilman Lichdi (tenor), Bach Medal laureate Klaus Mertens (bass), Dorothee Mields (soprano), Bach Prize winner Lara Morger (alto), Bach Prize winner Margot Oitzinger (alto), Julian Prégardien (tenor), Valer Sabadus (altus), Bach Prize winner Benno Schachtner (altus), Jonathan Sells (bass) and Hanna Zumsande (soprano).

Among the guest artists performing **in recitals and chamber concerts** are pianist Schaghajegh Nosrati – another Bach Prize winner – the pianist and Bach Medallist Sir András Schiff, and harpsichordists Benjamin Alard and Jean Rondeau. Further recitals will be performed by the piano duo Tal & Groethuysen as well as by the cellist Jean-Guihen Queyras, who will play Bach's *Cello Suites* in St. Thomas' Church on 17 June.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

III. Short texts

To die for: Death as a transformation process in Bach's cantatas

The themes of transience, dying, death and eternal life are recurrent in Bach's cantatas. This applies in particular to a series of cantatas which Bach composed for Sundays, the Bible readings for which tell of spectacular healings and raisings from the dead by Jesus. In accordance with Luther's exegesis, death here is not seen as the sad conclusion of a human life; instead, dying is portrayed as a rewarding process of transformation at the end of which Jesus will awaken the faithful soul in paradise. Bach set these words to music in unequalled fashion. In the interpretations by Bach experts Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Diego Fasolis, Leonardo Garcia Alarcón and Solomon's Knot, these cantatas can be heard as part of a cycle in the churches of St. Thomas and St. Nicholas.

Bach transformations in theatre and literature

The Leipzig restaurant *Auerbachs Keller* (Auerbach's Cellar), which Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once immortalised in *Faust*, Part I, celebrates its 500th anniversary in 2025. With *Bach's Faust*, artistic director Michael Maul has written a *Singspiel* based on Goethe's drama, illustrated and commented on by Bach's music – and performed in the original venue with Burghart Klaußner in the role of Doctor Faustus.

At the invitation of the Leipzig Bachfest, great poets and thinkers of our time will be getting personally to grips with the elusive phenomenon of Johann Sebastian Bach. The About Bach series on 14 and 15 June features true literary virtuosos: Omri Boehm, Christoph Hein, Ian McEwan, Robert Schneider and Angela Steidele. The readings are held in association with Literaturhaus Leipzig e. V., the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Leipzig University.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

III. Short texts

Virtual Bach

Starting this Bachfest, Johann Sebastian Bach will be introducing and performing regular lecture concerts in the historic Summer Hall of the Leipzig Bach Museum – thanks to augmented reality and funding from the film industry funding body, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung. The age-60-plus composer plays the harpsichord while amusingly recounting scenes from his life, based on Bach's own, documented accounts.

Out and about with Bach: By boat, bike and tram

During the Bachfest, discover the city where Bach wrote the majority of his works – concerts on Leipzig's waterways and trams and a cycling tour with Bach by Bike take participants to well-known but also hidden places in Leipzig. In addition to this, guided tours by Leipzig Erleben GmbH give insights into the transformation of Leipzig, the city of music.

Social transformation: innovative Climate Pass for the benefit of the Bach Forest

By introducing the Climate Pass, the festival organisers are giving visitors the opportunity to transform their own and the Bachfest's carbon footprint into something positive. Purchasing the pass funds the planting of more trees in the »Bach Forest«, the festival's central sustainability project which is unique among international festivals.

