



March 24, 2022 — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar, gears up for a “Resounding!” return to its live summer season: June 19-26, 2022

The Baroque Music Festival—Newport Beach’s only resident professional classical music performing organization—will reopen with an exciting 42nd season. A “**Resounding!**” return to this boutique summer festival for accessible, smaller-scale, concert-going awaits the local community. Specialist professionals will perform **five Baroque music concerts over eight days**, at beautiful venues in **Corona del Mar, Irvine and Newport Beach, CA**.

World-renowned Baroque violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock is at the helm once again, curating and leading most of the Festival performances. Blumenstock performs regularly around the world with the exquisite 17th-century Guarneri violin on generous loan to her from the Philharmonia Baroque Period Instrument Trust. In addition to her artistic directorship of the Baroque Music Festival (since 2011), she serves as concertmaster across the nation, and in Europe, of the finest Baroque ensembles. Blumenstock’s selection of **Baroque masterpieces** for the 2022 Baroque Music Festival includes a grand **Handel opera gala**; solo, double *and* triple concertos by **Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann** and others; orchestral showstoppers, and rousing dance suites.

The **42nd Festival “Resounding!”** is anchored by two Sunday afternoon performances, featuring the **Festival Orchestra**. For the opening concert, the ensemble accompanies an array of soloists—all but one (Matthew Dirst, harpsichord) of whom are principal players from its ranks—in double concertos by Bach and Vivaldi. Telemann orchestral suites complete the program, in which the orchestra takes center stage.

Three evening concerts positioned between the larger-scale Sunday events present **chamber ensembles and soloists**. We revive the Festival’s **organ recital**, with a couple of twists: the organ and harpsichord will take equal billing, and we are at a new venue. This Monday program is presented **in association with Concordia University Irvine** and takes place on its beautiful campus. With playing described as “expressive and brilliant” (*Early Music America*), Houston-based keyboardist **Matthew Dirst** makes his in-person recital debut in Orange County following a successful concert film for the Festival in 2021 entitled “A Bach Keyboard Extravaganza”. When asked about this year’s collaboration, Dirst shared:

“I’m delighted to be making my first in-person appearance at the Festival. It is wonderful to work again with one of my most admired colleagues, Elizabeth Blumenstock.”

Dirst presents a rich and varied program of works by J.S. Bach and his son C.P.E., Louis and François Couperin, and their contemporaries, centered around C.P.E. Bach’s variations on “La Folía” (folly or madness)—a chord progression used as a theme by many composers from the Renaissance to the 21st Century.

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Since the first **Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar**, in 1981, weeknight concerts have been held within the hidden oasis of **Sherman Library & Gardens** in Corona del Mar. This year we gather there on the **Wednesday evening** of Festival week for a very special event: an entire evening of **solo and chamber concertos** by Baroque composers from all over Europe. Our soloists (who typically appear each year on the Friday evening of the Festival) are joined by a string quartet to present their virtuosity up close and personal in the airy café room at the Gardens. **Friday night** sees a welcome return to the excellent acoustics at St. Michael & All Angels Church, Corona del Mar, for joyful Baroque-era dance music from all around Europe, including **toe-tapping traditional medleys** from the British Isles.

The 42nd summer season will close with **A Handel Gala** showcasing three of the composer's finest works for the stage: *Ariodante*, *Giulio Cesare* and *Rodelinda*. The program features truly divine music, including the famous soprano aria "Piangerò" from *Giulio Cesare* and a lovers' duet— "Io t'abbraccio" from *Rodelinda*. Dutch coloratura soprano **Josefien Stoppelenburg** and Canadian countertenor **Nicholas Burns** are the vocal soloists. The orchestra perform a Handel *concerto grosso*, plus an overture and dances from the operas.

In addition to the ticketed concerts, audiences are invited to enjoy Baroque music performed *al fresco* by **South Coast Brass**, beginning 45 minutes before each concert. Following all performances, audience members and musicians enjoy mingling for conversation and refreshment at a complimentary wine and waters reception.

