



## Festival soloist **Stephen Schultz** in conversation with Elizabeth Blumenstock:

Stephen performs in the opening concert on Sunday June 18 and is the featured recitalist this year, in the Festival's first flute recital, on Monday June 19.

For more information and to buy tickets visit: [bmf-cdm.org](http://bmf-cdm.org)

**EB:** Musicians have memories of being part of thrillingly satisfying and moving concerts, whether as a personal “best,” the repertoire, or the group “feeling” in the performance. If we are lucky, all three! Can you share such an experience in your life, and express what made it so memorable?

**SS:** Over the course of my lifetime, I have attended an incredible amount of concerts, both as a performer and listener. Most of the concerts I have played have been rewarding musically and/or emotionally, depending on who I am playing with and the pieces performed. (And of course, anytime I get a chance to play with Elizabeth Blumenstock is a



joy - music-making on the highest level.) I recently had a chance to play Beethoven's 7th Symphony for the first time as principal flute and the experience was fantastically exhilarating. Also, I just performed Brahms's 2nd Symphony and although the technical challenges were immense, it was a great experience playing this gorgeous music.

As far as listening experiences go, I attended Michael Tilson Thomas conducting the San Francisco Symphony in Mahler's 6th Symphony on September 12, 2001. Although 9/11 happened the day before, this previously scheduled concert/live recording went ahead as planned. Needless to say, it was a riveting, transcendent experience. This most nihilistic and darkest of Mahler symphonies perfectly fitted everyone's mood. We were all left devastated by the concert.

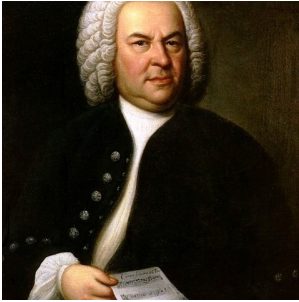
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**EB: Tell me about the most recent good book you have read, or film you have seen, and why do you hope others should consider reading/seeing it?**

**SS:** I just read the political thriller *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacey Abrams and it was surprisingly good. A great mystery and a real page-turner. Normally my go-to books are Sherlock Holmes pastiches or more books on Mahler or the Beatles.

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**EB: What place in the world, as yet unseen by you, are you determined to visit, and what fascinates you about it?**



**SS:** I have traveled to so many wonderful places for my career and as a tourist that I honestly don't have any bucket list destinations. I would like to eventually retire to a warm place that is freer of all the political horror and gun violence that we experience daily here in America.

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**EB:** If you could time-travel to Leipzig, what would you like to ask Bach, and what would you like to tell him?

**SS:** I don't think I'd ask or tell him anything. I'd just want to hear him play the organ, see him conduct one of his cantatas, or listen to one of the Zimmerman Coffee House concerts.

May 2023

*All opinions expressed are the interviewer's and interviewee's own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar.*

"A Bach Kaleidoscope" June 18-25, 2023, at beautiful venues in the Newport Beach area, Orange County, CA.

Subscriptions, tickets & full details at [bmf-cdm.org](http://bmf-cdm.org)