Three categories of Climate Pass are available: »Germany«, »Europe« and »World«, which take into account the individual travel routes, and therefore the different carbon footprints, of visitors travelling to the Bachfest. All proceeds from the sale of Climate Passes go towards the funding of saplings in the Bach Forest – 30 hectares of mixed woodland, created in 2020 close to a former mining area south of Leipzig, funded by the Bachfest.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

III. Short texts

Leipzig, the city of music

The THOMANERCHOR Leipzig and Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra traditionally perform at the festival's opening concert; the two ensembles will also be providing the musical accompaniment at an open-air church service on Leipzig's Markt square on 15 June. The THOMANERCHOR will furthermore present an a-cappella programme in St. Thomas' on 18 June. The two Leipzig composer houses, Mendelssohn House and Schumann House, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Choir, Youth Choir and Orchestra, the MDR Radio Choir, MDR Symphony Orchestra and Leipzig Opera, as well as the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Conservatory of Music and Theatre in Leipzig, also figure prominently in the festival programme with their own productions.

Presented by Sparkasse Leipzig, the »BachStage« format on Leipzig's Markt square is an invitation to attend free open-air events with a VIP line-up on the opening weekend. »bach für uns«, presented by Leipziger Gruppe, promises children and their families some thrilling encounters with the music of the Bach family in eight concerts, plus one production by Leipzig Opera, in all kinds of different venues in Leipzig. With OpenStage in the central railway station, a grand piano from piano manufacturer Julius Blüthner Pianofortefabrik invites you to play works by Johann Sebastian Bach. You can book a slot for your own recital on the BachSpiele website – the BachSpiele event is organised by nato e. V.: <https://bachspiele.de/>

Leipzig, a centre of Bach research

In 2025, the Leipzig Bach Archive celebrates the 75th anniversary of its foundation. Once again this year, in-house scholars and international guest speakers will accompany the Bachfest with free lectures, pre-concert talks and discussion panels, as well as the »BachSprechstunde« – a time for talking about Bach – and a seminar. In honour of the anniversary, the Leipzig Bach Museum will be holding a special exhibition entitled *Breakthroughs in the Study of Bach*. In addition to this, gems from the Bach Archive collection will be on display in the museum's Treasury.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

IV. BachStage 2025

»BachStage« on Leipzig's Markt square on the opening weekend invites you to free, open-air concerts.

The curtain will rise on BachStage at 6.30pm on Friday 13 June with a protest parade by local artists against global warming, entitled **»2° sind zu viel. Be-Flügeln wir die Transformation«** (literally »2° are too much. Let's give wings to transformation«). A grand piano (in German, *Flügel* means both »wings« and »grand piano«) will be part of the parade to illustrate the activists' intention – to highlight with music issues of transformation and climate change.

From 7pm, in its programme **Glocal Hits in Leipzig**, Bridges Kammerorchester will be giving a new voice to transcultural global hits: led by Harish Shankar, the ensemble will perform an impressive melting pot of global music tradition and know-how. Concluding the evening at 9pm is **The Arabian Passion**. The Ensemble Sarband combines Bach's work with today's political reality in the Middle East and takes a musical stand for peace and hope.

On Saturday 14 June starting at 7pm, the Stuttgarter Kammerorchester presents **Iron Maiden in Love with Vivaldi & Bach** – a thrilling fusion of Baroque hits and heavy metal that shows Vivaldi and Bach in a whole new light. At 9pm, the project **We All Love Bach** takes us back to the roots of Baroque performance practice. Linus Roth (violin), Aleksander Dębicz (piano) and the ensemble Il Giardino d'Amore recreate Bach's timeless works in a lively and creative way.

The final day of BachStage, Sunday 15 June, kicks off at 10am with an **open-air service of worship on Leipzig's Markt square**. The music will be performed by the THOMANERCHOR Leipzig and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, conducted by Thomaskantor Andreas Reize. In the evening, the Münchner Motettenchor takes the stage starting at 7pm and together with the Baroque in Blue jazz ensemble will present Bach's motets in a whole new, jazzy guise. From 9.15pm, the Paul Lay Trio will perform their programme, **Bach's Groove** – an inspiring tribute to the father of all music.

