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Orchestra of St. Luke's Winter-Spring 2023 Includes Bach Festival at Carnegie with Gil Shaham, Jeremy Denk and Hugh Cutting; Continuation of New "Visionary Sounds" Series; Focus on Women Composers and Creators



Photos: courtesy of OSL

(January 2023)—[Orchestra of St. Luke's \(OSL\)](#) gives seven performances at **Carnegie Hall** this winter and spring, highlighted by the annual **OSL Bach Festival** in **Zankel Hall** with pianist

Jeremy Denk, violinist **Gil Shaham**, and countertenor **Hugh Cutting** as special guests, the latter two in performances conducted by Principal Conductor **Bernard Labadie**. “**One of the most versatile and galvanic ensembles in the U.S.**” (WQXR), the orchestra and Labadie also give two performances in Carnegie’s **Stern Auditorium**: a concert of **Mozart and Schubert** with pianist **Emanuel Ax**, and an **all-Handel** program featuring **La Chapelle de Québec**, along with soloists **Joëlle Harvey**, **Iestyn Davies** and **Matthew Brook**. Finally, the concerts in OSL’s **Chamber Music Series** – with one featuring guest pianist **Marc-André Hamelin** – are each performed twice, first in **Merkin Hall** and then in Carnegie’s **Weill Recital Hall**. OSL’s “**Visionary Sounds**” series, new this season and spotlighting contemporary artists in the intimate Cary Hall at The DiMenna Center for Classical Music, includes a program of the minimalist, improvisatory music of **Julius Eastman**, and another featuring the music of composer **Anna Clyne**. Clyne also serves as **Composer Mentor** for OSL’s **DeGaetano Composition Institute**, and she represents part of a season-long focus on **women and gender-expansive composers and creators**, eight of whom are featured in upcoming programs.

James Roe, OSL’s President and Executive Director, elaborates:

“This winter and spring, Orchestra of St. Luke’s is doing what we do best: performing seven concerts of Bach, Mendelssohn, Mozart and other Baroque, Classical and 20th-century composers at Carnegie Hall with world-renowned soloists; presenting a one-of-a-kind concert at Temple Emanu-El on Holocaust-related string instruments; showcasing the works of modern composers Anna Clyne, Tania León, inti figgis-vizueta, Julius Eastman and more at venues in all five boroughs of New York City; presenting performances of the Youth Orchestra of St. Luke’s, and more. We’re called New York’s ‘hometown band’ and love sharing the modern world of classical music with our city.”

Called by *New York Magazine* “one of our perpetually underappreciated hometown groups,” and New York’s “hometown band” by the *New York Times*, OSL is also an ensemble of great stylistic versatility across a large spectrum of music from Baroque to contemporary. After the *St. Matthew Passion* performance last spring, *Opera News* noted:

“OSL is in part an assemblage of chamber-music players, a quality that came through in the small-ensemble passages with which the work abounds. But it is also a top-notch orchestra, and its playing in massed passages was marked by unity of ensemble and transparent textures.”

OSL at Carnegie Hall

In February, **Bernard Labadie**, whose **contract as OSL’s Principal Conductor** was recently **extended through the orchestra’s 50th anniversary season** in 2023-24, leads the orchestra on Carnegie’s mainstage with pianist **Emanuel Ax**. Praised by the *Houston Chronicle* for his “fleet, seemingly effortless, un-showy virtuosity” and “unpretentious, masterful way with Mozart,” the pianist performs **Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 18**, on a program that culminates with **Schubert’s Symphony No. 9, “The Great” (Feb 9)**.

For OSL’s April Carnegie performance, Labadie leads an **all-Handel program** with **La Chapelle de Québec**, of which he is the Founding Conductor, and soprano **Joëlle Harvey**, countertenor **Iestyn**

Davies, and bass-baritone **Matthew Brook** as soloists. The royal-themed program comprises Handel's **four coronation anthems** composed for King George II; his ***Music for the Royal Fireworks***, composed under contract for the same monarch to celebrate the signing of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle; and his ***Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne*** (**April 13**).

