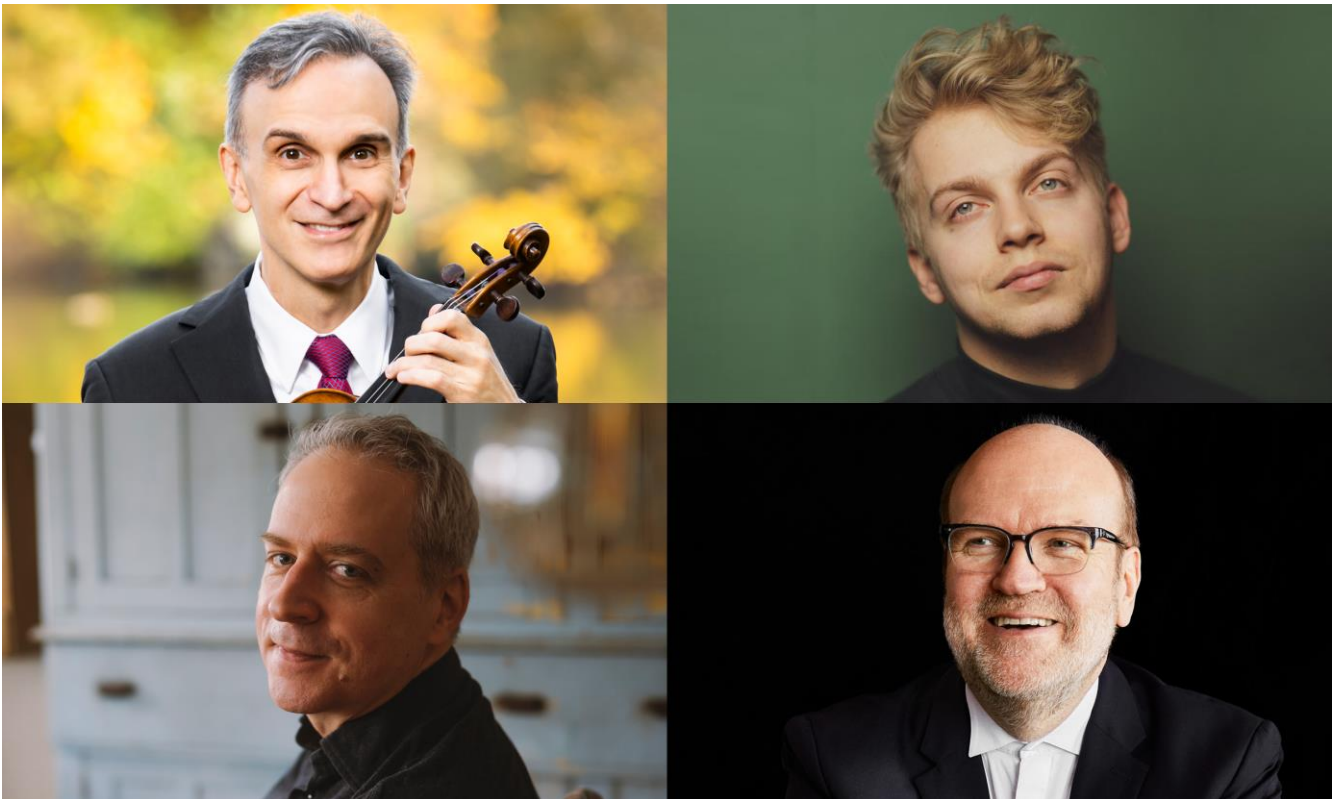


For immediate release

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Orchestra of St. Luke's Presents Bach Festival at Carnegie with Gil Shaham, Jeremy Denk and Hugh Cutting (June 6–20)



Left to right: Gil Shaham (photo: Chris Lee), Hugh Cutting (photo: Olivia Da Costa), Jeremy Denk (photo: Josh Goleman), Bernard Labadie (photo: Winnie Au)

(May 2023)—[Orchestra of St. Luke's \(OSL\)](#) returns to **Carnegie's Zankel Hall** to celebrate J.S. Bach's musical legacy in the annual **OSL Bach Festival**, presented in association with Carnegie Hall (**June 6, 13, 20**). This season's all-star lineup of guest artists includes pianist **Jeremy Denk**, violinist **Gil Shaham**, and countertenor **Hugh Cutting**, with the latter two in performances conducted by OSL Principal Conductor **Bernard Labadie**. "One of the most versatile and galvanic ensembles in the U.S." (WQXR), OSL can also be heard this spring in the last concert of the

“**Visionary Sounds**” series, featuring the music of **Julius Eastman (June 22)**, and in a concert of **orchestral premieres** by the composers of the 2023 DeGaetano Composition Institute under the mentorship of composer **Anna Clyne** and conducted by **Brad Lubman (July 25)**.

Marking the third in-person edition of the OSL Bach Festival after two online presentations during the height of the pandemic, this season’s festival opens with 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* as “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** – from *Giulio Cesare*, *Ariodante*, *Agrippina* and *Partenope* – that showcase Cutting’s dazzling voice (**June 20**).

Described as a “composer of uncommon gifts and unusual methods” (*New York Times*), **Anna Clyne** serves as **Composer Mentor** of OSL’s annual **DeGaetano Composition Institute**, which commissions and premieres new orchestral works from exceptional emerging composers each year. 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 under the baton of **Brad Lubman**, one of the foremost conductors of contemporary music and founding Co-Artistic and Music Director of Ensemble Signal. 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. A concert of world premieres by 2023 Institute composers takes place on **July 25** at OSL’s home, the **DiMenna Center for Classical Music**.

Last season’s digital “Sounds and Stories” series featured an account of *Feminine*, 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)*.

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.

To download high-resolution photos, click [here](#).

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Orchestra of St. Luke's: OSL Bach Festival and Spring 2023

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 Concerto in D, BWV 1054

BACH: Keyboard Concerto in A, BWV 1055

BACH: Keyboard Concerto in E, BWV 1053

BACH: Keyboard Concerto in F minor, BWV 1056

BACH: Keyboard Concerto in F, BWV 1057

BACH: Keyboard Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052

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, BWV 1068-69

BACH: Violin Concerto in E, BWV 1042

BACH: Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041

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*, BWV 170

HANDEL: Select arias from *Giulio Cesare*, *Ariodante*, *Agrippina*, 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

Brad Lubman, conductor

2023 DeGaetano Composition Institute composers (OSL commissions)

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