BachStage 2025 is presented by the Bachfest's main sponsor, Sparkasse Leipzig, as well as 50Hertz Transmission GmbH and others.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

V. Statements

Dr. Skadi Jennicke, City of Leipzig Deputy Mayor for Culture:

»The 2025 Leipzig Bachfest stands for innovation and artistic progress: entitled ›Transformation‹, the 11-day festival will be a platform for visionary approaches in which Bach's oeuvre will be staged in new ways and tradition combined with cutting-edge technology. With more than 200 events including experimental formats and augmented reality, the Bachfest – like the music of Johann Sebastian Bach – builds an inspiring bridge between past and future. This pioneering music festival involving numerous partners from Leipzig, the city of music, is emblematic of Leipzig's reputation as a global centre of musical excellence and innovation. Be a part of it and let yourself be enthralled.«

Dr. Harald Langenfeld, President and CEO Sparkasse Leipzig (main sponsor and presenting partner of BachStage):

»The Leipzig Bachfest is an invitation to the world to experience the musical excellence of the famous Thomaskantor in ever-new and diverse ways. His work dates from the 18th century, but is full of life, is still an inspiration in our time and brings people from so many nations together. This year, the introduction of the Climate Pass in support of the ›Bach Forest‹ deserves a special mention. With it, visitors can have a positive impact on their own carbon footprint and that of the Bachfest by planting new trees. For our institution, sustainability is a theme that is close to our heart. This is yet another reason why Sparkasse Leipzig is happy to be a longstanding partner of this renowned event.«

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

V. Statements

Dr. Thorsten Ahrend, Programme Manager and Managing Director of Literaturhaus Leipzig e. V.:

»Important writers have repeatedly written about Bach, his music, his biography, his family. Hence this partnership between the Bachfest and Literaturhaus Leipzig to invite major German-speaking and international authors to the Paulinum on 14 and 15 June: Christoph Hein, who has written five Bach short stories for the occasion, Ian McEwan, Angela Steidele, Omri Boehm and Robert Schneider.«

Prof. Dr. Michael Maul, Artistic Director:

»In June 2025, a hugely diverse and innovative programme awaits our visitors – inspired by Johann Sebastian Bach, who subjected his music to fascinating processes of transformation again and again. The entire dramaturgy and organisation of the Bachfest follows this festival title. Even our cover photo is a transformation: to create it, Leipzig artist Ritchie Riediger transformed Bach's famous, unfinished B-A-C-H fugue into a graphic.

Besides dozens of concerts featuring top-quality musicians, we'll be surprising audiences with numerous, thrilling formats. I'm looking forward especially to the results of two Bach projects that I personally initiated: ›Bach's Faust‹, a blending of Goethe's drama and Bach's music, performed at the original venue – in Auerbach's Cellar. And – surprise! – we'll be hosting the most yearned-for comeback in the history of music: Johann Sebastian Bach in person will be stepping down from his famous portrait and giving a witty lecture concert a whole 24 times – thanks to augmented reality.«

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.



2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

VI. Awarding of the 2025 Bach Medal to Marcel Ponseele

The 2025 City of Leipzig Bach Medal goes to the Belgian oboist, Marcel Ponseele. Thanks to this musician, new standards have been attained in the sound and manner of playing the Baroque oboe: besides his successful career as an oboist, Ponseele has also made a name for himself as an oboe maker.

Marcel Ponseele has been one of the leading interpreters on the Baroque oboe for more than four decades. With great technical mastery and unfailingly moving intonation, he has enthralled audiences in innumerable concert appearances all over the world. The same can be said of his participation in the Baroque orchestras of Ton Koopman, Philippe Herreweghe and Sir John Eliot Gardiner, as well as his performances with the ensemble Il Gardellino, which Ponseele co-founded in 1988 and of which he is the artistic director. His interpretations of Johann Sebastian Bach's oboe solos in cantatas, Passions and concertos are important milestones in historical performance practice.

After a joint concert by the artist and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra under the baton of Ton Koopman in the Banquet Hall of Leipzig's Old Town Hall, the Bach Medal of the City of Leipzig will be awarded to Marcel Ponseele by the mayor of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung, and the director of the Bach Archive, Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny, on 20 June. Tickets for this concert are available at www.bachfestleipzig.de.

