

»WEGE ZU BACH – PATHS TO BACH«

Tuesday 19 August – Sunday 24 August 2025

The **Musikfest Bremen** invites you to apply for its Early Music Atelier for talented young musicians!

Part four of the Atelier »Wege zu Bach« once again unlocks new doors to the Baroque master's influences. This time, the spotlight is on the 17th century and Bach's own family: after all, both Johann Sebastian and his son Carl Philipp Emanuel considered his cousin Johann Christoph Bach to be a »profound composer«, which is illustrated by his impressive cantata »Herr, wende dich und sei mir gnädig«. Apart from this and Johann Sebastian's own »Nun komm der Heiden Heiland« BWV 61, this year's repertoire includes works by Heinrich Bach, Johann Michael Bach and Johann Schelle, one of Bach's predecessors as Thomaskantor in Leipzig.

Lionel Meunier, artistic director of Vox Luminis, together with his team of experts in historically informed performance, will guide selected young musicians on a musical journey exploring works by these seminal composers. With the aid of exciting ensemble workshops, masterclasses and lectures, participants will learn about the influences that shaped Bach's musical world.

The results will be presented on **Sunday 24 August 2025** in a concert at the **St. Cyprian- und Corneliuskirche in Ganderkesee** as part of the **36th Musikfest Bremen's Arp-Schnitger-Festival**.

We are looking for:

Exceptional students and young musicians at the start of their career. **Participants must have experience with period instruments**. The minimum age for participation is 18, there is no upper limit, but young musicians (up to ca. 30 years) will have priority.

The Atelier is fully funded, including a grant covering all tuition fees, hotel accommodation and breakfast. Each participant will receive an additional allowance of € 250 to cover travel and living expenses.

Instruments:

Voice (SSATB), violin, viola, dulcian, violone, organ. **Pitch: A = 465 Hz**

Course dates: Organists 19.08. – 24.08.25. All others: 20.08. – 24.08.25.

Repertoire:

J.S. Bach BWV 61 »Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland«, J.C. Bach »Herr, wende dich und sei mir gnädig« as well as music by Heinrich Bach, Johann Michael Bach and Johann Schelle.

Successful applicants will receive their individual parts before the start of the Atelier.

How to apply:

Please fill in the form on <https://musikfest-bremen.de/en/concerts-tickets/musikfest-atelier/> and attach a n up-to-date CV and a link to a recent video in which you play a relevant 17th century piece, either as a soloist or in your ensemble. Singers are to send a solo video. The artistic direction will decide about your participation. If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact Christina Fürstenwerth cfuerstenwerth@musikfest-bremen.de

Deadline for applications: 25 May 2025

Kindly supported by **NORDMETALL** and the **EWE Stiftung**

Lionel Meunier – Artistic direction



© Johan Jacobs

Internationally renowned as the founder and artistic director of the award winning Belgian vocal ensemble Vox Luminis, French conductor and bass Lionel Meunier is widely regarded as one of the most dynamic and highly acclaimed artistic leaders in the fields of historical performance and choral music active today. His international breakthrough came in 2012 with Vox Luminis' Gramophone Recording of Year award for their recording of Heinrich Schütz' Musicalische Exequien. Vox Luminis has since embarked on extensive concert tours throughout Europe, North America, and Asia; established multi-season artistic residencies at Wigmore Hall, Aldeburgh Festival, Utrecht Early Music Festival, and Concertgebouw Bruges. Their recording of Buxtehude won them their second Gramophone Award, for 2019 Choral Recording of the Year.

Florian Sievers / Singers



© Adam Markowski

A sought-after soloist on the international stage, tenor Florian Sievers works with prestigious Early Music groups like Vox Luminis, Monteverdi Choir, Nederlandse Bachvereniging, B'Rock, L'Orfeo, Akademie für Alte Musik, Freiburger Barockorchester, Concerto Köln and conductors like Jordi Savall, Frieder Bernius and Rudolf Lutz. He studied with Berthold Schmid at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Leipzig, where he graduated with distinction in 2021 and joined the Early Music Faculty as a voice teacher in 2024. Numerous radio broadcasts, CD and video recordings covering works from the baroque era to contemporary opera bear witness to Florian Sievers' active artistic work and wide repertoire. Recently, a new recording of Christmas works by Schütz and Hammerschmidt by Vox Luminis, with Florian Sievers as the evangelist, was released to critical acclaim.

Tuomo Suni / Baroque violin, Strings



Tuomo Suni studied baroque violin in his native Finland with Kreeta-Maria Kentala before attending the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague, graduating with a master's degree in 2005. Tuomo's professional life has largely been centred around chamber music, performing and recording with several international ensembles including Opera Quarta, Ensemble Masques, Capriccio Stravagante and Ricercar Consort; winning several awards such as Diapason d'or for Opera Quarta's cd of Leclair trio sonatas in 2007 and for Ensemble Masques's Romanus Weichlein cd in 2015. Tuomo is premier violon of Vox Luminis, principal second violin of The English Concert, leader of Reykjavik International Baroque Orchestra and plays and records regularly with many other orchestras including Helsinki Baroque Orchestra, Dunedin Consort, and Bach Collegium Japan.

Marcin Szelest / Organ



© Tomika

Marcin Szelest is professor of organ at the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Kraków, Poland. He has performed as a soloist and with numerous period instrument ensembles, including Concerto Palatino, European Hanseatic Ensemble, The Bach Ensemble, Vasa Consort, Weser-Renaissance Bremen and Wrocław Baroque Orchestra, and has released numerous recordings with prestigious labels. He teaches at the masterclasses of the European Hanseatic Ensemble in Lübeck and the Varmia Musica Academia in Lidzbark Warmiński. His publications include editions of the collected works of Stanisław Sylwester Szarzyński and Adam Jarzębski, as well as of the Braunschweig/Oliva tablatures and the »Warsaw Organ Tablature«. He is a member of the Scientific Board of the series »Fontes Musicae in Polonia« and artistic director of the festivals Omnia Beneficia and 1679.org in Stary Sącz, Poland.