

Tenor Kyle Stegall

in conversation with Elizabeth Blumenstock

Our artistic director, Elizabeth Blumenstock, talked with some of the artists appearing in the 2019 Baroque Music Festival, "Bach: The Master and His Milieu." We hope you enjoy these two-minute reads!



EB What art form besides music do you find most compelling, and why?

KS I am absolutely enthralled by skillful dance/movement artists. I know this is sort of a cheat answer, because they are often responding to music in collaboration; but as a vocalist, my body is my artistic instrument as well!

It is so wonderful to see externalized what many of us feel in our spirits. The athleticism, the boldness, the vulnerability... it's all part of it.

EB Why do you love the music of Bach? Yes, I'm making an assumption here, but I bet it's a safe one!

KS A safe assumption, indeed! Bach is everything. Bach is a saint. Bach challenges every instrument and artist to stretch to the extremes of their technical and expressive means, and in this way, he challenges the listener as well. Bach challenges us all to be constantly growing, constantly searching, evaluating, evolving. I love his music because it is communicative on so many levels simultaneously. It is a touchpoint to our own humanity and to the Greater Love.

EB How do you find teaching has impacted your own development as a musician and performer?

KS I am fully dedicated to being a teaching artist. I have been blessed to be mentored by a few true artists along my path, and what they and the scores have given me, it is my privilege to pass along to other aspiring artists. The truth is that teaching is one of the most impactful gifts I can give to our art form; to nurture and embolden the next generation of representatives and protectors of music. I grow so much as an artist from teaching. It is almost always the case that the guidance I give others is the same guidance I can benefit from myself. It is also quite important to realize that our art form is a skill and a tradition. It is meant to be lovingly and diligently handed down from artist to artist. This is my privilege.

EB

If you could time travel to one particular place in Europe, and see one composer or performer at work, who and what would you most like to see?

KS

I was just speaking with my wife about this two nights ago. I would absolutely go spend a week in Leipzig in the 1730s. I would first enjoy attending church services where Bach's music was being used liturgically. I would then try to meet Bach himself at the Cafe Zimmerman during a Collegium Musicum event.

And finally, I would try to convince Herr Bach to join me for a couple beers. I have a lot of questions!



For the 2019 Festival, [Kyle Stegall](#) is featured in our Wednesday "Gardens" chamber concert in a Bach cantata and sacred concertos by Buxtehude, Bruhns and Schütz. Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 8 p.m. Sherman Library & Gardens, Corona del Mar, CA.

For information about tickets and subscriptions to this year's Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar, visit the Festival [website](#).

www.bmf-cdm.org