**THE 4th BACH IN JERUSALEM FESTIVAL**

**The St. John Passion**

**J.S.Bach’s St. John Passion will be at the centre of the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra’s 4th Bach Festival. There will also be performances of orchestral- and chamber music, vocal- and instrumental music, recitals, a Bach Purim show for children, an international symposium, an exhibition from the Bach House (Eisenach, Germany) and more events associated with Bach and his contemporaries.**

**March 22nd-26th 2019**

**The International Jerusalem YMCA, other Jerusalem venues, Tel Aviv, Zikhron Ya'akov, Be’er Sheva**

The Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra’s **Bach in Jerusalem Festival** is flourishing as a leading musical event and a Jerusalem tradition, drawing audiences from all over Israel. Now in its fourth year, the festival, taking place around the date of the 334th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach’s birth, will offer five days abounding with concerts, events, lectures and an exhibition from the Bach House in Eisenach, all dedicated to the music of Bach and its influence from his time to ours.

The festival, which will take place from March 22nd to 26th 2019, was established by the **Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra** and its musical director **David Shemer**, who serves as the festival’s musical director. Most of the festival concerts will be performed by the orchestra and JBO players. The centrepiece of the festival will be Bach’s immortal work - the **St. John Passion** - conducted by **Joshua Rifkin** (USA) and with the participation of a host of singers from Israel and abroad. The work will be performed in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Be’er Sheva and at the Elma Arts Complex, Zikhron Ya’akov. In addition to the concerts, an international symposium will be held on the St. John Passion.

Also in this year’s festival, there will be a selection of Johann Sebastian Bach’s organ works, performed by **Franz Raml** (Germany) at the Redeemer Church. Old City, Jerusalem. In “**Bach in the Studio**”, selected singers from the Israel Opera’s Opera Studio will offer the audience an evening of much-loved arias from cantatas of J.S.Bach and accompanied by players of the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra. **Ira Givol** and his Baroque ensemble (Switzerland) will perform Bach ‘**Cello Suites** in ensemble arrangements by Givol and more beloved works for various Baroque ensembles and of different Baroque genres - from the sonata, the trio sonata and to the Concerto for ‘Cello accompanied by string ensemble and continuo.

The festival supports the younger generation, inviting outstanding pupils from the Magnificat-, Hassadna-, Stricker- and Jerusalem Academy Conservatories to perform a concert of works of Bach and his contemporaries.

And for Purim, “Boom Trach Bach”, a concert for the whole family: children will celebrate the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach, the world’s greatest composer. They will become acquainted with the composer and his music at the show featuring clown **Fyodor Makarov** and the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra, which will perform the music on authentic instruments.

The festive program concluding the festival will feature soprano **Keren Motzeri** and Italian trumpeter **Giuseppe Frau** in Bach’s Cantata BWV 51, Brandenburg Concerto No.2 and several other concertos and works.

Bach in Jerusalem Festival

March 22-26 , 2019

334 to the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach

**Friday, 22.3.19**

***Concert 1***

**A Bach family Circus Concert**

12:00 – Terminal Hatarbut, First Station, Jerusalem

**Fyodor Makarov**, clown

**Adaya Peled**, soprano

**Players of the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra**

**Zvi Meniker, conductor**

A circus-concert telling the story of J. S. Bach and playing some of his most favorite pieces, with Fyodor Makarov in the role of JS Bach, Adaya Peled in the role of his wife

**Concert 2**

**St. John's Passion**

13:00 – Zucker Auditorium, Heikhal Hatarbut, Tel Aviv

Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra

Joshua Rifkin, conductor

Keren Motseri, Avital Dery, Richard Resch, Drew Santini, soloists

J. S. Bach – St. John Passion

**Saturday, 23.3.19**

Concert No. 3

Organ recital

12:00 – Church of the redeemer, Jerusalem

Franz Ramml, organ (Germany)

A variety of works for solo organ by J. S. Bach

***Concert 4***

**St. John's Passion**

20:30 – Elma Auditorium, Zichron Yaakov

Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra

Joshua Rifkin, conductor

Keren Motseri, Avital Dery, Richard Resch, Drew Santini, soloists

J. S. Bach – St. John Passion

***Concert 5***

**Bach in the Studio**

20:30 – Jerusalem YMCA

Selected singers from the Israeli Opera Studio will perform an evening of arias and ensembles from Bach's cantatas, accompanied by players of the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra.

**Sunday, 25.3.18**

***Concert 6***

**The Next Generation**

16.00 Jerusalem YMCA

Selected young musicians from Magnificat Conservatory, Hasadna conservatory, and The Israeli conservatory in Tel Aviv in a concert devoted to the music of J.S. Bach and his contemporaries.

***Concert 7***

**Bach's Cello Suites**

Ira Givol

18.30 International YMCA, Jerusalem

Cellist Ira Givol will perform J. S. Bach's cello suites BWV 1007-1010

***Concert 8***

**THE Bach Suites Project**

20.30 International YMCA, Jerusalem

Joanna Huszcza, Jonathan Keren, violins

Ira Givol, Mara Miribung, cello

Zvi Meniker, harpsichord

Ira Givol with his Baroque Ensemble from Switzerland, will perform Bach's cello suites, rearranged for the ensemble.

***Concert 9***

**St. John's Passion**

20:00 – Beer Sheva Conservatory

Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra

Joshua Rifkin, conductor

Keren Motseri, Avital Dery, Richard Resch, Drew Santini, soloists

**Monday, 25.3.2019**

***Concert 10***

**Bach's Violin Sonatas, Part I**

16:00 – Conference room, International YMCA, Jerusalem

Walter Reiter, violin

David Shemer, harpsichord

**19:45 – A special carillon concert from the Bell's Tower**

***Concert 11***

**St. John's Passion**

20:30 – International YMCA

Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra

Joshua Rifkin, conductor

Keren Motseri, Avital Dery, Richard Resch, Drew Santini, soloists

**Tuesday, 26.3.2019**

*International symposium on the Magnificat*

10.00-12.00 Conference room, International YMCA, Jerusalem

Convener: Uri Golomb

Participants: Joshua Rifkin (USA), Dr. Alon Schab, Dr. Jorg Hensen (Bach House, Eisenach)

The language of the symposium will be English. Free entrance

***Concert 12***

**Bach's Violin Sonatas, Part II**

16:00 – Conference room, International YMCA, Jerusalem

Walter Reiter, violin

David Shemer, harpsichord

**19:45 – A special carillon concert from the Bell's Tower**

***Concert 13***

**Exult in God**

20.30 International YMCA Jerusalem

Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra

Keren Motseri, soprano

Giuseppe Frau, trumpet (Italy)

Drora Bruck, recorer

Tal Levin, oboe

Walter Reiter, Noam Schuss, Dafna Ravid, violins

David Shemer, conductor

A festive ending programme to the festival featuring Bach's Cantata BWV 51, Brandenburg concerto o. 2 and other concertos by J, S. Bach.

**Exhibition on St. John Passion**

The exhibition from Bach House in Eisenach will be on display in the foyer of the YMCA hotel. The exhibition will be open to the public and include guided sessions.