

# THÜRINGER BACHWOCHEN

Thüringer Bachwochen e.V. Krämerbrücke 3 99084 Erfurt

## **Thuringia Bach Festival 2017**

**April 7 to May 1**

*with a musical celebration for Martin Luther in Eisenach*

### **Programme highlights**

— *“To sum up, noble music is, according to God’s word, the greatest treasure on earth. It governs all thoughts, mind, heart and courage.”*

Martin Luther

— The Thuringia Bach Festival is one of the leading baroque music festivals in Germany. Every year during Eastertide it encompasses around 50 concerts of works by Johann Sebastian Bach in the historic locations in which Bach lived and worked in Thuringia. Performances in places such as at the original baptismal font in Eisenach or in Bach’s former work locations in Arnstadt, Muhlhausen and Weimar are unforgettable events for many music lovers who travel to the Thuringia Bach Festival from all over the world.

In 2017 the Festival will be devoted to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and will include a whole weekend devoted to Martin Luther. From April 28 to May 1 numerous concerts will enable visitors to follow in the footsteps of Luther in Thuringia and to discover the historical locations associated with the Reformation in Eisenach, Schmalkalden and Erfurt. The connection is obvious: at a distance of 200 years, both Martin Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach were itinerant choristers in the church of St George. To celebrate Bach and the Reformation here is both an obvious duty and a pleasure at the same time.

*The detailed programme for the 2017 Thuringia Bach festival will be published in November. Tour operators can nevertheless already make bookings and reservations. In the festival office, Mr Oliver Wickel will be glad to assist you (tel. +49 361 21 69 86 08, ow@thueringer-bachwochen.de).*

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<p>Friday, 7 April In all of Thuringia from 18:00</p>	<p><i>Long Night of Hausmusik</i></p> <p>The Thuringia Bach Festival traditionally opens with a great celebration of house music. Thuringians open their houses and invite people to private house concerts all over the state. In one evening the great Thuringian, Johann Sebastian Bach, will be honoured in over 100 concerts.</p>
<p>Saturday, 8 April Arnstadt, Bachkirche 19:00 58 €   28 €   13 €</p> <p>Weimar, Jakobskirche 22:00 18 €</p>	<p><i>Opening concert</i> <b>Solomon's Knot Baroque Collective</b> <b>Jonathan Sells</b> – conductor Johann Sebastian Bach: St John Passion BWV 245</p> <p>The opening concert is a performance of Bach's highly dramatic St John Passion in an interpretation which is both unconventional and moving. The London ensemble, Solomon's Knot, sing the work from memory and amaze with an intense, direct significance almost like that of chamber music.</p> <p><i>Bach for the night</i> <b>Matt Haimovitz</b> – cello Johann Sebastian Bach: Suites for cello solo I with overtures by Vijay Iyer, Roberto Sierra and Mohammed Fairouz Gabriel</p> <p>The Israeli-American cellist, Matt Haimovitz, has recorded Bach's suites for solo cello twice in recent years, initially on a modern instrument, then later on a baroque cello. Now he takes up the ambitious cycle for a third time and combines Bach's suites with a cycle of overtures, written for him by prominent American composers such as Philip Glass.</p>
<p>Sunday, 9. April Ettersburg, Schloss 11:30 18 €</p> <p>Erfurt, Thomaskirche 17:00 48 €   28 €   13 €</p>	<p><b>Matt Haimovitz</b> – cello Johann Sebastian Bach: Suites for cello solo II with overtures by Philip Glass, Du Yun and Luna Pearl Woolf</p> <p><b>Canadian Brass</b> <i>Works by Johann Sebastian Bach and Georg Friedrich Handel</i></p> <p>One could describe them as the designers of their own genre. The five virtuosi of Canadian Brass have led the way for brass ensembles across the world with their musical and technically brilliant arrangements of great works for brass quintet. Their recording of Vivaldi's Four Seasons is legendary but other baroque works may also be heard in their Thuringian debut.</p>