OSL Bach Festival in association with Carnegie Hall (June 6–20)

In June, OSL returns to Carnegie's Zankel Hall to celebrate J.S. Bach's musical legacy with its annual **OSL Bach Festival**. The first program features pianist **Jeremy Denk**, "an artist you want to hear no matter what he performs" (*New York Times*), playing and directing six of **Bach's keyboard concertos (June 6)**.

Labadie, renowned worldwide for his interpretations of eighteenth-century repertoire, leads the other two programs. His leadership of the *St. Matthew Passion* last spring was met with unanimous acclaim: the *New York Times* declared that under his baton "**the music was unwaveringly measured but balanced; its flashes of grandeur didn't need to be overstated to land powerfully.**" The first of his two programs, "**Suites and Concertos,**" comprises **violin concertos and orchestral suites** in the French Baroque style, showcasing the intricate brilliance of Bach's purely instrumental music. Violinist **Gil Shaham** – declared by the *New York Times* to be "a virtuoso and a player of deeply intense sincerity" and by *The Guardian* "among the most inspired violinists of his generation" – joins Labadie and OSL for the performance (**June 13**).

The festival closes with a program of vocal virtuosity, titled "**The Baroque Voice.**" Countertenor **Hugh Cutting**, a rising international star who made his acclaimed Carnegie Hall debut in OSL's *St. Matthew Passion* last season, returns as featured artist, singing Bach's fervent and dramatic Cantata 170 and virtuoso opera arias by **George Frideric Handel** that showcase Cutting's dazzling voice (**June 20**).

Anna Clyne collaboration and DeGaetano Composition Institute

Described as a "composer of uncommon gifts and unusual methods" (*New York Times*), **Anna Clyne** continues her expanded collaboration with the orchestra this winter and spring in three of OSL's signature initiatives: "Visionary Sounds," the Chamber Music Series, and the DeGaetano Composition Institute.

OSL has renewed Clyne's role as **Composer Mentor** of its annual **DeGaetano Composition Institute** – which commissions and premieres new orchestral works from exceptional emerging composers each year – **through 2025**. Participants receive **personalized mentorship, tailored professional guidance, and creative opportunities** over the course of seven months, culminating in a **week-long residency** in New York City and a **world premiere** performance by OSL. Named for the late pianist and composer Robert DeGaetano (1946–2015), the DeGaetano Composition Institute was founded in 2019 with a visionary gift from the composer's estate.

The culmination of the 2023 Institute will be a concert of world premieres by Institute composers on **July 25** at OSL's home, **The DiMenna Center for Classical Music**. The composers

will base their compositions on **poetry by a living poet**, and this season's **three commissioned world premieres** bring the total to **eleven new works for orchestra** since the Institute's founding. Clyne says:

"I am delighted to continue my role as a mentor for three exceptional composers as they develop their skills for orchestral writing as part of the DeGaetano Composition Institute. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to develop their craft in collaboration with OSL musicians and to receive career advice from industry professionals through a series of workshops and masterclasses during a summer residency in New York City in summer 2023. At the heart of this new Institute is a commitment to developing the orchestral repertoire over two decades."

The three composers participating in the 2023 DeGaetano Composition Institute are: **Carlos Bandera, Tommy Dougherty, and Molly Herron.**

Clyne is one of **nine women and gender-expansive composers and creators** featured in OSL's programming this winter and spring, including composers **inti figgis-vizueta, Gabriela Lena Frank, Molly Herron, Tania León, Keyla Orozco, Florence Price** and **Fanny Mendelssohn**, as well as filmmaker **Jyll Bradley.**

"Visionary Sounds" at DiMenna Center

Earlier this season, OSL launched **"Visionary Sounds,"** a new, interdisciplinary series at The DiMenna Center that spotlights twentieth- and twenty-first-century artists. Each concert's program focuses on one artist while including a wide variety of related visual art, literature, music, and more.

