



BAYREUTH BAROQUE

Opera Festival

BAYREUTH BAROQUE OPERA FESTIVAL – 07-17 September 2023

For the first time with two staged opera productions and exclusive concerts

The BAYREUTH BAROQUE opera festival presents its fourth edition and will offer two staged opera productions for the first time in autumn 2023. For the opening of the festival, Max Emanuel Cencic (artistic director) will present us his take on Handel's *Flavio, Re de' Longobardi*. A political satire with which the composer took the stereotypes of the heroic opera in his stride, surprising not only the London audience of the time.

The second production takes us back to the birth of opera with Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, which is translated into the 21st century with transcriptions, live electronics and partly newly composed music. Rolando Villazón embodies the title role of this exciting new version.

In addition to the performances in the Margravia Opera House, the music is also taken out into the city with a series of top-class concerts. These include gala evenings with Valer Sabadus and Daniel Behle in the opera house as well as concerts with Véronique Gens and Bruno de Sá at historical venues. Concerto Köln, one of Germany's most important and significant baroque orchestras, will be orchestra in residence this year. As in previous years, music fans around the world will once again be able to follow the programme of Bayreuth Baroque thanks to live streams, radio and TV broadcasts.

Until then, the waiting time can be shortened with Nicolo Porpora's *Carlo il Calvo*. The successful production from the Inauguration year 2020, which has been highly praised by the press, is now available on CD as a world premiere recording, just in time for the start of advance ticket sales on 27 January 2023.

"I am proud that our city hosts Bayreuth Baroque, one of the highest quality and perhaps even the most exciting baroque festivals in the world. The outstanding artistic level and the authentic atmosphere of the UNESCO World Heritage Site make this festival a must for people from all over the world," says Lord Mayor Thomas Ebersberger about the still young opera festival.





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Within just a few years, Max Emanuel Cencic's team has succeeded in establishing a second, international festival that attracts music enthusiasts to the Franconian festival city even beyond the Wagner Summer and is constantly expanding its programme. "For us it is a very special pleasure to be able to offer two opera productions at Bayreuth Baroque for the first time." *Flavio, Re de' Longobardi* was written in 1723 and plays a very special role in Handel's oeuvre. "A grandiose court intrigue is spun by having actors participate alongside the singers. The actors play a great part in the intrigue."

With the castrato Senesino and the prima donna Francesca Cuzzoni, the London premiere in 1723 featured two of the top stars of the opera scene at the time. Exactly 300 years later, the audience can now expect an equally virtuosic ensemble led by Julia Lezhneva, Yuriy Mynenko and Max Emanuel Cencic. They are accompanied by the Concerto Köln and under Benjamin Bayl.

The story of Orpheus, who wins over not only humans but also the gods of Greek mythology with his song, has been one of the most frequently set themes ever since the genre of opera was created. Rarely, however, has the theme been captured in music as movingly as in the version that Claudio Monteverdi wrote for the court of Mantua in 1607 and which, as one of the oldest surviving operas, still captivates audiences today. The Athens Megaron's 2017 production was created as part of the celebrations for the 450th anniversary of Claudio Monteverdi's birth and is now experiencing its eagerly awaited German premiere with Rolando Villazón in the title role.

Tickets go on sale on Friday, 27th January at 9 am (CET).

However, you have the opportunity to purchase tickets as early as 20th January. To ease the heavy rush, we are offering the Bayreuth Baroque Gold Card for the first time.

Detailed information on all Bayreuth Baroque 2023 events, the Bayreuth Baroque Gold Card and tickets can be found at: www.bayreuthbaroque.de/  





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Bayreuth Baroque – International Opera Festival 2023

Programme:

- **7, 9, 15 and 17 September, 7.30 p.m. // Margravial Opera House Bayreuth**
Flavio, Re de' Longobardi // New production
Dramma per musica in three acts by George Frideric Handel // Text by Nicola Francesco Haym // in Italian with German and English surtitles // Intermission after Act 1 and Act 2
Benjamin Bayl musical direction and harpsichord // **Max Emanuel Cencic** direction // **Helmut Stürmer** stage // **Corina Gramosteanu** costumes // **David Debrinay** lighting // **Julia Lezhneva** Emilia // **Max Emanuel Cencic** Guido // **Yuriy Mynenko** Vitige // **Sonja Runje** Teodata // **Rémy Brès-Feuillet** Flavio // **Sreten Manojlović** Lotario // **Concerto Köln** Resident Orchestra of the Bayreuth Baroque Opera Festival 2023
The plot of Handel's *Flavio, Re de' Longobardi* takes us to the court of the Longobard king Flavio, who plays his two advisors Ugone and Lotario off against each other in order to satisfy his passion for Ugone's daughter Teodata. At the same time, the conflict between the elders burdens above all the younger generation...
- **8 September, 7.30 p.m. // Margravial Opera House Bayreuth**
Valer Sabadus: Opera arias by Carl Heinrich Graun
Valer Sabadus Countertenor // **Martyna Pastuszka** Musical Direction and Violin // **{oh!} Orkiestra**
With excerpts from Carl Heinrich Graun's *Rodelinda, Cesare e Cleopatra, Artaserse, Adriano in Siria, L'Orfeo, Demofonte, re di Tracia, Montezuma* and *Alessandro e Poro*
- **9 September, 3.00 p.m. // Schlosskirche Bayreuth**
Reginald Mobley: Recital
Reginald Mobley countertenor // **Violaine Cochard** harpsichord // **Christine Plubeau** viola da gamba
With works by Henry Purcell, George Frideric Handel and Ignatius Sancho
- **10 September, 3.00 p.m. // Ordenskirche St. Georgen**
Véronique Gens: "Passion"
Véronique Gens soprano // **Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas** musical direction, harpsichord and organ // **Ensemble Les Surprises**
With works by Jean-Batiste Lully, Henry Desmarest, André Cardinal Destouches, Pascal Collasse and François Rebel / François Francœur
- **11 September, 6.00 and 8.30 p.m. // Sonnentempel der Orangerie in der Eremitage**
Maayan Licht: Dinner-Concert
Duo Zeffiretti // **Maayan Licht** soprano // **Guy Maori** harpsichord
With arias by George Frideric Handel and Antonio Vivaldi





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- **12 and 13 September, 7.30 p.m. // Margravial Opera House Bayreuth**

L'Orfeo // German premiere

A production by Phormigx / Christos Tsenes in collaboration with Megaron - The Athens Concert Hall // Favola in Musica by Claudio Monteverdi with new music, transcriptions and live electronics by **Panos Iliopoulos** // Text by Alessandro Striggio // in Italian with German and English surtitles // no intermission

Markellos chryssicos Concept, musical direction and harpsichord // **Thanos Papakonstantinou** direction // **Niki Psychogiou** stage and costumes // **Christina Thanasoula** lighting // **Irida Kyriakopoulou** choreography // **Katerina Vamva** sound design // **Rolando Villazón** Orfeo // **Theodora Baka** Musica // **Irini Bilini** Ninfa // **Myrsini Margariti** Euridice // **Sophia Ptasi** Messengera // **Lenia Safiropoulou** Speranza // **Marios Sarantidis** Caronte // **Maria Palaska** Proserpina // **Savina Yannatou** Bachannale // **Latinitas Nostra**

Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* from 1607 stands at the beginning of opera history and tells of the fate of the mythical forefather of music. Orpheus' art of singing is not only able to enchant man and beast, but also to soften the spirits and gods of the underworld as he makes a daring attempt to snatch his deceased lover Eurydice from the clutches of death.

- **14 September, 7.30 p.m. // Ordenskirche St. Georgen**

Bruno de Sá: "Neapolitan School"

Bruno de Sá soprano // **Dimitris Karakantas** musical direction and violin // **nuovo barocco**

With works by Francesco Scarlatti, Leonardo Vinci, Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, Francesco Durante, Carlo Sellitto, Domenico Cimarosa, Johann Adolph Hasse, Tommaso Traetta, Nicola Antonio Porpora and Riccardo Broschi

- **16 September, 5.00 p.m. // Schlosskirche Bayreuth**

Dennis Orellana: "Si suoni la Tromba"

Dennis Orellana soprano // **Julian Zimmermann** trumpet // **Diego Ares** harpsichord // **Sophie Lamberbourg** violoncello

With works by Alessandro Scarlatti, Girolamo Fantini, Antonio Maria Bononcini, Francesco Gasparini, Bernardo Pasquini and Antonio Caldara

- **16 September, 7.30 p.m. // Margravial Opera House Bayreuth**

Daniel Behle: "Kings of Bravura"

Daniel Behle tenor // **Evgenii Sviridov** musical direction // **Concerto Köln** Resident Orchestra of the Bayreuth Baroque Opera Festival 2023

With arias from the second half of the 18th century that have remained unheard since the time of their composition

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