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<p>Good Friday, 14 April Eisenach, Georgenkirche 15:00 48 €   33 €   18 €   8 €</p> <p>Weimar, Jakobskirche 21:00 18 €</p>	<p><b>Tölzer Knabenchor (Tölz Boys' Choir)</b> <b>Neue Hofkapelle München</b> <b>Reinhard Goebel</b> – conductor Johann Sebastian Bach: St Matthew Passion BWV 244</p> <p>At the hour of Jesus' death Bach's St Matthew Passion will be performed in the baptismal church in Eisenach. Reinhard Goebel, legendary interpreter of early music and founder of Musica Antiqua Köln, conducts the Tölz choristers, whose young singers also benefit from intensive soloist training.</p> <p><i>Bach for the night</i> <b>Midori Seiler</b> – violin Johann Sebastian Bach: Sonatas for violin solo</p> <p>The violinist, Midori Seiler's Bach interpretations have frequently been singled out for praise. She has set standards as a soloist as well as acting as longstanding concert master for the Berlin Academy of Early Music. In Weimar she performs the sonatas for solo violin which she has recently recorded on CD.</p>
<p>Holy Saturday, 15 April Erfurt, Theater 16:00 43 €   33 €   23 €   13 €</p> <p>Weimar, Stadtkirche 19:30 38 €   23 €   8 €</p>	<p><b>Zefiro</b> <b>Alfredo Bernardini</b> – conductor Bach: Orchestral Suites BWV 1066-1069</p> <p>Bach's orchestral suites are actually dance music, even though not to be reduced to their popular movements like the Badinerie or the Air from Suite No 3. The famous Baroque Orchestra, Zefiro takes on this varied music and presents it for the first time live after their CD recording.</p> <p><i>500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran reformation</i> <b>Concerto Romano</b> <b>Alessandro Quarta</b> – conductor <i>Tenebrae Romane. The Holy Week in the Sistine Chapel</i> Works by Giovanni Pergolesi, Gregorio Allegri, Orazio Benevoli, and Giovanni Francesco Anerio</p> <p>A Catholic counterpart to the celebration of the Reformation. Music in the Vatican directed by Palestrina was an unusual phenomenon. Works such as Allegri's Miserere were secret and could be performed only in the Sistine Chapel in the presence of the Pope – until Mozart supposedly wrote the music out from memory after attending mass at the age of 14. And Goethe noted in 1787 "music in the Chapel is incredibly beautiful". In an impressive programme the Italian Ensemble, Concerto Romano, makes these mystical works audible again.</p>

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<p>Easter Sunday, 16 April Gotha, Schloss Friedenstein 11:30 18 €</p>	<p><b>Jean Rondeau</b> – harpsichord <i>All' italiana</i> Johann Sebastian Bach: Prelude from the Suite in C minor BWV 997 Chaconne from the Partita for violin BWV 1004 (transkribed by Brahms) Concerto all' italiano F major BWV 971 Domenico Scarlatti: Sonatas K. 119 in D major, K. 213 in D minor, K. 208 in A major, K. 175 in A minor, K. 132 in C major, K. 481 in F minor</p> <p>He is known as a „wild young thing“ amongst harpsichordists but is, above all, an extraordinary talent. Jean Rondeau is all set for a victory procession from France to the rest of the world. In his recital he presents the harpsichord in varied sound colours – and himself as both a virtuoso and an extremely expressive interpreter.</p>
<p>Meiningen, Stadtkirche 15:00 33 €   18 €   8 €</p>	<p><b>Julia Sophie Wagner</b> – soprano <b>Reginald Mobley</b> – countertenor <b>VOX ensemble</b> <b>Lorenzo Ghirlanda</b> – conductor Johann Sebastian Bach: Cantatas „Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen“ BWV 51 „Tilge, Höchster, meine Sünden“ BWV 1083 (after G.B. Pergolesi)</p> <p>From the passion to the praise of heaven: at the centre of this Easter concert are two cantatas whose content span is equal to that of the music. „Annul, Highest, my sins“ is an exception in Bach's works in which he simply re-works Pergolesi's popular Stabat Mater. The interplay between the soprano and the trumpet is contrasted with the dialogue of the voices in „Praise God in every land“, as a celebration of praise to the Lord. Soloists are the young soprano, Julia Sophie Wagner and the American countertenor, Reginald Mobley, both of whom are Bach specialists after working with conductors such as John Eliot Gardiner and Helmuth Rilling.</p>
<p>Weimar, Weimarahalle 19:30 43 €   33 €   23 €   13 €</p>	<p><b>Tzimon Barto</b> – piano Johann Sebastian Bach: The Well Tempered Clavier, Book II</p> <p>The American pianist, Tzimon Barto, is a phenomenon. He is not only an outstanding musician but also a writer and poet – in addition he speaks five languages fluently and reads Ancient Greek, Hebrew and Latin. His programme for the Thuringian Bach Festival also demands extraordinary abilities. In one evening he plays the complete preludes and fugues from Book 2 of the Well Tempered Clavier.</p>

