

**PEORIA****B·A·C·H  
FESTIVAL**

# Schedule of Events 2025

[www.peoriabachfestival.org](http://www.peoriabachfestival.org)*All events will be held at [Westminster Presbyterian Church](#), 1420 W. Moss Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 61606.***Sunday, June 1 – Bach Organ Concert (4:00 pm)****Freewill offering**

The Peoria Bach Festival 2025 kicks off with a spectacular organ concert, showcasing a talented lineup of organists performing the works of Bach and his contemporaries. The music will come to life on Westminster's exquisite 1989 tracker-action Visser-Roland organ, a masterpiece crafted by Pieter Visser, a Dutch-born organ builder. Join us as we celebrate the majestic sounds of Bach's music on the King of Instruments brought to life by exceptional performers in what will be a truly enjoyable concert!

**Monday, June 2 – Young Musicians Concert (12:05 pm)****Freewill offering**

For years, young musicians from Central Illinois have amazed audiences at the Peoria Bach Festival's first noon concert. Now, it's time for the next generation to take the stage! Join us for the 2025 Young Musicians Concert, where elementary and high school students will showcase their musical talents in a celebration of artistry and passion. Do you know a child or student eager to perform? Encourage them to be part of this special event! Download the application form available at our website and submit it by May 26. Ensembles are welcome, too. Let's make this a performance to remember!

**Tuesday, June 3 – Community Concert (12:05 pm)****Freewill offering**

Be part of our annual Community Concert—whether as a performer or an enthusiastic audience member! Designed for college students, amateurs, professors, and professionals, this special event celebrates the joy of making music together. Open to adults and college students, it's a fantastic opportunity to showcase talent and connect with fellow musicians. Interested in performing? Contact us to be part of this unforgettable experience!

**Wednesday, June 4 – Bach's Cantatas on the King and Queen of Chorales (12:05 pm)**

Join us for this enlightening presentation as we continue to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Bach's Chorale Cantata Cycle of 1724–1725. Discover the history, context, and lasting impact of Bach's cantatas on the King and Queen of Chorales: Cantata 1: "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern" ("O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright") and Cantata 140: "Wachet Auf" ("Wake, Awake"). Don't miss this opportunity to dive into the brilliance of Bach's choral masterpieces!

**Thursday, June 5 – Baroque Chamber Cantata Concert on Period Instruments (12:05 pm) Freewill offering**

Step into the world of 18th-century music with a captivating program performed entirely on period (historical) instruments, bringing history to life with authenticity and elegance. This extraordinary concert showcases the rich sounds of instruments tuned to A = 415 Hz, as they were in many places during the late 18th century, offering a truly immersive listening experience. One of the highlights of this concert is the first Illinois performance of selections from *Samson*, a chamber cantata by the remarkable Elizabeth Jacquet de la Guerre (1665–1721). A trailblazing aristocratic composer of her time, Jacquet de la Guerre was one of the few women of the era to have her work published and performed. The program also features chamber cantatas by Handel, Scarlatti, and Telemann, along with stunning instrumental works by Francesco Barsanti and Joseph Bodin de Boismortier. Featured performers are Courtney Huffman, soprano; Lisette Kielson, treble recorder; S. Blake Duncan, oboe; Michael Dicker, bassoon; Stephanie Hunt, cello; and Polly Brecht, harpsichord. Join us for this unforgettable celebration of Baroque music, performed by exceptional musicians who bring history to life. Don't miss the chance to experience the artistry and grandeur of a bygone era!

**Friday, June 6****12:05 pm – Bach's Goldberg Variations****Freewill offering**

Bach's *Goldberg Variations* is a keyboard masterpiece, composed in 1741 and renowned for its depth and ingenuity. Beginning with a graceful aria, the work unfolds into 30 remarkable variations, each showcasing a dazzling array of musical textures, techniques, and emotions. Legend has it that Count Hermann Karl von Keyserling commissioned the piece to soothe his sleepless nights, with his harpsichordist, Johann Gottlieb Goldberg, performing it for him. Whether fact or fiction, the *Goldberg Variations* remains one of Bach's most celebrated works, admired for its brilliance and complexity. Join us for a special chamber concert featuring a unique trio arrangement of this timeless composition, performed by Kyle Dzapu on flute, Diane Wuthrich on viola, and Carol Wessler on cello. Experience Bach's genius in an intimate and inspiring setting!

**6:45 pm – Pre-Concert Lecture****7:30 pm – Festival Concert****ADMISSION – \$15 Adults/\$10 Students (12 and under free)**

The Peoria Bach Festival 2025 concludes with a grand finale—the annual Festival Concert featuring the Peoria Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra. This year's program is a celebration of Bach's rich legacy, featuring *Orchestral Suite No. 1* and a stirring cello concerto by C.P.E. Bach, performed by Adrianna La Rosa Ransom. The concert will also showcase two exquisite cantatas: Cantata No. 23, "Du wahrer Gott und Davids Sohn" ("You, True God and Son of David"), conducted by Dr. Andrew Bruhn, and Cantata 140, "Wachet Auf" ("Wake, Awake"), led by Dr. Martin Dicke. Joining the ensemble are outstanding vocal soloists: Courtney Huffman Frye, soprano who is also featured on Thursday's noon concert; Alison Mueth, mezzo-soprano; Trevor Mitchell, tenor; and Gerard Sundberg, baritone. Don't miss this spectacular evening of musical brilliance!