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Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar invites you to experience a memorable musical journey to **La Serenissima—the Baroque Venice of Antonio Vivaldi, June 22-29**. Director-violinist **Elizabeth Blumenstock**, international soloists, and the 2025 Festival Orchestra & Chorus, bring the community vibrant, historically informed interpretations of **The Four Seasons**, Vivaldi’s delightful **Gloria**, and much more, in 5 concerts over 8 days.

NEWPORT BEACH—the **Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar**, Newport Beach’s longstanding series, and still the city’s only exclusively classical-music-performing professional arts organization, returns with a **Vivaldi-Fest for its 45th Season, running June 22-29**. A hugely enjoyable, as well as educational, boutique summer series is planned, of accessible, smaller-scale concerts. Specialist professional musicians present 18th-century masterpieces close to how their composers would have heard them, at beautiful venues in **Corona del Mar and Newport Beach**. The 45th Festival is **dedicated to its founding artistic director, Dr. Burton Karson, who passed away aged 90 in late March**. For 30 years from the first series in June 1981, Dr. Karson served as the organization’s artistic director, conductor, organizer, champion, muse, and creative force. His last Festival as director was in June 2010, but he continued to inspire the nonprofit organization’s leaders, and regularly attended the June Festival in subsequent years.

Internationally recognized Baroque violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock directs the 2025 Season, her 15th as artistic director, curating and leading all but one of the performances (the Monday, June 23 trumpet, soprano, and organ recital). Blumenstock’s busy schedule performing on the 17th-century Guarneri violin made in Cremona in 1660 and generously loaned to her by the Philharmonia Baroque Period Instrument Trust, takes her as an esteemed soloist and concertmaster from Göttingen in Germany to San Francisco, Houston, New York, and everywhere in between.

The 45th Festival—“**La Serenissima: Vivaldi for All Seasons**”—opens and closes with lavish Sunday afternoon concerts by the **Festival Orchestra**, joined for the Finale by the 8-voiced **Festival Chorus**. The opener, **The Four Seasons**, presents a wonderful opportunity, especially here in Southern California, to experience **Blumenstock’s mercurial and historically-informed interpretation of the seminal concerto set**—still musically radical today three centuries since its publication. Blumenstock recorded the concertos in 2010-11, but she rarely gets the chance to perform the set which is not often programmed by early music groups. She takes particular interest in having fun “painting” Vivaldi’s sonic portrayals of the four sonnets which inspired the works. (Are the sonnets by Vivaldi? We don’t know.) An interesting perspective, and the sonnets, are at: <https://www.baroquemusic.org/vivaldiseasons.html>

Featured artists give three evening concerts between the Sunday events. **Monday’s Joys Celestial: Baroque Favorites recital** highlights the excellent acoustics of St. Michael & All Angels Church, Corona del Mar, in a fitting tribute to Burton Karson, who often programmed trumpet and organ, and solo organ, recitals there when artistic director. Then, there are two concerts within the treasured oasis of **Sherman Library & Gardens**, a beloved venue since the first series in 1981. Musicians gather there on **Wednesday and Friday evenings** for **A ‘Windy’ Night in the Gardens** (wind chamber music by Vivaldi and others) and **Classical Quartets & The Cellist’s Voice** (Boccherini, Haydn, and Mozart string quartets in their socio-historic context), respectively.

The 45th series ends with the **Finale: Vivaldi’s Gloria**, a vocal program of secular and sacred music featuring two of Vivaldi’s feisty solo cantatas with international soloists Estelí Gomez and Cecilia Duarte, **Lotti’s** mesmerizing *a cappella* **Crucifixus**, the celebrated **Gloria**, and instrumental selections. **See over for information/**

Information and Tickets

In addition to the ticketed concerts, the Festival invites audiences to enjoy Baroque music *al fresco* by **South Coast Brass**, beginning 45 minutes before each concert. At all performances, audience members and musicians are encouraged to mingle for conversation and refreshment at complimentary “wine and waters” receptions.

- **Subscriptions:** \$325 for all five concerts. Price includes reservable premium seating at each concert and a private catered post-concert dinner following the Festival Finale on Sunday, June 29th.
- **Single Tickets:** Ranging from \$45 to \$55 for individual concerts, plus a \$5 processing fee per order, for open seating.
- **Students Go for Baroque Rush Tickets for Under-30s (age 12 and above):** \$10 on the day of performance only, cash preferred, with a valid student card and photo ID. Please email students@bmf-cdm.org for further information, and to inquire about group bookings and our open dress rehearsals for students. **Exclusively for NMUSD families** – thanks to generous support from the City of Newport Beach (Cultural Arts Grant), the adult accompanying any NMUSD student(s) age 12 or over is also eligible for the \$10 rush ticket rate. Proof of enrollment at an NMUSD school is required to receive the discounted rate.
- **How to purchase:** Festival subscriptions, single tickets, and full venue information are at bmf-cdm.org or available by calling (949) 760-7887 and leaving a message for a callback within 24 hours.