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<p>Easter Monday, 17 April Schloss Wilhelmsthal 11:30 23€ 28 € incl. guided tour</p>	<p><i>250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Georg Philipp Telemanns</i> <b>Nevermind</b> <b>Anna Besson</b> – flute, <b>Louis Creac'h</b> – violin, <b>Robin Pharo</b> – viola da gamba, <b>Jean Rondeau</b> – harpsichord Georg Philipp Telemann: Quartets No. 4 in B minor and Nr. 6 in E minor Johann Sebastian Bach: Sonata in G major BWV 1039</p> <p>On the occasion of Telemann's anniversary, the French ensemble, Nevermind, invites us to a celebration in an authentic location: in Wilhelmsthal Castle near Eisenach, where Telemann organised summer concerts for many years, you can hear two of his wonderful quartets. The vitality of the ensemble contrasts with the faded charm of the castle which has been brought back to life only in the last few years.</p>
<p>Schmalkalden, St. Georg 16:00 23 €   13 €</p>	<p><i>500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran reformation</i> <b>Vox Luminis</b> <b>Lionel Meunier</b> – conductor <i>Luther's legacy: The Chorale</i> Chorals and motets by Johann Pachelbel, Johann Michael and Johann Christoph Bach, and Dietrich Buxtehude</p> <p>On the occasion of the anniversary of the Reformation Vox Luminis, Belgium's leading a cappella ensemble, devotes itself to Martin Luther's important musical legacy: the chorale, which symbolises Luther's idea of congregational singing in services. This will be audible in chorales and motets by the Bach family and also by Pachelbel and Buxtehude.</p>

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<p>Thursday, 20 April Weimar, Stadtkirche 19:30 33 €   18 €   8 €</p>	<p><i>450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Claudio Monteverdi</i> <b>VOCES 8</b> Works by Claudio Monteverdi, Johann Sebastian Bach, and others</p> <p>At their Bach Festival debut in 2015 they were wildly celebrated - in doing so the Thuringian audience joined a continually growing international community of fans. The eight vocalists return with a homage to Claudio Monteverdi and a wild gallop back through the history of music – and in addition will work intensively with Thuringian children for three days.</p>
<p>Friday, 21 April Erfurt, Heizwerk 19:30 23 €   13 €</p>	<p><b>Scottish Ensemble</b> <i>Three Parts Bach</i> Works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Arvo Pärt, and Sofia Gubaidulina</p> <p>The Scottish Ensemble is the only professional string orchestra in the United Kingdom. The musicians engage with great openness in projects which cross boundaries and styles which their two evenings at the Thuringia Bach Festival impressively demonstrate. Firstly in the Erfurt power station one can hear works by Bach alongside music by Arvo Pärt and Sofia Gubaidulina.</p>
<p>Saturday, 22 April Arnstadt, Bachkirche 14:00 <i>with a guided walk to Dornheim, Traukirche</i> 16:00 18 € 28 € inclusive of all transfers</p> <p>Erfurt, Theater 20:00 43 €   33 €   23 €   13 €</p>	<p><i>500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran reformation</i> <b>Netherlands Bach Society</b> <b>Jos van Veldhoven</b> – conductor Johann Sebastian Bach: The Chorales I</p> <p>The Netherlands Bach Society, Holland's oldest ensemble specialising in Bach, is currently engaged in an ambitious project. On the web site, <a href="http://allofbach.com">allofbach.com</a>, they want to make all Bach's works available to the public in high quality film by the time of the ensembles 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In collaboration with the Thuringia Bach Festival the historic Bach sites in Thuringia will also be immortalised in performances of Bach chorales in authentic locations. Before making music in Bach's footsteps in Muhlhausen on Sunday, the Bach Association will visit Arnstadt on Saturday and after the first concert will re-trace the route of Bach's wedding party with the audience to the wedding church in Dornheim.</p> <p><b>Scottish Ensemble</b> <b>Anderson Dance</b> <i>Goldberg Variations</i></p> <p>The second evening of the Scottish Ensemble's guest appearance will provide an opportunity to experience an unusual cooperation with the Swedish company, Anderson Dance: a scenic version of the Goldberg Variations in which the musicians perform from memory and are constantly on the move. A moving interpretation which will inspire both dance and Goldberg fans.</p>

