

# PACIFIC BAROQUE SERIES

An exciting new collaboration between

THE PACIFIC BAROQUE FESTIVAL, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL VICTORIA & EMV

[www.pacbaroque.com](http://www.pacbaroque.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2018

## 2018-2019 PACIFIC BAROQUE SERIES (PBS) ANNOUNCEMENT

Inaugural season premieres with J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations* on the Cathedral Organ on July 27 and *The Well-Tempered Clavier* with Angela Hewitt on August 2

**Victoria, BC** – The Pacific Baroque Series, a new collaboration between the Pacific Baroque Festival, Christ Church Cathedral and Early Music Vancouver, is honoured to begin its inaugural season with two internationally celebrated keyboardists this summer: French organist **Benjamin Alard** performing **J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*** and Canadian icon **Angela Hewitt** performing **Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier Book 2*** on the piano.

"After 14 successful years, I am thrilled the Pacific Baroque Festival will be deepening its collaborations with Christ Church Cathedral and EMV. To be premiering the series with artists of this calibre is exhilarating to say the least," explains Brian Groos, Executive Director of the Pacific Baroque Festival. "Both of these artists are recognized world-wide for their interpretations of works by Johann Sebastian Bach. What a treat for Victoria audiences to get the chance to hear two award-winning musicians perform some of Bach's greatest works on their respective instruments, allowing audiences to hear how significantly different Bach can sound when performed on different types of keyboards."

Benjamin Alard opens the new series on **July 27 at Christ Church Cathedral at 7:30PM**. He will perform on the Cathedral's magnificent Wolff organ, custom built for the Cathedral in 2005. The *Goldberg Variations* is one of Bach's most beloved collections, admired not only for the exceptional technical prowess required to play them, but also the staggering imagination involved with their composition. It opens with a theme that is played in 30 subsequent variations and closes with the same theme.

Alard has dedicated much of his career to playing Bach on historical instruments. He first came to international attention in 2004 when he was awarded first prize at the International Harpsichord Competition in Bruges at just 19. He is currently in the midst of recording all of Bach's keyboard works for the prestigious Harmonica Mundi label. He has been described by The Globe and Mail as part of the exclusive club that "makes the piece they are playing completely their own, as though it had never before been performed by anyone else".

A few days later, the Pacific Baroque Series is proud to present one of Canada's national treasures. On **August 2 at 7:30 pm, Angela Hewitt plays Book 2 of Bach's *Well Tempered Clavier*** on a nine-foot Fazioli grand piano.

"I am delighted to be returning to the Cathedral in Victoria," says Ms. Hewitt. "I have fond memories of my previous visit a few years ago."

Angela Hewitt is recognized as one of the world's reigning interpreters of Bach's repertoire for solo

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keyboard, and the inheritor of the mantle of Glenn Gould. The Guardian calls her “one of the great Bach interpreters of our day”. She is a Companion of the Order of Canada and was recently announced as one of this year’s laureates of the Governor-General’s Performing Arts Awards. She is currently on a “Bach Odyssey” around the world. Her latest stop on the Pacific Rim includes Book 1 of The Well-Tempered Clavier in Vancouver on July 31, and Book 2 two nights later here in Victoria.

## **Ticketing Information**

- **Benjamin Alard - J.S. Bach Goldberg Variations** (Friday 27 July 2018 at 7:30pm, Christ Church Cathedral) \$25 general admission, \$15 student
- **Angela Hewitt - The Well Tempered Clavier Book 2** (Thursday 2 August 2018 at 7:30pm, Christ Church Cathedral) \$45 general admission, \$30 student. \*Special \$120 Premium Package includes preferred seat, autographed CD, and tax receipt for \$35. These tickets are available only through the Cathedral office (250.383.2714) Strictly limited to 100 packages.

Tickets for the Pacific Baroque Series concerts at the Cathedral can be purchased:

**Online:** [www.pacbaroque.com](http://www.pacbaroque.com)

**By phone:** 250.386.5311

**In person:**

- At the Victoria Conservatory of Music & Victoria Conservatory of Music’s Alix Goolden Performance Hall Box Office (900 Johnson Street, Victoria BC (box office charges apply))
- Or at the Cathedral Office (930 Burdett Avenue)
- And at the following outlets:
  - Ivy’s Bookshop: 2188 Oak Bay Ave
  - Munro’s Books: 1108 Government St

## **ABOUT PACIFIC BAROQUE ([www.pacbaroque.com](http://www.pacbaroque.com))**

The Pacific Baroque Series presents its inaugural season in 2018. It is a new collaboration between the Pacific Baroque Festival, Christ Church Cathedral Victoria and EMV whose mission is to engage, enrich and educate Victoria audiences through the presentation and production of Baroque repertoire.

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