After a fall program – lauded as **"an especially satisfying and rewarding experience"** by *Seen and Heard International* – that featured Pulitzer Prize-winning former U.S. Poet Laureate **Rita Dove**, the second "Visionary Sounds" program of the season is dedicated to **Anna Clyne's** chamber works. In counterpoint to the music are films from cutting-edge visual artists **Josh Dorman** – who constructs "fantasy lands and visual puns with the wonky, romantic intensity of a daydreaming ten-year-old" (*New Yorker*) – and **Jyll Bradley**, whose acclaimed work in sculpture, installation, and drawing uses light to explore ideas of place, space, and identity. Also on the program will be selections from **Bach's *Art of the Fugue*** and **Steve Reich's *New York Counterpoint* (March 16).**

Last season's digital "Sounds and Stories" series featured an account of *Femenine*, an improvisatory tour de force by the late **Julius Eastman**, who strove to be "Black to the fullest, a musician to the fullest, [and] a homosexual to the fullest," and whose take on minimalism was "idiosyncratic and perhaps ahead of its time" (*New York Times*). Celebrating Pride Month and queer artistry, the last "Visionary Sounds" performance of the season features Eastman's ***Gay Guerilla*** and ***Stay On It* (June 22).**

Chamber Music Series

OSL's **Chamber Music Series** harkens back to the ensemble's roots in 1974, when it was formed by a group of virtuosic chamber musicians performing in Greenwich Village. This season, the series highlights music by women, and each program will be performed twice, first at **Merkin Hall** and then in Carnegie's **Weill Recital Hall**.

In February and March, the series pairs piano quintets by **Florence Price** and **Johannes Brahms**. Price, the first Black woman to have a work performed by a major American orchestra, has received sustained attention by OSL since 2018, including the Carnegie Hall premiere of her String Quartet in the 2021-22 season. Price's Piano Quintet in A minor – heard for the first time at Carnegie Hall in this performance, as far as is known – is paired with **Brahms's** F minor contribution to the same genre, with the piano part in both quintets performed by guest pianist **Marc-André Hamelin (Feb 28 & March 1)**.

Finally, in keeping with both OSL's multi-season focus on the works of **Felix Mendelssohn** and OSL's Chamber Series focus on women composers, the last concert in the series this season highlights the works of both Mendelssohn and his sister, **Fanny Mendelssohn**. Her Piano Trio in D minor – again, in its first known Carnegie Hall performance – and a selection of her songs are heard alongside her brother's Piano Sextet in D. Guest performers are pianist **David Fung** and soprano **Liv Redpath**, an audience favorite who made her debut with OSL during last season's Chamber Music Series (**May 2 & 3**).

Education and Community Engagement Concert Series

Each season, OSL travels to all five New York City boroughs with its **free Five Borough Tour**, representing the orchestra's longstanding commitment to offering accessible performances to the New York City community. This season's program, **Viajes y Raíces** (Journeys and Origins), is an intimate reflection on memory, place, and identity that features the music of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Tania León** alongside two formidable composers from her creative community: **inti figgis-vizueta** and **Keyla Orozco**. Paying homage to a wide variety of traditions, the concert program comprises a series of string quartets, illuminating how each composer reflects on their own origins and explorations through their distinct musical language (**March 2–12**).

Twice a year, OSL invites New York City's public-school students to attend **Free School Concerts**, outstanding classical music performances designed especially for young people. These OSL concerts reach more than 10,000 children annually, and for many it is their first live orchestral experience. In the spring, the School Concerts celebrate composer **Gabriela Lena Frank**, who was included in the *Washington Post's* 2017 list of the 35 most significant women composers in history and currently serves as Composer-in-Residence with the Philadelphia Orchestra. During this interactive performance, students will learn about Frank's multicultural heritage and musical inspiration. Hosted by writer, musician, and performance artist **Aya Aziz** and led by Charleston Symphony Associate Conductor and Royal Scottish National Orchestra Assistant Conductor **Kellen Gray**, the program highlights Frank's belief in the power of music as a vehicle for civic engagement. Performances will be at **Merkin Hall** at Kaufman Music Center (**May 10–12**).

