

VICTORIA **Bach** FESTIVAL

Fantastical Music

2026
MAY 30-JUNE 6

Works that evoke dreams, myths, the supernatural,
storytelling, or psychological intensity.

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the **2026 Victoria Bach Festival**—a season devoted to the fantastical power of music to transport, transform, and illuminate. This summer, we journey through sound worlds shaped by dreams, myth, and imagination, where Baroque drama, Romantic intensity, and modern innovation converge in vivid storytelling. From the shimmering, color-saturated artistry of Duo AYA to the haunting beauty of *La Notte* and the mythic resonance of Brahms, from intimate chamber reflections to the grandeur of Bach's sacred works, each program offers a unique portal into the extraordinary. We culminate with *Spellbound*, a sweeping orchestral finale featuring Dukas's playful sorcery, Beethoven's luminous Fourth Piano Concerto, and Berlioz's electrifying *Symphonie fantastique*—a masterpiece of obsession and the supernatural. Across these days, you will encounter music that whispers, dances, dreams, and astonishes. I warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the boundless imagination of the human spirit.

Alejandro

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



SATURDAY MAY 30

7:30 PM

Presidio La Bahia
Goliad, Texas

SUNDAY MAY 31

3:00 PM

**Rockport Center
for the Arts** Rockport, Texas

Duo AYA

Makana Jimbu Marimba | **Rachel Woolf** Flute

Duo AYA—meaning “bright colors” and “vibrancy”—is an electrifying flute and marimba ensemble featuring Rachel Woolf and Makana Jimbu. Celebrated for their “global and virtuosic” artistry, the duo creates immersive, colorful soundscapes that blend lyricism, rhythm, and innovative repertoire.

TUESDAY JUNE 2

7:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church Victoria, Texas

Baroque Ensemble

Led by **Christopher Haritatos**

Step into the dramatic and expressive world of the Baroque with a program rich in color, contrast, and storytelling. From the haunting mystery of Antonio Vivaldi’s “La Notte” to the lyrical beauty of Alessandro Scarlatti, this concert highlights the emotional depth and virtuosity of the era. The journey continues with the evocative “Il pianto d’Arianna” by Pietro Antonio Locatelli and concludes with dazzling excerpts from George Frideric Handel’s Alcina, a showcase of passion, brilliance, and Baroque elegance.



WEDNESDAY JUNE 3

9:00 AM

St. Mary's Activity Center Victoria, Texas

A Sonic Dreamscape

Rachel Woolf Flute | Elain Barber Harp | Vincent Marks Viola | Faith DeBow Piano

Explore the shimmering colors and imaginative sounds of early 20th-century music, where instrumental textures take center stage. From the elegance of Maurice Ravel and Claude Debussy to the haunting, otherworldly soundscape of George Crumb's *Vox Balaenae*, listeners are invited into a richly atmospheric journey shaped by timbre, innovation, and sonic storytelling.

12:00 PM

First United Methodist Church Victoria, Texas

Dance with the Shadow

Chris Whitley Violin | Abigail Bellorin Violin
Luis Eduardo Bellorin Viola | Anna Park Cello

A string quartet pairs intimate lyricism with gripping drama, showcasing the ensemble's remarkable expressive range. Joaquín Turina's *La Oración del Torero* offers a moment of quiet reflection, while Franz Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* unfolds with intensity and emotional depth, exploring themes of mortality, struggle, and transcendence.

2:00 PM

Twin Pines Nursing and Rehab Center Victoria, Texas

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Emerging Artists

7:30 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church Victoria, Texas

Into the Labyrinth

Anton Nel Piano

A captivating journey through the piano repertoire, spanning the elegance of the Classical era to the expressive intensity of the Romantic and early 20th-century masters. From the poised clarity of Franz Joseph Haydn and Franz Schubert to the vibrant prelude collection of Alexander Scriabin, Dmitry Shostakovich, Sergei Prokofiev, and Sergei Rachmaninoff, the program culminates with the virtuosic brilliance of Frédéric Chopin's *Andante Spianato* and *Grande Polonaise Brillante*, highlighting both technical mastery and expressive depth.