In recognition of their special services to the upholding of Bach's work, previous laureates of the City of Leipzig Bach Medal include Andreas Staier (2024), the THOMANERCHOR Leipzig (2023), Sir András Schiff (2022), Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schulze and Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Christoph Wolff (2021), Angela Hewitt (2020), Prof. Dr. h. c. Robert Levin (2018), Masaaki Suzuki (2012), Herbert Blomstedt (2011), Philippe Herreweghe (2010), Nikolaus Harnoncourt † (2007), Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman (2006), Sir John Eliot Gardiner (2005), Helmuth Rilling (2004) and Gustav Leonhardt † (2003).

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · **Tel.** +49 341 9137-121 · **Fax** +49 341 9137-125 · **Email** von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

VII. Leipzig Bach Museum during the Bachfest

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS IN THE BACH MUSEUM

Contacts: Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny (director of Leipzig Bach Archive), Kerstin Wiese (head of Leipzig Bach Museum), Henrike Rucker (curator of *Breakthroughs in the Study of Bach*), Dr. Christine Blanken (acting head of Bach Archive Research Department).

Catalogues on both special exhibitions are available in the Leipzig Bachfest Press Office.

BACH'S SONS. THE KULUKUNDIS COLLECTION

Special exhibition in the Treasury

until 3 November 2025

For its 75th anniversary, the Leipzig Bach Archive received the most valuable donation in its history: 130 autograph scores, letters and first editions from the Kulukundis Collection, worth around 10 million euros. Over nearly 70 years, the New York shipowner and musicologist Elias N. Kulukundis compiled the most important private collection on Bach's composer sons and their contemporaries, including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The special exhibition presents the life, work and influence of Bach's sons with the aid of key objects from the Kulukundis Collection and the museum's existing collection. At the same time, it provides deep insights into their musical education and their relationship with their father. For Wilhelm Friedemann (1710–1784), Carl Philipp Emanuel (1714–1788), Johann Christoph Friedrich (1732–1795) and Johann Christian Bach (1735–1782) it was certainly not easy to step out of the shadow of their genius father. Yet Johann Sebastian gave them the freedom to develop their own musical language.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

VII. Leipzig Bach Museum during the Bachfest

BREAKTHROUGHS IN THE STUDY OF BACH

Special exhibition for a double anniversary: »75 Years of the Leipzig Bach Archive« and »40 Years of the Leipzig Bach Museum«

until 23 November 2025

How do we know when Bach composed his works? How do you find lost compositions? And how did Bach researchers in East and West Germany work together during the Cold War? The Bach Archive has been researching into the life, work and influence of Johann Sebastian Bach and his family for 75 years. The Bach Museum opened its doors to the public 40 years ago. This anniversary exhibition guides you through the thrilling world of Bach research: from the success story of the *Neue Bach-Ausgabe* to the pioneering methods of paper and document examination right through to the use of artificial intelligence in current research. Sound samples, media stations and interactive games invite visitors to delve deeper into the subject and to experiment.

Among the artefacts on display are valuable autographs by Bach and his sons, as well as an original punched-card system to determine the writer of the handwriting in question. A prologue of historical photos, letters and other items from the collection bring the atmosphere of the period of the founding of the Bach Archive, shortly after the creation of the GDR, to life. Telegrams, applications for business travel and factual reports recount the adverse circumstances under which Bach researchers in the East and West collaborated.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Long Night of the Sciences in the Leipzig Bach Museum

Friday, 20 June 2025, 6pm-11pm, free admission

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS DURING THE BACHFEST

Meeting point: Leipzig Bach Museum, Thomaskirchhof 16

Tickets: €15 (in German), €17.50 (in English)

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · **Tel.** +49 341 9137-121 · **Fax** +49 341 9137-125 · **Email** von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