Other performances

On **April 24** at New York's **Plaza Hotel**, OSL's annual **Gift of Music Gala**, hosted by David Hyde Pierce, recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the world of music. The event includes cocktails, dinner, an OSL concert, and dancing.

At Temple Emanu-El's **Streicker Center** this winter, OSL performs "**Violins of Hope**," memorializing those who were lost during the darkest days of the Jewish people with a collection of Holocaust-related string instruments (**Jan 27**). In May, the orchestra joins **the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys** at **Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue** under the baton of **Jeremy Filsell** for a program titled "**American Lamentations**," with **Trevor Weston's** composition by the same name sharing the bill with music of **Barber, Copland** and the late **Ned Rorem (May 16)**.

About Orchestra of St. Luke's

Orchestra of St. Luke's (OSL) grew from a group of virtuoso musicians performing chamber music concerts at Greenwich Village's Church of St. Luke in the Fields in 1974. Regular seasons see OSL perform in diverse musical genres at New York's major concert venues, drawing on an expanded roster for large-scale works, and collaborating with artists ranging from Joshua Bell and Renée Fleming to Bono and Metallica. The orchestra has commissioned more than 60 new works and has given more than 175 world, U.S., and New York City premieres, while also participating in 118 recordings, four of which have been recognized with Grammy Awards. Internationally celebrated for his expertise in 18th-century music, **Bernard Labadie** was appointed as OSL's Principal Conductor in 2018, continuing the orchestra's long tradition of working with proponents of historical performance practice. Built and operated by OSL, **The DiMenna Center for Classical Music** opened in 2011. New York City's only rehearsal, recording, education and performance space expressly dedicated to classical music, it serves more than 500 ensembles and 30,000 musicians each year.

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Orchestra of St. Luke's: Winter/Spring 2023

Jan 27

New York, NY

The Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center

Orchestra of St. Luke's

"Violins of Hope"

ELMAN: "In a Gondola Impromptu"

MENDELSSOHN: "Grave-Allegro" from Symphony No. 9 in C

BEETHOVEN: "Adagio ma non troppo e molto espressivo" from String Quartet No. 14 in C-sharp minor

BACH: Concerto for Two Violins in D minor

John WILLIAMS: *Schindler's List*

Feb 9

New York, NY

Carnegie Hall (Stern Auditorium)

Orchestra of St. Luke's

"Emanuel Ax Plays Mozart"

Bernard Labadie, Principal Conductor

Emanuel Ax, piano

MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 18 in B-flat

SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 9, "Great"

Feb 14

New York, NY

Radio City Music Hall

"Lang Lang - The Disney Book"

Featuring scores from *Mary Poppins*, *Frozen*, *Mulan*, *Beauty and the Beast* and more

Feb 28

New York, NY

Kaufman Music Center (Merkin Hall)

St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble

OSL Presents: Chamber Music Series

"Piano Quintets with Hamelin"

Marc-André Hamelin, piano

PRICE: Piano Quintet in A minor

BRAHMS: Piano Quintet in F minor

March 1

New York, NY

Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall)

St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble

"Piano Quintets with Hamelin"

Marc-André Hamelin, piano

PRICE: Piano Quintet in A minor

BRAHMS: Piano Quintet in F minor

March 2-12

New York, NY

OSL Presents: NYC Five-Borough Tour

“Viajes y Raíces”

Tania LEÓN: *Esencia*

inti FIGGIS-VIZUETA: *Talamh* (land)

Keyla OROZCO: *Souvenirs*

March 2: Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, Bronx

March 3: Americas Society, Manhattan

March 5: Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn

March 11: Snug Harbor Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, Staten Island

March 12: Flushing Town Hall, Queens

March 16

New York, NY

The DiMenna Center for Classical Music (Cary Hall)

