

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portland Baroque Orchestra Announces 2026/27 Season Celebrating the Unique Voices Across the Baroque Landscape

PORTLAND, OR — Portland Baroque Orchestra (PBO) is thrilled to unveil its 2026/27 season. Strings and winds, mentors and pupils, old worlds and new, PBO's upcoming season is an invitation to listen more closely and discover voices that surprise. From Bach's beloved concertos to American Baroque music, Handel's *Messiah* to a little night music, this is a season of contrast, connection, and wonder.

"This season will be a dynamic mix of familiar concertos and symphonies as well as an introduction to soundscapes and highlights far more unique for our patrons," says Artistic Director Julian Perkins. "We are turning the spotlight on our wind instruments, our viols, and some very early Baroque music that may be new to a large cohort of our audience. It is very exciting to weave together something that both surprises and delights our musicians and listeners alike."

Join us as we rediscover forgotten voices, unearth musical roots, and celebrate the limitless spirit of Baroque and early Classical music.

Season Highlights include:

- **All Ages Concert**
This hour-long program promises an engaging and educational experience for newcomers and enthusiasts alike, with youth tickets and adult tickets priced at **\$5 and \$10, respectively**.
- **Handel's *Messiah* with Two Matinees and One Truncated Highlights Performance**
This holiday tradition returns under the dynamic guest direction of Gary Thor Wedow. While the Friday evening performance and weekend matinees are the beloved oratorio performed in full, the Thursday evening performance is slimmed down to the highlights to allow attendees to experience all the greatest parts of *Messiah* with time to get home for a reasonable bedtime.
- **American Baroque: The Sounds Inspiring Early America**
February brings an opportunity to explore Baroque music in the early years of the founding nation and the threads of inspiration from the Austrian Father of the Symphony Franz Joseph Haydn.

2026/27 Season Calendar

- **Art of the Violin: Bach, Vivaldi & Leclair** | Launch into the season with violin concertos featuring J.S. Bach, Vivaldi, Leclair & Locatelli.
October 10-11, 2026
- **Winds of Fortune: Vivaldi & Telemann** | Oboe, recorder & bassoon converse with the harpsichord in this chamber concert for winds. Featuring works by Telemann, Vivaldi & Handel.
October 17, 2026
- **The Bach Dynasty: Symphonies & Concertos** | Explore whether this family of composers is made of kindred spirits or unique innovators.
November 14-15, 2026
- **Handel's *Messiah*** | PBO's beloved holiday tradition returns under guest director Gary Thor Wedow and features the newly formed Portland Baroque Voices. Glorious, heartfelt, and historically informed, this *Messiah* is a spiritual and musical celebration.
December 10–13, 2026
- **American Baroque: Haydn's Moravian Connection** | Experience music composed in the early colonies in this chamber concert for strings. Prominently featuring the American-born composer John Antes (1740-1811).
February 13, 2027
- **All Ages Concert** | Discover why Baroque music is so unique at this one-hour, family-friendly event. PBO musicians demonstrate their instruments, answer questions, and share how they bring historically inspired performances to life. Curated by Principal Cellist Joanna Blendulf, the program spotlights early English consort music from Restoration England (1661-1685), featuring viols, violins, violone, theorbo, organ, and harpsichord.
February 20, 2027
- **Viols at Court: Purcell & Locke** | Step into the world of early English consort music, flourishing in Restoration England under Charles II. Curated by Principal Cellist Joanna Blendulf, this All Ages Concert includes tenor and bass viols, violas, violins, violone, theorbo, organ, and harpsichord.
February 20-21, 2027
- **Liberation: Bach, Telemann & Pergolesi** | A consoling meditation on crossing over featuring Bach's *Ich habe genug* and works by Telemann, Pergolesi & Torelli.
March 13-14, 2027
- **A Little Night Music: Mozart & Friends** | Closing the season in glowing style, this program highlights Boccherini's vivid, bell-laced *La Musica Notturna delle strade di Madrid* and Mozart's irresistible *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*. Showcasing the orchestra's strings at their most luminous. This is a nocturnal celebration of joy, reflection, and one flourish.
April 10-11, 2027

For tickets and more information, visit www.pbo.org or call 503-222-6000.

About Portland Baroque Orchestra

For more than forty years, Portland Baroque Orchestra has reigned as the Pacific Northwest's premier period ensemble, expertly reimagining the music of the Baroque and Early Classical periods with passion and excellence in intimate venues. Founded in 1984, PBO is a jewel amongst Oregon's arts organizations, celebrated for its masterful fusion of rich musical history and innovative artistry in every program. Specializing in historically inspired performance, the orchestra also explores music beyond the Baroque, performing on period instruments or replicas with extraordinary artistry and spontaneity.