

»WEGE ZU BACH – PATHS TO BACH«

Wednesday 19 August – Sunday 23 August 2026

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

After exploring the composers that influenced Johann Sebastian Bach in previous years, part four of the Atelier »Wege zu Bach« will focus entirely on Bach himself. Although his motets BWV 225–230 represent only a tiny fraction of his vast catalogue of sacred music, they occupy a special place within it and were the first works to be printed after his death. They were lucrative commissions, composed for weddings, memorial services, obsequies and funerals. In these pieces, the composer paid particular attention to the expressive power of the word set to music, making use of a variety of timbres, textures and effects.

Lionel Meunier, artistic director of Vox Luminis, and Marcin Szelest, professor of organ, will guide selected young singers and organists on a musical journey exploring and performing these works and complementing organ music. With the aid of exciting workshops, masterclasses and lectures, participants will find out how Bach perfected a religious genre handed down by his ancestors.

The results will be presented on **Sunday 23 August 2026** in a concert at the **St. Cyprian- und Corneliuskirche in Ganderkesee** as part of the **37th Musikfest Bremen's Arp-Schnitger-Festival**.

We are looking for:

Exceptional students and young musicians at the start of their career. 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 € 200 to cover travel and living expenses.

Instruments:

Voice (SSATB), organ. **Pitch: A = 415 Hz**

Course dates:

Organists 18.08. – 23.08.26. Singers 19.08. – 23.08.26.

Repertoire:

Johann Sebastian Bach: Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied BWV 225; Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf BWV 226; Jesu, meine Freude BWV 227; Fürchte dich nicht BWV 228; Komm, Jesu komm BWV 229 as well as selected organ works

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 an up-to-date CV and a link to a recent video. Singers should submit a solo video of themselves performing a piece by Johann Sebastian Bach. Applicants for the organ should submit one solo organ piece with pedal by Johann Sebastian Bach as well as one piece for ensemble with continuo played on the organ or positive. 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: 31 May 2026

Kindly supported by **NORDMETALL** and **AGV Oldenburg**

TUTORS

Lionel Meunier / Singers, 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. Praised for his detailed yet spirited interpretative approach, he is now increasingly in demand as a guest conductor and artistic director with choirs, ensembles, and orchestras worldwide. Lionel's international breakthrough came in 2012 with Vox Luminis' Gramophone Recording of Year award for their recording of Heinrich Schütz' Musicalische Exequien. Under his leadership, 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; recorded and appeared in over 25 critically acclaimed albums. They won their second Gramophone Award in the 2019 Choral Recording of the Year category for their recording of Buxtehude. Their most recent recording for Ricercar in 2024 features Heinrich Schütz's Weihnachtshistorie. As a guest conductor, Lionel has worked with Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall, Netherlands Bach Society, Danish National Vocal Ensemble, Netherlands Chamber Choir, Salzburg Bach Choir, and the Boston Early Music Festival Collegium and has led projects with Vox Luminis in collaboration with Orchestra B'Rock, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and L'Achéron, among many others. Lionel maintains a close relationship with the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra and Consort, returning regularly to lead collaborative projects with Vox Luminis that cover a wide repertoire. He is a regular guest at The Juilliard School, where he leads projects with Juilliard 415 and students from Vocal Arts.

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 Braunsberg/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.