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<p>(Saturday, 22 April) Erfurt, Franz Mehlhose 22:00 13 €</p>	<p><i>Bach for the night</i> <b>Jacques Palminger</b> – voice <b>Lieven Brunckhorst</b> – various instruments, <b>Jörg Follert</b> – sound design <i>Goldberg for all!</i></p> <p>A further variation will complete the themed evening: with <i>Goldberg for all</i>, Jacques Palminger, member of the legendary Hamburg Pop trio, Studio Braun, designs a programme which transforms the deep desire for relaxation behind the work into a concertante séance.</p>
<p>Sunday, 23 April Weimar, Schloss Belvedere 11:30 28 €   13 €</p> <p>Muhlhausen, Divi Blasii 16:00 23 €   13 €</p> <p>Erfurt, Heizwerk 19:30 23 €   13 €</p>	<p><b>Mandelring Quartet</b> Johann Sebastian Bach: Concerto for harpsichord in D minor BWV 1052 Sofia Gubaidulina: Meditation on Bach's "Vor Deinen Thron tret' ich..." György Kurtag: Microludes for string quartet Dmitry Shostakovich: String quartet No. 3 in F major op. 73</p> <p>Founded in 1983, the Mandelring Quartet has had a continuous place in the first rank of European string quartets. Since 2015 the siblings, Sebastian, Nanette and Bernhard Schmidt have been complemented by the viola player, Andreas Willwohl, who comes from Erfurt and who effectively returns home for the Festival. Their programme contrasts Bach with new works which contain direct references to Bach's works.</p> <p><i>500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran reformation</i> <b>Netherlands Bach Society</b> <b>Jos van Veldhoven</b> – conductor Johann Sebastian Bach: The Chorales II</p> <p><i>Generation Bach</i> <b>Voces 8</b> <b>Philharmonic Children and Youth Choir Erfurt</b> <b>Schola Cantorum Weimar</b> A cappella music from Bach to the Beatles</p> <p>The eight singers of Voces 8 will spend a whole weekend to work intensely with more than 100 students from Thuringia. The outcome of these 3 days will be presented in a certainly emotional closing concert in the impressive old heating factory of Erfurt. The programme includes both works by Johann Sebastian Bach as well as jazz and pop songs, arranged by the members of Voces 8 themselves.</p>

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*A music celebration for Martin Luther*

<p>Freitag, 28 April Eisenach, Georgenkirche 19:30 38 €   28 €   18 €   8 €</p>	<p><b>Dresdner Kreuzchor</b> <b>Roderich Kreile</b> – conductor Works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms, Heinrich Schütz, Hans Leo Hassler, and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy</p> <p>The musical celebration in honour of Martin Luther will be opened by an ensemble which is older than the Reformation. Last year the famous Dresden Kreuzchor celebrated its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In Eisenach the singers present a sacred programme which aptly honours the Reformation in music.</p>
<p>Saturday, 29 April Eisenach, Lutherhaus 11:00</p> <p><i>Excursion 1 to Erfurt, Augustinerkloster</i> 15:00 23 €   13 € transfers plus 10 €</p> <p>Eisenach, Wartburg 19:30 28 €   18 €   13 € transfers plus 5 €</p>	<p><b>Guided tour „Luther in Eisenach“</b> with Prof. Helen Geyer, University of Music, Weimar</p> <p>The Luther house in Eisenach is only a few steps away from Bach’s baptismal church in which Luther also sang as an itinerant boy. In her lecture the Weimar musicologist describes Luther’s and Bach’s time in Eisenach and their biographical and content connections.</p> <p><i>Excursion and guided tour to Martin Luther in Erfurt</i> <b>ensemble polyharmonique</b> <b>La Folia Baroque Orchestra, Robin Peter Müller</b> – conductor <i>Re-Formation: In process</i> Works by Marco Giuseppe Peranda, Francesco Bartholomeo Conti, Johann Kuhnau, Kaspar Kerl, Pietro Torri, and Johann Sebastian Bach</p> <p>The La Folia Baroque Orchestra traces the re-formations in Bach’s music in the Augustine Monastery in which Martin Luther was accepted as a monk. In this concert you will hear sacred works by predecessors and contemporaries which Bach edited and revised or which inspired him. This event in Erfurt can also be booked as a guided bus trip from Eisenach.</p> <p><b>Jörg Widmann</b> – clarinet, <b>Rahel Rilling</b> – violin, <b>David Adorján</b> – cello, <b>Yejin Gil</b> – piano Johann Sebastian Bach: Chorale „Ach Herr, lass dein lieb’ Engelein“ Olivier Messiaen: Quartet for the End of Time</p> <p>In the impressive Palas of Luther’s former work place Jörg Widmann, both a famous clarinetist and composer, can be heard with a first class quartet and in an unusual work: Messiaen’s Quartet for the End of Time, written during his war time incarceration in 1941 in Görlitz. The revelation of St John set here builds a bridge with the chorale of Bach’s St John Passion.</p>

