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# ACADEMY

In July 2010, the American Bach Soloists will inaugurate the United States' newest professional training program in Historically Informed Performance Practice. Drawing on their distinguished roster of performers—named "*the best American specialists in early music*" by The Washington Post—the American Bach Soloists' ACADEMY will offer advanced conservatory-level students and young professionals unique opportunities to study Baroque music in a multi-disciplinary learning environment. In addition to in-depth coachings and technical study with masters of their particular instruments, string players, wind players, continuo and keyboard players, and singers will work together with *all* faculty members, gaining the perspectives of eminent and highly acclaimed professional artists from a variety of disciplines.

The ACADEMY will be held in the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's exquisite new facilities, opened just three years ago, located two blocks from Davies Symphony Hall (home of the San Francisco Symphony) and the San Francisco Opera House. Nearby housing is available at nominal cost to students. Jeffrey Thomas (artistic director of the American Bach Soloists) and Corey Jamason (principal keyboardist for American Bach Soloists and director of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's program in Early Music) will be co-directors of the Academy.

During the course of the program, the faculty and students will present concerts including a three-night SummerFest of chamber music on the first weekend and a concert-version Baroque opera and an annual performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor on the second weekend. The opera and Mass in B Minor performances will include the participation of a specially-formed Academy Chorus, comprised of choral artists hand-picked from the Bay Area's most respected vocal ensembles. The orchestra will consist of Academy students, supplemented as needed by faculty and other members of the American Bach Soloists. In addition, a Faculty Bach Concert will be offered on the final weekend.

Tuition for the two-week program will be competitively priced at \$1,000. Limited but full scholarships will be available as well as work/study scholarships. The student/teacher ratio will range from 4:1 to 6:1.

The initial target for matriculation will be:

- 12 vocalists
- 12 violinists and violists
- 4-6 harpsichordists/organists
- 6-8 violoncellists/gambists
- 8 wind players (4 oboists and 4 flautists)

The faculty will be comprised of:

- 2 vocalists
- 2 violinists/violists
- 1 harpsichordist
- 2 violoncellists/gambists + 1 violonist
- 2 wind players
- 1 conductor

Every afternoon, Monday through Friday, faculty members will present lectures on a variety of relevant topics including performance practice, Baroque studies, etc. Most workshop days will follow the format of:

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.	Master classes with primary teachers
2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Ensemble rehearsals coached by primary and cross-disciplinary teachers
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Lectures
Evenings	Performances or personal practice time

At the conclusion of the ACADEMY, the faculty will vote to choose the recipient of the **Henry I. Goldberg Young Artist Award** who will receive a stipend of \$3,000 and an invitation to perform with the American Bach Soloists during their subsequent Northern California concert season.