VII. Leipzig Bach Museum during the Bachfest

Guided tours of the special exhibition: Breakthroughs in the Study of Bach

Fri 13.6. / Sun 15.6. / Tues 17.6. / Thurs 19.6. / Sat 21.6., at:
10am (German) / 11am (English)

Guided tours of the Treasury and permanent exhibition: Bach and His Sons

Sat 14.6. / Mon 16.6. / Wed 18.6. / Fri 20.6. / Sun 22.6., at:
10am (German) / 11am (English)

OPENING TIMES AND ADDRESS

Leipzig Bach Museum and museum shop

Thomaskirchhof 15/16, 04109 Leipzig

Open daily from 10am to 6pm for the duration of the Bachfest

Open until 11pm on the Long Night of the Sciences (Friday, 20 June 2025)

APP: LEIPZIG BACH MUSEUM

This free app is available in **11 languages and three barrier-free versions** (Chinese, German, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Dutch, Polish, Russian, Spanish, simple (German) language, sign language, a version for the blind). It is available in the Bach Museum, or you can download it from the Apple Store and Google Play Store with additional offers such as »A tour of St. Thomas' Church with Bach«.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · **Tel.** +49 341 9137-121 · **Fax** +49 341 9137-125 · **Email** von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

VIII. Statistics

Events:

- 203, including 23 partnership projects and 28 third-party events

Venues:

- 32 in Leipzig
- 6 outside Leipzig: Arnstadt, Lutherstadt Eisleben, Markkleeberg, Merseburg, Störmthal and Torgau

Participants (events organised by the Bachfest):

A total of 3,579, including

- 38 choirs with a total of 1,775 singers
- 34 orchestras with a total of 1,056 musicians
- 248 members of chamber music ensembles
- 176 vocal soloists, 49 conductors
- 182 speakers and presenters
- 40 organists
- 53 instrumental soloists

Advance ticket sales:

- tickets for events organised by the Bachfest proper were sold in 51 different countries (as of 11 June), including:

Australia, Botswana, Brazil, China, Israel, Japan, Colombia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey, Uruguay and United States of America

- Ticket prices: €3 to €170
- Group tours: 43 tour operators from 16 countries

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · **Tel.** +49 341 9137-121 · **Fax** +49 341 9137-125 · **Email** von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

IX. Services

Info/Ticket tent

Petersstrasse/corner of Markt square: Information, tickets and meeting point for Bach-lovers.

Opening times: daily from 10am to 8pm for the duration of the Bachfest, on 22 June, open until 6pm.

Tickets for Leipzig Bachfest events are available at www.bachfestleipzig.de. Tickets can also be ordered by phone on (+49) (0)341-91 37-333 (from Mon to Fri, 9am-5pm).

In Leipzig, tickets are available at Oelsner music shop, Ticketgalerie and the Bach Museum shop.

Box office sales are at the respective venues.

Climate Pass

With the introduction of the Climate Pass instead of the previous Festival Pass, the organisers are offering customers a chance to improve their own carbon footprint and that of the Bach Festival. Purchasing a Climate Pass supports the afforestation of a Bach Forest south of Leipzig. Holders of a Climate Pass are additionally entitled to 15% off normal ticket prices. The pass is not valid for guided tours and concerts organised by third parties.

Bachfest for students and trainees

Up to 22 June you can book selected concert tickets for €10 in the Leipzig Bachfest webstore and Leipzig Bach Museum shop with the promotional code UniBach. Student and trainee ID cards are checked on admittance to events.

LEIPZIG BACHFEST 2026:

11-21 June 2026: »In Dialogue«

Advance ticket sales start: 25 November 2025

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

X. Recordings and streaming of Bachfest events

Thursday, 12 June 2025, St. Thomas' Church | 5pm

No 1, OPENING CONCERT

The concert will be recorded by MDR and broadcast deferred at 8.03pm* on MDR Klassik, NDR Kultur and RBB radio 3.

