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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND MUSIC DIRECTOR NATHALIE STUTZMANN
CELEBRATE JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH WITH “BACH & FRIENDS” FESTIVAL CONCERT IN
SYMPHONY HALL AND AT UGA**

**STUTZMANN ALSO CONDUCTS BACH ST. MATTHEW PASSION WITH ASO CHORUS,
SPIVEY HALL CHILDREN’S CHOIR, AND GUEST VOCALISTS AND MUSICIANS**

**Bach celebrations continue around Atlanta with performances from Atlanta Master
Chorale, First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta and Glenn Memorial UMC Chancel Choir**

ATLANTA – The **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra** is honoring Bach’s March birthday with a month-long celebration of music by Bach and his contemporaries, with partners from across the state.

At the ASO, **Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann** has programmed a high-energy concert titled **“Bach & Friends,” Thursday, March 23 and Saturday, March 25, at 8 p.m. in Symphony Hall**, featuring pieces by Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi. This performance will be repeated on **Sunday, March 26, at 3 p.m. in the Hugh Hodgson Concert Hall at the University of Georgia.**

Later that month, Maestro Stutzmann will conduct the ASO and the **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus** in the sweeping ***St. Matthew Passion*, Thursday, March 30 and Saturday, April 1 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 2 at 3 p.m., in Atlanta Symphony Hall.**

“Bach is the source of all of our music. It is crucial for any orchestra to come back to the source,” said Stutzmann. “The Bach and Friends program shows the impact and the connection between Bach, Vivaldi and Handel—three genius musicians from one time.”

“The *St. Matthew Passion* is a life-changing journey for any human, religious or not,” she added. “It tells the story of humanity.” The work was last performed by the ASO in 2012.

The performance of the *St. Matthew Passion* includes an all-star lineup of soloists, including Camilla Tilling, soprano; Patricia Bardon, mezzo-soprano; Kenneth Tarver, tenor; Leon Košavić, baritone; Justin Austin, baritone; and Robin Tritschler, tenor. In addition, the Spivey Hall Children's Choir will join the Chorus, and the Orchestra will be joined by musicians Annalisa Pappano, viola da gamba; Alice Coquart, continuo cello; Chloé Sévère and Peter Marshall, continuo keyboard; and Jonas Nordberg, theorbo. The ASO Chorus is rehearsed and led by Norman Mackenzie, Director of Choruses.

A FOUR SEASONS VIRTUAL EVENT

In keeping with the theme of including Bach and his contemporaries, the ASO's performance of **Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons***, featuring ASO Concertmaster **David Coucheron** playing and directing the orchestra, will be made available for streaming the first day of spring on **Monday, March 20, at 8 p.m.**

A CITY-WIDE FESTIVAL OF BACH

The ASO is pleased to connect Bach fans with other opportunities to celebrate Bach's 338th birthday. The **Atlanta Master Chorale**, under the direction of Dr. Eric Nelson, starts the month-long celebration on **Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11, at 8 p.m.**, with a performance of **Bach's Magnificat** in the **Emerson Concert Hall at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts**. The concert will include other composers' settings of the ancient liturgical text.

First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta will present a program of Bach pieces for piano and violin, including Goldberg Variations for piano solo and Partita in B minor, on **Friday, March 17, at 8:00 p.m.** The performance features Ling-Ju Lai, piano, and ASO member Rachel Ostler, violin. Details can be found at concertsatfirst.org.

On **Friday, March 24 at 7 p.m.**, the **Chancel Choir of Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church**, along with a chamber orchestra, will present **Bach's *St. John Passion*** in the sanctuary of the church. Admission to this performance is free and open to the public.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) is in its 78th season with Nathalie Stutzmann as only the fifth Music Director in the history of the Orchestra, and the only woman to ever hold the position. Maestro Stutzmann will continue the ASO's mission of bringing new and exciting composers and guest artists to Atlanta.

The ASO is one of the leading orchestras in the United States, performing more than 150 concerts each year from the Delta Classical, Movies in Concert, Family Concert, and Coca-Cola Holiday series, as well as the Atlanta Symphony Hall LIVE concerts and many community and education concerts.

In addition, the ASO performs with the 200+ voice, all-volunteer ASO Chorus, originally founded in 1970 by Robert Shaw, and currently under the Direction of Norman Mackenzie. The chorus was featured on nine of the ASO's Grammy-award winning recordings.

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