



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 29, 2023

**AMERICAN BACH PRESENTS
"BACH BEYOND BAROQUE"
AT THE SAN FRANCISCO BACH FESTIVAL**

**YOUNG VIRTUOSO PIANIST OLIVER MOORE WILL BE
FEATURED IN A PROGRAM OF WORKS INSPIRED BY BACH
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023, AT 7:30 PM IN OSHER RECITAL HALL**

SAN FRANCISCO — **The music of Johann Sebastian Bach has had a profound impact on generations of composers, performers, and music lovers far beyond what the most famous composer of the Baroque era could ever have imagined.** Bach's music has brought passionate inspiration to nearly three centuries of composers, with Beethoven, Brahms, Busoni, Liszt, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann, and Wagner leading the entourage. The depth of their devotion and reverence for Bach was heartfelt, and it inspired countless works written in homage to his comprehensive genius.

Famous quotes by composers abound about their unparalleled estimation of Bach, but some also composed monumental works in their efforts to further the reach of Johann Sebastian's legacy. **The passionate connections felt by 19th- and 20th-century composers inspired some of the piano repertoire's most virtuoso compositions.**

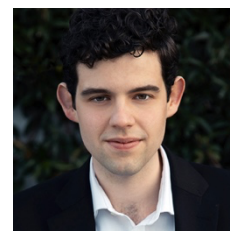
In this program that presents transformations of Bach's music into brilliant and bravura works, you'll hear one of the most exalted arrangements of his Chaconne in D Minor, originally for solo violin: **Ferruccio Busoni's hypnotic transcription is utterly mesmeric.** The dramatic contrasts that are integral to Bach's version for violin seem magnified a hundredfold by Busoni, who transformed an already deeply moving work into one that now gains the tremendous depth of the piano's sonorities.

Camille Saint-Saëns' short arrangement of the famous Sinfonia that came from one of Bach's solo violin partitas is scintillating. Other composers have put their pens to transcriptions of this energetic and vivacious music, including Bach himself! The same music appears in a sinfonia for full orchestra at the beginning of a celebratory Leipzig cantata. And Wendy Carlos's famous transcription for the Moog synthesizer has captivated audiophiles for decades. Saint-Saëns maintains an almost purist respect for Bach's original but with pianistic embellishments that are truly dazzling.

Also on the program is a substantial work drawn from another Baroque catalyst: **Brahms was inspired by a melody from Handel, and the resulting set of variations and fugue is a happy excursion** that bespeaks that particular Brahmsian texture that is like no other.

But the *crème de la crème* on this extraordinary program is Franz Liszt's monumental testament to the letters of Bach's name that correspond to four notes on the keyboard. B–A–C–H are the German names for the notes that are expressed in English as B-flat–A–C–B-natural. Through a nearly obsessive treatment of those four pitches, interleaved with jaw-dropping keyboard fireworks and bravura that require an absolute virtuoso to perform, Liszt's palpable infatuation with Bach, his music, and even his name reveals itself as a towering masterpiece of depth and drama.

Oliver Moore is the young 22-year-old discovery that will take you from the program's first restrained notes of Bach's Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Minor to the exhaustive and overwhelming culmination of Liszt's musical testament to Bach.



"Bach Beyond Baroque" will be presented at the San Francisco Bach Festival, produced by American Bach. The performance will take place in the Barbro Osher Recital Hall at the Bowes Center of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 200 Van Ness Avenue, on Friday, July 28, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, go to sfbachfestival.org

BACH BEYOND BAROQUE

Bach • Busoni • Handel • Liszt • Saint-Saëns

Friday, July 28, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Barbro Osher Recital Hall at the Bowes Center

San Francisco Conservatory of Music

200 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO
BACH FESTIVAL

July 27 – 30 2023

Tickets: \$35

americanbach.org/tickets • (415) 392-4400

Current SFCM Students with valid ID may purchase tickets at the venue beginning 1/2 hour before the performance and receive a 50% discount.

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