Thursday, 12 June 2025, Gewandhaus, Great Hall | 8pm

No 2, SOLO RECITAL JAN ČMEJLA, WINNER OF THE 1ST PRIZE IN THE 2025 LEIPZIG BACH COMPETITION

The concert will be recorded by Genuin classics and released on all relevant music streaming portals.

Saturday, 15 June 2025, St. Nicholas' Church | 8pm

No 70, PASSION

The concert will be recorded by Deutschlandfunk Kultur and broadcast at a later time.*

Saturday, 19 June 2025, St. Nicholas' Church | 8pm

No 137, ORIGINAL VERSUS PARODY II

The concert will be recorded by Deutschlandfunk Kultur and broadcast at a later time.*

If you need recordings of the radio productions for press purposes, please contact:

MDR KULTUR:

Isabel Roth (isabel.roth@mdr.de, tel.: +49 (0) 345-300 5521)

DEUTSCHLANDFUNK KULTUR:

Mascha Drost (mascha.drost@deutschlandradio.de, tel.: +49 (0) 30-8503-5621)

GENUIN classics:

Michael Silberhorn (m.silberhorn@genuin.de, tel.: +49 (0) 177-7377420)

*Broadcast times subject to change.

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · **Tel.** +49 341 9137-121 · **Fax** +49 341 9137-125 · **Email** von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

XI. Press Office

Press Office during the Bachfest, 12 to 22 June 2025:

Location:	Leipzig Bach Archive (inner courtyard), Thomaskirchhof 15/16, 04109 Leipzig
Opening times:	12 June: 11am-8pm 13-21 June: daily 9am-8pm 22 June: 9am-6pm
Phone no.:	+49 (0) 341 9137-351 or +49 (0) 341 9137-353
Email:	presse@bach-leipzig.de
Contact:	Franziska von Sohl (Press Officer)
	Press team: Bernadette Birr, Susanne de Boor, Isabella Guzy and Max Uhlmann

We are happy to answer questions, organise interviews and provide photographic material.

Registration/access to Bachfest photo service: <https://presse.bach-leipzig.de>

Please note: You can pre-order photos of the opening concert of the 2025 Leipzig Bachfest and/or the awarding of the City of Leipzig Bach Medal free of charge as of now by supplying your email address. The photos will be sent to you by 7.30pm at the latest on 12 June (opening concert) and by 4pm at the latest on 20 June (City of Leipzig Bach Medal award).

Credits:

Bachfest Leipzig/Jens Schlüter (opening concert)

Bachfest Leipzig/Gert Mothes (Bach Medal award)

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.

bach

PRESS KIT

Press Office Franziska von Sohl · Tel. +49 341 9137-121 · Fax +49 341 9137-125 · Email von.sohl@bach-leipzig.de

2025 LEIPZIG BACHFEST

XII. Leipzig Bachfest wishes to thank



TRANS- FORMA- TION

DAS BACHFEST LEIPZIG 2025 DANKT:

SEINEM HAUPTFÖRDERER  Sparkasse
Leipzig

SEINEN PARTNERN

	American Friends of the Leipzig Bach Archive		
	BMW Niederlassung Leipzig		
		KONSUM ^o	
			
			
			

SEINEN KULTUR- UND MEDIENPARTNERN

		
---	---	--

SEINEN ÖFFENTLICHEN FÖRDERERN

		Das Bachfest Leipzig wird gefördert von der Stadt Leipzig und mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes.
---	---	---

LEIPZIG BACH ARCHIVE · Foundation under German Civil Law · Institute of Leipzig University · Thomaskirchhof 15/16 · 04109 Leipzig

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Burkhard Jung, Mayor of the City of Leipzig

President Prof. Dr. Ton Koopman · **Director** Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Peter Wollny · **Acting Managing Director** Peter Matzke

The Leipzig Bach Archive is co-funded from tax revenues on the basis of the budgets adopted by the German Bundestag, the Saxon State Parliament and Leipzig City Council.