THURSDAY JUNE 4

9:00 AM

St. Mary's Activity Center Victoria, Texas

Mythic Whispers

Maria Lin Violin | Barbara George Cello | Michelle Schumann Piano

Brahms's Piano Quartet in A Major, Op. 26 is a sweeping, richly textured work that balances lyrical warmth with rhythmic vitality. From the expansive opening to the spirited finale, the quartet showcases Brahms's gift for blending piano and strings into a deeply expressive and symphonic chamber experience.

12:00 PM

First United Methodist Church Victoria, Texas

Emerging Artists

Featuring Rachel Kobernick, soprano, and Joohyun Grace Kim, mezzo-soprano, this performance brings together two dynamic young artists with impressive training and artistry. Rachel, a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, is currently based in Cincinnati, while Joohyun Grace is pursuing her DMA at the University of Texas at Austin, continuing to refine her craft as an emerging performer.

7:30 PM

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Victoria, Texas

Angels and Dragons

A triumphant celebration of Baroque sacred music, this program for choir and orchestra is filled with brilliance, drama, and exultant praise. Featuring works by Johann Sebastian Bach and his cousin Johann Christoph Bach, these cantatas and motets draw on vivid imagery of triumph and divine power, unfolding with rich choral textures and vibrant instrumental color.



FRIDAY JUNE 5

9:00 AM

St. Mary's Activity Center Victoria, Texas

Dreaming in Silence

Vanguel Tangarov Clarinet | Abigail Bellorin Violin | Ekaterina Tangarov Piano

An evocative journey through character pieces and musical impressions, highlighting the expressive dialogue between solo instruments and piano. From the lyricism of Robert Schumann and Amy Beach to the vivid, imaginative worlds of George Enescu, Olivier Messiaen, and Kaija Saariaho, each work offers a unique snapshot of memory, color, and storytelling.

11:00 AM

Victoria Public Library Victoria, Texas

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Emerging Artists

12:00 PM

First United Methodist Church Victoria, Texas

Visions in the Dark

Renee Anne Louprette Organ

We dedicate this concert to the memory of Gary Childress, a longtime supporter of the Victoria Bach Festival.

A powerful showcase of the organ's grandeur and expressive depth, this all-Johann Sebastian Bach program features some of his most iconic and virtuosic works. Performed by Renée Anne Louprette, these monumental toccatas, fugues, and fantasies reveal both the architectural brilliance and the profound spiritual intensity at the heart of Bach's music.

7:30 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church Victoria, Texas

VAMP Vocals

Featuring the all-female ensemble VAMP Vocals, bringing a vibrant blend of vocal artistry, energy, and contemporary flair to the stage. Known for their dynamic performances and engaging style, the group delivers a fresh and entertaining take on vocal music, connecting with audiences through creativity, precision, and unmistakable charisma.



SATURDAY JUNE 6

1:00 PM

Victoria Public Library Victoria, Texas

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Big Bang

7:30 PM

Victoria Fine Arts Center Victoria, Texas

Spellbound

Victoria Bach Festival Orchestra | Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez Conductor
Featuring Anton Nel Pianist

A thrilling conclusion to the festival, this concert showcases some of the most exciting and imaginative works in the orchestral repertoire. From the playful magic of Paul Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* to the virtuosic brilliance of Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with Anton Nel at the piano, and culminating in the dramatic grandeur of Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, the Festival Orchestra delivers a finale full of color, intensity, and unforgettable musical storytelling.

VENUES & TICKETS

Morning concerts are free. Coffee and pastries available.

Evening concerts feature reserved seating.

Order online or by phone to choose a specific seat.

Noon concerts are general admission events; come, pay what you can, and choose your seat that day.

To purchase individual performance tickets
and packages, visit:



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