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ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY PHOTO
Helmuth Rilling, conductor and artistic director of the Oregon Bach Festival, will conduct cantatas by Bach and other composers at this year's festival.

Bach Festival sings with new works

CONCERTS: This year's theme will explore Bach's influence on composers in the Americas

By Jean M. Bond
Entertainment Reporter

Bach is back. The 27th annual Oregon Bach Festival opened this week and features four new works commissioned for the festival, along with lectures and panels on Bach and several guest conductors and composers.

This year's theme, "Bach and the Americas," explores Bach's influence on composers in the Americas, both in his time and in ours. The festival continues through July 7.

Cantatas, Bach's favorite musical form, are featured in the program. A cantata is music with a narrative text, but is shorter than an opera or oratorio. This year's concerts will include eight of Bach's cantatas.

The *Quarrel Between Phoebus and Pan*, *Sound the Drum*, the six component cantatas of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, and *Mass in B Minor* are the major Bach programs this year, and will be conducted by Helmuth Rilling, artistic director of the Oregon Bach Festival.

Festival organizers commissioned four composers — Robert Ky, Osvaldo Golijov, Stephen Jaffe and Linda Brouchar — to

SOME UPCOMING BACH FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, June 27
9 a.m. American Bach Colloquium
8 p.m. World Premiere Cantatas of the Americas: *The Inner Dawning* by Robert Ky and *Oceana* by Osvaldo Golijov, Silva Hall.

Friday, June 28
9 a.m. American Bach Colloquium
8 p.m. World Premiere Cantatas of the Americas: *Pilgrim's Cantata* by

Linda Bouchard and *Songs of Turning* by Stephen Jaffe, Silva Hall.

Saturday, June 29
9 a.m. American Bach Colloquium
8 p.m. *Glass Itaipu* and Estevez *La Cantata Criolla*, Silva Hall.

For a complete calendar or more information, contact the Oregon Bach Festival, 346-5666. Information and the festival calendar is also available on the festival's WWW page: <http://music1.uoregon.edu/obf/obfhome.html>.

write new cantatas for this year's festival. Ky's *The Inner Dawning* is an arrangement of the Psalms to tell of a journey from sorrow to hope. Golijov's *Oceana* uses the poems of Pablo Neruda to pay tribute to the sea. Jaffe's *Songs of Turning* is about the discovery of faith, and Brouchar's *Pilgrim's Cantata* tells the story of the life of two lovers.

Other major concerts featured in this year's program include *Itaipu* by Philip Glass, *La Cantata Criolla* by Antonio Estevez, and *Celebrar Publicuen*, composed by Manuel de Sumaya, a Mexican contemporary of Bach.

In addition to the music, the first American Bach Colloquium will be a major part of this year's festival. The colloquium, "J. S.

Bach: Composer, Teacher, Theologian," will examine Bach's varying spheres of influence.

Rilling and Royce Saltzman started the festival in 1970 as the Summer Festival of Music — a one week series of workshops and a concert of choral works. The festival was later renamed the Oregon Bach Festival to honor the composer who inspired Rilling and Saltzman.

Rilling also founded the International Bach Academy Stuttgart in 1981. Between 1970 and 1985, Rilling recorded Bach's 200 church cantatas, as well as works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Mozart. He has conducted orchestras in many countries, including Japan, Spain, Israel and the former Soviet Union.

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