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<p>Sunday, 30 April Eisenach, Georgenkirche 10:00</p> <p><i>Excursion 2 to Wilhelmsthal, Schloss 12:30 13 €</i> Whole excursion to Wilhelmsthal and Schmalkalden: 33 €</p> <p><i>... finally heading to Schmalkalden, St. Georg 15:00 13 €</i> Whole excursion to Wilhelmsthal and Schmalkalden: 33 €</p> <p>Eisenach, Georgenkirche 19:30 28 €   18 €   13 €   8 €</p>	<p><i>Cantata church service</i> <b>Bach Choir Eisenach</b> <b>Christian Stötzner</b> – conductor</p> <p><b>Franz Vitzthum</b> – countertenor <b>Julian Behr</b> – lute <i>Luther's Lute</i> Works by Ludwig Senfl, Hans Newsidler, Josquin de Prez and others</p> <p>The second excursion on historic paths takes a diversion on the road to Schmalkalden into Wilhelmsthal Castle, a bewitching place in which Georg Philipp Telemann once organised concerts. Here the young countertenor, Franz Vitzthum presents a matinee with songs from Martin Luther's environment – music which Luther himself heard and also sang.</p> <p><b>Flautando Köln</b> <b>Martin Brambach</b> – narrator <i>Non moriam sed vivam: Music and texts on Martin Luther</i> Works by Michael Praetorius, Orlando di Lasso, Marco Uccellini, and Martin Luther</p> <p>The Flautando Köln quartet are able to produce an endless variety of sounds from their recorders and have thus enthused international audiences for many years. Together with the actor, Martin Brambach, the musicians have developed a programme which presents Martin Luther in music and text – in the authentic location of the town church of Schmalkalden in which Luther once preached.</p> <p><b>Vocalconsort Berlin</b> <b>Elbipolis Baroque Orchestra</b> <i>Luther's Chorales: A sing-along concert</i> Songs and chorales by Johann Walter, Michael Praetorius, Heinrich Schütz, Georg Philipp Telemann, and Johann Sebastian Bach</p> <p>Martin Luther's ideas about congregational singing were a significant part of his thesis. The congregation should not only listen but actually sing and praise God. In this concert by Vocalconsort Berlin and Elbipolis Baroque Orchestra this conviction is literally given consequence. The varied sacred programme contains several chorales which the audience is invited to sing. A particularly intensive experience in the parish in which Luther himself sang.</p>
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<p>Monday, 1 May Eisenach, Theater 11:00 Uhr 28 €   23 €   18 €   13 €</p>	<p><b>Ragna Schirmer</b> – piano <i>Meine Seele bangt und hofft zu Dir</i> Johann Sebastian Bach: Ricercar a tre voci from the „Musical Offering“ BWV 1079 9 Chorales from the „Clavierübung“, Part III Toccatà in E minor BWV 914 Ferruccio Busoni: Elegy No. 3 „Meine Seele bangt und hofft zu Dir“ Cesar Franck: Prelude, Chorale und Fugue</p> <p>Ragna Schirmer has long been established in the forefront of German pianists. Once honoured as Germany's youngest female professor she now concentrates on concerts and CD recordings and constantly surprises us with creative programmes and collaborations. She is also at home on the Hammond organ and the harpsichord and has now investigated the legacies of Bach and Luther in piano music on the occasion of the Luther anniversary.</p>
<p>Eisenach, Georgenkirche 16:00 38 €   28 €   18 €   8 €</p>	<p><i>Final concert</i> <b>L'Arpeggiata</b> <b>Nuria Rial</b> – soprano <b>Hana Blažíková</b> – soprano <b>Christina Pluhar</b> – theorbo and leader <i>Komm, süßer Tod</i> <i>Music of the Reformation and Counter Reformation</i> Works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Heinrich Schütz, Martin Luther, Johann Walter, Ignazio Donati, and Claudio Monteverdi</p> <p>The Ensemble L'Arpeggiata has an unusual position in the musical world. Whether it be with Monteverdi, Handel or Latin American music the clever arrangements by the conductor, Christina Pluhar, entrance a broad audience which is carried away by the liveliness and playfulness of baroque music. In the Thuringia Bach Festival L'Arpeggiata devote themselves to Martin Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach and demonstrate the emotions which the Reformation can stir up.</p>