The Baroque Music Festival was founded in 1981 by Dr. Burton Karson (1934-2025), then Professor of Music at CSU Fullerton. **The annual season of five June concerts is a high-quality musical experience and an accessible way to discover, or rediscover, the uplifting beauty and joy of Baroque-era European music (written from around 1600 to 1750), right in the heart of the local community.** Over the past four decades, the Festival has evolved as an esteemed and popular cultural institution in Orange County. Performing on period instruments in intimate settings, acclaimed instrumentalists and vocalists gather each June in Corona del Mar and Newport Beach.

Concertgoers have described the performances as “rapturous” and “riveting”; reviews from the *Los Angeles Times*, *Orange County Register*, and others have praised the Festival throughout its long and illustrious history. The Festival Board of Directors remains committed to bringing inspirational Baroque music to Newport Beach every summer.

Artistic Director Elizabeth Blumenstock is available for phone, video, and email interviews on request.

Visit bmf-cdm.org for:

- **Press Kit** <https://bmf-cdm.org/press-kit/> **Password: telemann** (all lower case)
- **Concert Listings** <https://bmf-cdm.org/2025-programs/>
- **Tickets** <https://bmf-cdm.org/tickets/>
- **Biographies** <https://bmf-cdm.org/performers/>
- **Images** <http://bmf-cdm.org/gallery/>
(Please email us the thumbnail of the landscape image you wish to use to receive a full resolution file)
- **Festival History** <https://bmf-cdm.org/festival-history/>
- **Burton Karson** <https://bmf-cdm.org/burton-karson/>

Over for concert listings/

La Serenissima: Vivaldi for All Seasons
45th annual season, Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar
June 22-29, 2025

Sunday, June 22, 4 p.m. – St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach

The Four Seasons

A rare opportunity to experience Elizabeth Blumenstock’s interpretation of the seminal concerto set—still radical and inspiring today, three centuries since its premiere—performed on her 1660 Guarneri violin, on generous loan to her by the Philharmonia Baroque Period Instrument Trust. Plus, Vivaldi’s only Lute Concerto, with GRAMMY®-award-winning soloist Stephen Stubbs, and lively orchestral pieces featuring the Festival Orchestra.

[Followed by a wine & waters reception on the patio with the musicians](#)

Monday, June 23, 7:30 p.m. – St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Corona del Mar

Joys Celestial: Baroque Favorites

Delight and reflect in the uplifting sounds of the Baroque soprano voice (Jennifer Ellis Kampani), newly-restored St. Michael pipe organ (Lukas Hasler) and soaring trumpet lines (John Thiessen), in the intimate acoustics of St. Michael and All Angels Church—the Festival’s “small church” home since the series began in 1981, and where its founder-artistic director Dr. Burton Karson (Festival leadership 1981-2010) was music director for many years.

[Followed by a wine & waters reception on the patio with the musicians](#)

Wednesday, June 25, 7:30 p.m. – Sherman Library & Gardens, Corona del Mar

A ‘Windy’ Night in the Gardens

[Gates open at 6:45 p.m. for complimentary wine in the Gardens · Intermission coffee & cookies · Meet the musicians after the concert](#)

Join Elizabeth Blumenstock and colleagues for a grand evening of chamber music for winds in the atmospheric setting of Sherman Gardens, featuring concertos, trios, quintets and quartets by Telemann, Vivaldi, and others. While the Venetian “Red Priest” is mainly known for his immediately recognizable string writing, his many chamber concertos for various combinations of woodwinds, strings, and continuo also evoke the contrasting moods of Venice (“La Serenissima”) and reveal the virtuosity of Vivaldi’s musicians.

Friday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. – Sherman Library & Gardens, Corona del Mar

Classical Quartets & The Cellist’s Voice

[Gates open at 6:45 p.m. for complimentary wine in the Gardens · Intermission coffee & cookies · Meet the musicians after the concert](#)

Masterful string quartets by Boccherini, Haydn and Mozart in their socio-historical context. This program is focused around the musically enthusiastic and “cellistically” accomplished Kaiser Friedrich Wilhelm, who was the nephew and successor of King Friedrich the Great. Baroque-Classical composer Luigi Boccherini was additionally a cellist; Haydn’s “The Bird” starts with a lovely cello tune; and Mozart’s last three string quartets, which include K.575 in D Major, were dedicated to Kaiser Friedrich. Join us for Quartet Night at the Gardens!

Sunday, June 29, 4 p.m. – St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach

Festival Finale: Vivaldi’s Gloria

[Followed by a wine & waters reception on the patio with the musicians](#)

The 45th Festival closes with a rousing program of music of “the sacred and the profane.” International early-music (and contemporary music) superstars Estelí Gomez (soprano) and Cecilia Duarte (mezzo-soprano) join the Festival Chorus and Orchestra led by Blumenstock for tales and retellings of adoration and anguish in the Venetian Republic. Two of Vivaldi’s provocative secular cantatas contrast with sacred choral works by Vivaldi—his celebrated *Gloria*—and the “Red Priest’s” Venetian contemporary Antonio Lotti (1667-1740) whose mesmerizing *Crucifixus* for eight unaccompanied solo voices is not to be missed. Plus, instrumental works by Vivaldi and Locatelli.

FULL PROGRAM INFORMATION AND PERFORMER LISTS AT BMF-CDM.ORG · PROGRAM AND ARTISTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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