

The museum at Johann Sebastian Bach's birthplace

BACH HOUSE, EISENACH

Life & Work of
Johann Sebastian Bach

• Live music
on historic instruments

• Interactive
sound installations

MEDIA INFORMATION – for publication



Reconstruction of Bach's face from casts of the skull unearthed in 1894, 2008.
Photo: Bach House, Eisenach, Germany / University of Dundee, Scotland

Bach in Jerusalem Festival, 17-21 March 2018

YMCA-exhibition "Best of" to present facets of the man Johann Sebastian Bach and his music

For the third year the Bach Museum in Eisenach, Germany, the place where Bach was born, will be presenting an exhibition at the *Bach in Jerusalem Festival*. This year's exhibition, to take place in the YMCA lobby from 17 to 21 March, shows highlights from the museum's activities during the last 10 years.

The exhibition "Best of" includes, among other things, the spectacular reconstruction of Bach's face which the museum commissioned in 2008 using casts of the skull that was unearthed in 1894. Another topic is "Bach and numbers", as in an exhibition in 2014 the museum explored whether Bach knew and used the "Bach number" 14 in his works (if A=1, B=2 etc., then B+A+C+H=14). An X-ray of the hands of Wanda Landowska, the famous harpsichordist who gave a ground-breaking concert in Eisenach in 1911 and who was honored at the museum in 2011, is used to question how in the past ideological ideas have influenced the way Bach was regarded and performed, and whether nowadays' popular "historical performance" movement is not merely a reaction to these influences.

On display in the lobby of the YMCA during the time of the Jerusalem Bach Festival (17-21 March) will be, among other things, a copy of the Bach bust created from the skull in 1894, an early 1537 print of Martin Luther's song against the Turks "Give us peace, eternally" which can be viewed listening to Bach's setting of the song, a handwritten choir part from Mendelssohn's performance of the St Matthew Passion in 1829, and the first print, dating from 1811, of Bach's "Magnificat" that will be performed by the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra in the YMCA concert hall during the Festival. At four audio stations and one video installation, visitors can enjoy and learn about Bach's music.

"I am very glad that our board approved of our plan to return to Jerusalem for the third Bach festival there", says museum director Dr. Joerg Hansen who will be present during the festival. The museum is owned by the New Bach Society, founded in 1900 in Leipzig, Germany, to propagate Bach's music throughout the world. It has presented exhibitions in Jerusalem on the St Matthew Passion in 2016 and on Bach's Mass in B Minor in 2017. Whether funding can be obtained for future visits is not clear at the moment.

"Best of": Exhibition by the Bach House, Eisenach, Germany, 17-21 March 2018. Lobby of the YMCA, King David Rd. 26, Jerusalem, Israel



**BACHHAUS
EISENACH**

www.bachhaus.de

Location

Frauenplan 21
99817 Eisenach

Opening times:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day

Tickets:
9.50 €, reduced 7.50 €, students 5 €

Contact

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Supervisory Board Chairman:
KMD Roderich Kreile, Dresden

Proprietor:
Neue Bachgesellschaft e.V.
An international association based in
Leipzig, founded in 1900
www.neue-bachgesellschaft.de



Registered in the German Government's
'Blue Book' as a cultural
commemorative site of historic
significance

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KULTURKONZEPTE

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1. Reconstruction of Bach's face, 2008



2. Reconstruction of Bach's face, 1894



3. J. S. Bach: Magnificat. First print, 1811



4. J. S. Bach: Magnificat. First print, 1811



5. Martin Luther: Hymn for peace (Verleih uns
Frieden), 1537



6. Martin Luther: Hymn for peace (Verleih uns
Frieden), 1537



J.S. Bach / F. Mendelssohn: St Matthew Passion. Choir
part, Alto voice, 1829