



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Early Music Vancouver Launches Electrifying 2024/25  
Concert Season with New Arrangement of Bach's *Goldberg Variations***

*55th Anniversary season includes performances of Renaissance dance, Indian classical music, and works by J.S. Bach, featuring artists from Italy, India, the UK, Senegal, Canada, and more*

**Vancouver, BC - Early Music Vancouver (EMV)** announces its electrifying 55th season with the presentation of a new arrangement of J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, in concert on **September 20, 2024 at Christ Church Cathedral**. **Highlights from the 2024/25 season** also include headlining appearances from British countertenor **Iestyn Davies**, a cappella group **VOCES8**, and Renaissance specialists **La Fonte Musica**, at various Vancouver venues. The season closes with a highly anticipated performance by Senegalese kora master **Ablaye Cissoko** alongside members of Middle Eastern music ensemble **Constantinople** on May 6, 2025.

"We are delighted to present our 55th season, which celebrates the essence of Early Music Vancouver by presenting a variety of musical traditions from around the globe," says Suzie LeBlanc, Artistic and Executive Director of EMV. "The 2024/25 season also marks the second installation of the LUMEN Festival, which will infuse Valentine's Day weekend with music by J.S. Bach and American Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw, among others."

The 2024/25 season features 15 concerts exploring musical traditions from India, Western Africa, Renaissance France, medieval Germany, the court of Queen Elizabeth I, and more. Audiences are sure to welcome the return of world-class artists such as musician **Benjamin Bagby** and soprano **Dorothee Mields**, as well as the Vancouver debut of award-winning pianist **Dmitry Ablogin** and rudra veena expert **Bahauddin Dagar**.

EMV launches the season with J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations* for chamber orchestra by music director of the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Alexander Weimann, on **September 20, 2024 at 7:30pm at Christ Church Cathedral**. An iconic monument in Western music, the *Goldberg Variations* have delighted and intrigued listeners for centuries and demonstrate Bach's technical development, virtuosic finesse, and compositional sophistication. Composed through a period of personal tumult for Bach – including two unsuccessful job applications, the premature death of his son, and criticism of his music in a prominent Hamburg publication – the *Goldberg Variations* will be transformed and given new relevance for our modern time.

"As a keyboardist, the *Goldberg Variations* have long delighted and inspired me," says Weimann. "While there are existing arrangements of the work for baroque chamber ensemble, including Chad Kelly's recent project for Beacon Baroque, my approach to Bach's writing

incorporates the *Trio Sonata No. 4 in C Major* by Johann Gottlieb Goldberg (long attributed to Bach) that I've woven into the *Variations*. It has been supremely rewarding to place myself in Bach's mind, imagining how he himself might have orchestrated the work for strings, winds, and harpsichord."

**EMV's complete 2024/5 season includes:**

*Goldberg Variations*

September 20, 2024 at 7:30pm – Christ Church Cathedral

An iconic monument in Western music, J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations* have delighted and intrigued listeners for centuries. In this performance, Alexander Weimann leads the Pacific Baroque Orchestra in an arrangement for a chamber ensemble of winds, strings.

*DanteNova: Music from Dante's Commedia*

October 25, 2024 at 7:30pm – Christ Church Cathedral

Music resounds throughout the pages of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, from the wailing cries and silences of Inferno to the angelic concerts of Paradiso. Italian early music ensemble La Fonte Music and narrator Bill Richardson bring this rich story to life with music from Dante's time.

*Bahauddin Dagar in Concert – In Collaboration with the Indian Classical Music Society of Vancouver and the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts*

November 23, 2024 at 5:30pm & 7:30pm – Telus Studio Theatre at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Bahauddin Dagar, world master of the rudra veena, an ancient classical musical instrument of India, makes his Vancouver debut. Bahauddin has become acclaimed for his highly responsive, contemplative playing style and his prayerful and expansive sound.

*Iestyn Davies & Fretwork: Lamento*

November 26, 2024 at 7:30pm – Christ Church Cathedral

Countertenor Iestyn Davies, widely recognized as one of the world's finest singers, joins the acclaimed chamber group Fretwork for an exquisite voice-and-viol partnership exploring reflective and emotional 17th-century German repertoire by J.C. Bach, Schütz, and more.

*Blessed Echoes: Elizabethan Lute Songs*

December 5, 2024 at 7:30pm – Christ Church Cathedral

Explore popular English lute song during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I with Ensemble "Près de votre oreille" and their intimate setting of eight musicians and instruments from late 16th century England.

*Festive Cantatas: Bach & Zelenka*

December 22, 2024 at 3pm – Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Early Music Vancouver's Festive Cantatas returns for the holiday season with Bach's 'Gloria in excelsis Deo' cantata with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Vancouver Chamber Choir, and soloists Hélène Brunet, Suzie LeBlanc, Cecilia Duarte, James Reese, and William Kraushaar.

