

## **Early Music Vancouver Reveals Illuminating Vancouver Bach Festival and 2018/19 Main Season**

***49<sup>th</sup> Season Features Rare Visits from Luminary Artists & Ensembles, Including Bach Collegium Japan, The King's Singers, Angela Hewitt, Kristian Bezuidenout, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra & More***

**Vancouver, BC – Early Music Vancouver (EMV)** announces its **2018 Vancouver Bach Festival and 2018/19 Main Season**, bringing a staggering list of events to venues in and around Vancouver. At the precipice of a half-century of operation, EMV's 49<sup>th</sup> season is a particularly expansive one, with concerts ranging from Medieval songs by Guillaume de Machaut and polyphony from Renaissance Crete, to works for choir and orchestra by Bach and Handel and Purcell, to 19<sup>th</sup> century creations by Schubert and Chopin.

The season will host a particularly stellar line-up of returning favourites and internationally acclaimed artists, including **Angela Hewitt, Bach Collegium Japan/Masaaki Suzuki, Benjamin Alard, Chiaroscuro Quartet with Kristian Bezuidenout, Gli Angeli Genève, The King's Singers, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, and Monica Huggett**. The festival and season will also introduce and expand upon exciting presenting partnerships, including renewed collaborations with the **Vancouver Recital Society, Vancouver Chopin Society**, and the **Pacific Baroque Orchestra (PBO)**, led by conductor **Alexander Weimann**.

"Over the course of the 2017/18 season, EMV welcomed more audiences into our concert halls than at any point in our history. When Karina Gauvin sings the season's final notes on May 6 at the Chan Centre, more than 20,000 attendees will have enjoyed EMV concerts over the past year," explains Matthew White, Executive and Artistic Director of EMV. "I am sure that part of our success is connected to the idea that in an increasingly distracted digital age people are looking for access to art and music that not only grounds them in cultural history, but also requires their focused attention and emotional engagement."

Running July 30 to August 10, the **Vancouver Bach Festival** expands to 15 concerts in its third iteration, bringing an all-encompassing celebration of classical music to downtown Vancouver's Christ Church Cathedral and the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. The festival commences with another entry from EMV's 'Goldberg Experience', as celebrated French harpsichordist **Benjamin Alard** puts his stamp on this keystone work. The following evening, internationally acclaimed **Angela Hewitt** continues her four-year project to perform Bach's entire keyboard repertoire by returning to play his *Well Tempered Clavier – Book 1* at the Chan Centre. Further highlights include the return of audience favourite countertenor **Reginald L. Moble** with **Pacific MusicWorks** in a programme including *Bach's Cantata 82*, a romantic instrumental program from **Monica Huggett and Byron Schenkman**, as well as performances of Bach Cantatas by the full orchestra and choir of **Gli Angeli Genève**. The festival will conclude with a large-scale performance of J.S. Bach's great *Trauerode* featuring **internationally renowned soloists, a choir, and the PBO led by Alexander Weimann**. Last year's popular weekday afternoon concert series will also return, offering a diverse and delightful selection of programmes including Schubert lieder accompanied by an original 19<sup>th</sup> century guitar, Renaissance madrigals, Britten's *Abraham and Isaac*, and more.

EMV's Main Season will kick off on a flamboyant note, as famed Italian violinist **Enrico Onofrio** joins the PBO for a virtuosic performance of works from Vivaldi's *L'Estro Armonico*. Also visiting from Europe, acclaimed Belgian vocal ensemble **Vox Luminis** share Purcell's hauntingly beautiful *Funeral Music for a Prince and Queen* in October. Rising international star, Canadian baritone **Philippe Sly**, welcomes November's change in season as he is joined by Michael McMahon on a 19<sup>th</sup> century fortepiano for **Schubert's Wintereisse**. The Christmas season will be extra merry and bright, as it will welcome the

superlative artists of **Bach Collegium Japan** under their leader Masaaki Suzuki to share an exquisite program of Handel, Vivaldi, and their namesake J.S. Bach, as well as the return of EMV's beloved annual *Festive Cantatas*, which will feature a joyous programme entitled "A Monteverdi Christmas Vespers" under the guidance of music director **David Fallis**.

The New Year will commence with the anticipated return of Toronto's **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra**, bringing their thrilling and insightful multi-media creation *J. S. Bach: The Circle of Creation*. Shortly after, Vancouver will play host to globally renowned, golden-voiced ensemble **The King's Singers**, who share music from the court of Henry VIII. Later in February, a collaboration with Vancouver Chopin Society will introduce audiences to **Tobias Koch** for an exploration of the music of Chopin and his lesser well known Polish contemporaries. Audiences will then have the opportunity to experience a collaboration with Vancouver Recital Society bringing another international keyboard icon, **Kristian Bezuidenhout**, who will join with **Chiaroscuro Quartet** to explore Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* and works by Mozart. The season ends with a balanced trio of concerts, as medieval ensemble **Blue Heron** explores the work of Machaut, **PBO** performs Handel's Baroque triumphant Coronation Anthems, and **Cappella Romana** shares music from Renaissance Crete.