St. Luke’s Chamber Ensemble

OSL Presents: Visionary Sounds, Anna Clyne

With films by Josh Dorman and Jyll Bradley

BACH: Selections from *The Art of the Fugue*

Anna CLYNE: *Woman Holding a Balance*

Anna CLYNE: *Pardes*

Anna CLYNE: Selections from *The Violin*

Steve REICH: *New York Counterpoint*

April 13

New York, NY

Carnegie Hall (Stern Auditorium)

Orchestra of St. Luke’s

“Handel’s Royal Fireworks”

Bernard Labadie, Principal Conductor

Joëlle Harvey, soprano

Iestyn Davies, countertenor

Matthew Brook, bass-baritone

La Chapelle de Québec

HANDEL: *Coronation Anthems*

“Zadok the priest,” HWV 258

“The King shall rejoice,” HWV 260

“My heart is inditing,” HWV 261

“Let thy hand be strengthened,” HWV 259

HANDEL: *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

HANDEL: *Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne*, HWV 74

April 24

New York, NY

Plaza Hotel

Gift of Music Gala

Orchestra of St. Luke’s

Bernard Labadie, Principal Conductor

David Hyde Pierce, host

Sterling Elliott, cello

SCHUBERT: *Symphony No. 5*

HAYDN: Cello Concerto in C

May 2

New York, NY

Kaufman Music Center (Merkin Hall)

St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble

OSL Presents: Chamber Music Series

"Mendelssohns Salon"

David Fung, piano

Liv Redpath, soprano

Fanny MENDELSSOHN: "Nach Süden," "Sonntagslied," "Verlust," "Sehnsucht," "Die Nonne," "Italien,"
"Bergeslust"

Fanny MENDELSSOHN: Piano Trio in D minor

Felix MENDELSSOHN: Piano Sextet in D

May 3

New York, NY

Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall)

St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble

OSL Presents: Chamber Music Series

"Mendelssohns Salon"

David Fung, piano

Liv Redpath, soprano

Fanny MENDELSSOHN: "Nach Süden," "Sonntagslied," "Verlust," "Sehnsucht," "Die Nonne," "Italien,"
"Bergeslust"

Fanny MENDELSSOHN: Piano Trio in D minor

Felix MENDELSSOHN: Piano Sextet in D

May 10-12

New York, NY

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center

OSL Presents: School Concerts

"The Inspiration of Gabriela Lena Frank"

Kellen Gray, Conductor

Aya Aziz, Host

Gabriela Lena FRANK: Selections from *Leyendas: An Andean Walkabout*

Gabriela Lena FRANK: Selections from *Milagros*

May 16

New York, NY

Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue

Orchestra of St. Luke's

Jeremy Filsell, conductor

The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

Trevor WESTON: *American Lamentations* (world premiere)

BARBER: *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*

ROREM: *O God, My Heart is Ready*

COPLAND: *Four Motets*

June 6

New York, NY

Carnegie Hall (Zankel Hall)

Orchestra of St. Luke's

Bach Festival: "Keyboard Concertos with Jeremy Denk"

Jeremy Denk, piano and director

BACH: Keyboard Concertos

June 13

New York, NY

Carnegie Hall (Zankel Hall)

Orchestra of St. Luke's

Bach Festival: "Suites and Concertos"

Gil Shaham, violin

Bernard Labadie, principal conductor

BACH: Orchestral Suites No. 3 and No. 4

BACH: Violin Concerto in E

BACH: Violin Concerto in A minor

June 20

New York, NY

Carnegie Hall (Zankel Hall)

Orchestra of St. Luke's

Bach Festival: "The Baroque Voice"

Bernard Labadie, principal conductor

Hugh Cutting, countertenor

BACH: *Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust*

HANDEL: Select arias from *Giulio Cesare*, *Tolomeo*, and *Partenope*

June 22

New York, NY

The DiMenna Center for Classical Music (Cary Hall)

St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble

OSL Presents: Visionary Sounds, Julius Eastman

EASTMAN: *Gay Guerilla*

EASTMAN: *Stay On It*

July 25

New York, NY

The DiMenna Center for Classical Music (Cary Hall)

World Premieres for Orchestra

2022 DeGaetano Composition Institute composers (OSL commissions)

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