*Sequentia: Gregorius*

January 17, 2025 at 7:30pm – Vancouver Playhouse

Benjamin Bagby, known for his performance of *Beowulf*, returns to Vancouver alongside his medieval music ensemble Sequentia with the astonishing medieval verse epic *Gregorius*, a narrative poem of sin and redemption that retells the legend of St. Gregory the Great.

*VOCES8: Draw on Sweet Night* -- as part of **2025 LUMEN Festival**

February 14, 2025 at 7:30pm – Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Celebrate Valentine's Day with the English a cappella octet VOCES8, known for their impeccable tone quality, balance, and stunning performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to today, including their own arrangements of popular pieces and film scores.

*Dorothee Miels & the PBO: Bach Ties the Knot* -- as part of **2025 LUMEN Festival**

February 15, 2025 at 3pm – St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church

Join German soprano Dorothee Miels and the Pacific Baroque Orchestra for a programme of wedding-related music by J.S. Bach, including his Cantata BWV 202 "Weichet nur" and a "Fictive Wedding Cantata" composed of arias and movements from other Bach works.

*Huehuetenango: Music from 16th-Century Guatemala* -- as part of **2025 LUMEN Festival**

February 16, 2025 at 3pm – Pacific Spirit United Church

Travel to 16th-century Guatemala with Argentine early music specialists Jonatan Alvarado, tenor and Ariel Abramovich, vihuela in this musical dialogue between European and South American Renaissance music.

*Quicksilver: The Early Moderns*

March 21, 2025 at 7:30pm – St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church

Quicksilver Baroque Ensemble, known for their "impeccable, soulful playing" (The New York Times) return to Vancouver to present a programme exploring the musical revolutions of the Early Modern period.

*Dmitry Ablogin in Concert – In Collaboration with the Vancouver Chopin Society*

March 29, 2025 at 7:30pm – Vancouver Playhouse

Dmitry Ablogin is regarded as one of the most brilliant and creative keyboard artists of his generation. This programme combines Beethoven's masterful Six Bagatelles with Mendelssohn's E Major Sonata alongside works by Hummel and Field.

*Douce Mémoire: Now, Let Us Dance!*

April 12, 2025 at 7:30pm – Vancouver Playhouse

Be transported to the artistic world of Renaissance France, a time of voyages and discovery, inventiveness and creativity. Ensemble Douce Mémoire and dancer Hubert Hazebroucq present the spectacular and refined dances of this time.

*Stefano Maiorana: Secret Pages of Venice – In Collaboration with Vancouver New Music*

April 26, 2025 at 7:30pm – Pacific Spirit United Church

Experience the rich musical heritage of Venice through a captivating concert program of early Baroque works performed by virtuoso theorbo player Stefano Maiorana alongside a soundscape evoking the historical city.

*Estuary: Ablaye Cissoko, Kiya Tabassian, & Patrick Graham*

May 6, 2025 at 7:30pm – Christ Church Cathedral

Kora master Ablaye Cissoko (Senegal) and the ambassador of Persian setar, Kiya Tabassian, join forces with percussionist Patrick Graham to present a new multicultural collaboration. The estuary represents that astonishing space of transition and transformation where improvisation lives.

For tickets and information, visit [earlymusic.bc.ca](http://earlymusic.bc.ca)



With the generous support of [Global BC](http://Global BC).

**About Early Music Vancouver ([earlymusic.bc.ca](http://earlymusic.bc.ca))**

Early Music Vancouver's concerts offer a platform for cross-cultural dialogue and exploration of diverse perspectives and relationships with the past. Under the leadership of Artistic/Executive Director, and internationally acclaimed soprano, Suzie LeBlanc, C.M., EMV presents a variety of live performances and digital concerts featuring some of the most renowned artists in the early music genre drawn from all parts of the globe.

**LISTING INFORMATION**

**EMV presents 2024-2025 Main Season**

Dates:

September 20, 2024 - May 6, 2025

Various Venues:

Christ Church Cathedral (690 Burrard St.)  
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (6265 Crescent Rd.)  
Pacific Spirit United Church (2195 W 45th Ave)  
St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church (1022 Nelson St.)  
Vancouver Playhouse (600 Hamilton St.)

Ticket Prices:

From \$25 to \$79  
Under age 35: 35% off regular priced tickets  
Free tickets for Indigenous persons  
\$10 Student Rush tickets at the door, based on availability  
Ticket policies available [here](#)

Ticket link:

[earlymusic.bc.ca](http://earlymusic.bc.ca)

Website:

[earlymusic.bc.ca](http://earlymusic.bc.ca)

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