The full Vancouver Bach Festival and 2018/19 Season includes:

### VANCOUVER BACH FESTIVAL 2018

- JUL 30 [Bach Goldberg Variations](#) - Benjamin Alard
- JUL 31 [Angela Hewitt - Bach Well Tempered Clavier – Book 1](#) at the **Chan Centre**
- AUG 1 [Mozart Sonatas for Fortepiano and Violin](#) - Eric Zivian and Mark Destrubé at 1pm
- AUG 1 [Zimmerman's Coffeehouse and Garden](#) - Alexander Weimann with members of the PBO
- AUG 2 [Schubert Lieder for Voice and Guitar](#) - Colin Balzer and Lucas Harris, guitar at 1pm
- AUG 2 [Musica Transalpina: Vivaldi to Bach](#) - Reginald L. Mobley and Pacific MusicWorks
- AUG 3 [Songs without Words - Renaissance Madrigals Reimagined](#) at 1pm
- AUG 3 [Bach Cantatas - Actus Tragicus](#) with Gli Angeli Genève
- AUG 7 [Bach Solo Sonatas and Suites for Gamba](#) - Romina Lischka at 1pm
- AUG 7 [De Profundis: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Cantatas for Solo Bass](#) with Cornetti and Sackbutts
- AUG 8 [Britten - Abraham and Isaac](#) - Thomas Hobbs, tenor, Alex Potter, alto at 1pm
- AUG 8 [Bach, Beethoven and Brahms](#) with Monica Huggett and Byron Schenkman
- AUG 9 [EMV Emerging Artists Recital](#) at 1pm (*Admission by Donation*)
- AUG 9 [Couperin Leçons de Ténèbres](#) - La Modestine with Mark Destrubé
- AUG 10 [Bach Trauer Ode \(BWV 198\)](#) - PBO and Gli Angeli Genève at the **Chan Centre**

*All concerts at Christ Church Cathedral at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.*

### MASTERWORKS SERIES 2018—2019

- JUL 31 [Angela Hewitt - Bach Well Tempered Clavier – Book 1](#)
- AUG 10 [Bach Trauer Ode \(BWV 198\)](#) - PBO and Gli Angeli Genève
- DEC 9 [Bach Collegium Japan - Bach, Handel, Vivaldi](#) - Masaaki Suzuki conductor at 3pm
- DEC 23 [Festive Cantatas: A Monteverdi Christmas Vespers](#) with David Fallis at 3pm
- JAN 25 [Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra – J.S. Bach: The Circle of Creation](#) at Vancouver Playhouse
- FEB 9 [The King's Singers - Royal Blood: Music for Henry VIII](#)
- MAR 10 [Schubert Death and the Maiden and works by Mozart](#) - Chiaroscuro Quartet with Kristian Bezuidenhout, fortepiano, a collaboration with Vancouver Recital Society at Vancouver Playhouse at 3pm
- APR 14 [Handel Coronation Anthems](#) - PBO at 3pm

*All concerts at the Chan Centre for Performing Arts at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.*

## CATHEDRAL SERIES 2018-2019

JUN 12	<a href="#"><u>Medieval Echoes</u></a> - Norbert Rodenkirchen
SEP 29	<a href="#"><u>Vivaldi - L'Estro Armonico</u></a> PBO, with Enrico Onofrio, solo violin and guest director
OCT 13	<a href="#"><u>Purcell - Funeral Music for a Prince and a Queen</u></a> -Vox Luminis
NOV 2	<a href="#"><u>Schubert Winterreise</u></a> - Phillippe Sly, baritone and Michael McMahan, fortepiano
FEB 22	<a href="#"><u>Chopin The Last Concert</u></a> -Tobias Koch, fortepiano, a collaboration with the Vancouver Chopin Society
FEB 23	<a href="#"><u>The Polish Romantics</u></a> -Tobias Koch, fortepiano, a collaboration with the Vancouver Chopin Society
MAR 23	<a href="#"><u>Machaut Le Remède De Fortune</u></a> - Blue Heron
MAY 10	<a href="#"><u>Venice in the East: Music from Renaissance Crete</u></a> - Cappella Romana

All concerts at Christ Church Cathedral at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.

Early Music Vancouver subscribers can attend any four Vancouver Bach Festival or 2018/19 Season performances for the price of three. All subscriptions including more than four concerts also enjoy a 25% discount. Subscriptions are available by phone through the Chan Centre Box Office at 604.822. 2697.

### **ABOUT EARLY MUSIC VANCOUVER ([earlymusic.bc.ca](http://earlymusic.bc.ca))**

For more than 45 years, Early Music Vancouver (EMV) has dedicated itself to fostering an understanding and appreciation of musical treasures from the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods. Currently under the leadership of Matthew White – renowned countertenor and founding director of the Québec-based ensemble *Les Voix Baroques* – EMV continues to garner international acclaim as the largest presenter of early music in Canada, and as one of the most active and innovative organizations in its field in North America. EMV is proud of its educational outreach initiatives that include its popular, annual summer festival at UBC's School of Music; a new Baroque Mentorship Orchestra; community lectures; and instrument instruction and preservation.

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