

Bethlehem Bach Festival's 113th year to feature two outlets for young musicians in May; auditions scheduled

By JOHN J. MOSER

THE MORNING CALL | JAN 18, 2020 | 11:27 AM

The 113th Bach Festival, set for May in Bethlehem, will include two opportunities for young musicians to perform, and organizers are holding auditions.

The festival, set for May 8-9 and 15-17 at locations throughout Bethlehem, will again include **Zimmermann's Coffee House**, 7-9:30 p.m. May 9 and 16.

The concert showcases young musicians in a casual evening that is the 21st century version of Zimmermann's Coffee House, which Bach attended during his time in Leipzig.

It's presented café style in Moravian College's Peter Hall, with its famous 19th century stained-glass windows and good acoustics. Patrons have German-themed food and drink as they listen to Baroque chamber music performed by young musicians with conductor Greg Funfgeld and Bach Festival soloists.

Auditions for high school and college students will be 1-5 p.m. Feb. 14 and Feb. 21 at The Bach Choir Offices, 440 Heckewelder Place, Bethlehem. Auditions are open to individuals and ensembles who play or sing Baroque music, and live or study in Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 10.

Final auditions/dress rehearsal be 10 a.m.-noon April 25.

Also at this year's Festival, students will participate in **The Chaconne Project**, in which they compose variations over the ground bass from Bach's "Chaconne in D Minor."

Auditions will be 10 a.m.-noon Feb. 8 and Feb. 15 at the choir offices. Students will have 60-minute Saturday morning sessions March 14, 21 and 28, and April 4 and 25 at Moravian College's Music Department with professor and composer-in-residence Larry Lipkis.

Rehearsal will be with Bach Festival Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. May 7 Lehigh University's Zoellner Arts Center. Performances will be 10:30 a.m. May 9 and 16 at Zoellner.

Eligibility requirements for Zimmermann's Coffee House and The Chaconne Project are at www.bach.org.

To schedule an audition, contact Mike DeCrosta at 610-866-4382 Ext. 110 or mike@bach.org. Teacher recommendations should be sent to Bridget George bridget@bach.org.

Morning Call Lehigh Valley Music reporter and columnist John J. Moser can be reached at 610-820-6722 or jmoser@mcall.com