Information and Tickets

- **Subscriptions:** \$285 for all five concerts. Price includes priority seating at each concert and a private post-concert dinner following the Festival Finale on Sunday, June 26th.
- **Tickets:** Ranging from \$35 to \$50 for individual concerts for open seating.
- **Students Go for Baroque rush tickets (age 12 and above):** \$5 on the day of performance only, cash only, with Student ID. Please email students@bmf-cdm.org for further information, and to inquire about group bookings.
- **How to purchase:** Festival subscriptions, single tickets, full venue information, and current COVID safety protocol, are at bmf-cdm.org or available by calling (949) 760-7887 and leaving a message for a callback.

The Baroque Music Festival was founded in 1981 by Dr. Burton Karson, then Professor of Music at CSU Fullerton. The annual season (2020 and 2021 saw online offerings) of five June concerts is a high-quality musical experience and an accessible way to discover, or rediscover, the uplifting beauty and joy of Baroque-era (around 1600 to 1750) music, right in the heart of the local community. Over the past four decades, the Festival has evolved as both an esteemed and popular cultural institution in Orange County. Performing primarily on period instruments in intimate settings, acclaimed instrumentalists and vocal soloists assemble each June in Corona del Mar and the greater Newport Beach area for the annual Festival.

Concertgoers have described the performances as "rapturous" and "riveting"; reviews from the *Los Angeles Times*, *Orange County Register* and other publications have praised the Festival throughout its long and illustrious history. The organization's Board of Directors remains committed to bringing inspiring Baroque music to Corona del Mar and surrounding neighborhoods every summer.

Artistic Director Elizabeth Blumenstock is available for phone, video and email interviews on request.

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Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar – information

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- **Festival History** <https://bmf-cdm.org/festival-history/>

Resounding! 42nd annual season: June 19-26, 2022

Sunday, June 19, 4 p.m. – St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach

Many Happy Returns

Welcome back! Elizabeth Blumenstock leads the Festival Orchestra in Bach's *Concerto for Two Harpsichords in C Major* (Ian Pritchard, Matthew Dirst), and his *Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor* (Blumenstock, Jolianne Einem), plus Vivaldi's *Concerto for Two Oboes in D Minor* (Stephen Hammer, Lot Demeyer). Telemann's lively orchestral suite *Les Nations* and *Polonais* concerto for strings complete the program.

Monday, June 20, 8 p.m. – CU Center, Concordia University, Irvine

Follies & Fantasies

Acclaimed Houston-based conductor, organist and harpsichordist Matthew Dirst gives a solo recital on both instruments. The program includes a J.S. Bach *Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue*, and C.P.E. Bach's *La Folía* (folly or madness) variations. Dirst's playing has been described as "expressive and brilliant" by *Early Music America*. This sees his live recital debut for the Festival following the successful concert film "A Bach Keyboard Extravaganza" for us in 2021. Not to be missed!

Wednesday, June 22, 8 p.m. – Sherman Library & Gardens, Corona del Mar

Concertos in the Gardens

A special program of solo concertos by Benda, Platti, Umstatt, Vivaldi and Bach; plus, Telemann's *Triple Concerto in E Major* for flute, oboe d'amore and viola d'amore. Elizabeth Blumenstock (violin), David Shostac (flute), Lara Wickes (oboe), Michael Kaufman (cello) and Gabriel Arregui (harpsichord), and strings.

Friday, June 24, 8 p.m. – St. Michael & All Angels Church, Corona del Mar

The Joy of the Dance

Elizabeth Blumenstock and colleagues play lively dances from across Baroque-era Europe, including suites by 17th-century masters Schmelzer and Marini, plus traditional medleys from the British Isles.

Sunday, June 26, 4 p.m. – St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach

Festival Finale: A Handel Gala

Virtuoso arias and duets, overtures and dances from Handel's finest operas: *Ariodante*, *Giulio Cesare* and *Rodelinda*. Featuring Dutch coloratura soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg and rising star Canadian countertenor Nicholas Burns, with the 2022 Festival Orchestra.

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