

The museum at Johann Sebastian Bach's birthplace

# BACH HOUSE, EISENACH

Life & Work of  
Johann Sebastian Bach

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on historic instruments

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MEDIA INFORMATION – for publication



The Bach House from Eisenach, Germany, will be presenting an exhibition on Bach's St John Passion at the "Bach in Jerusalem" Festival 2019. (Photo: Bachhaus Eisenach, Germany)

**Bach in Jerusalem Festival, 22-26 March 2019**

## Bach museum from Germany to take part in the "Bach in Jerusalem Festival"

### YMCA-exhibition "Bach's St John Passion" to illustrate the origins of Bach's famous music

For the fourth year, the Bach House from 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 22 to 26 March, illustrates the genesis of Bach's St John Passion, which is also one of the central works to be performed by the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra during this year's Festival.

Of the five passion musics that Johann Sebastian Bach reportedly composed during his lifetime, only the St John and St Matthew Passions have survived. Today they belong to Bach's most popular works. However, from the point of musical history, they are an intermediate step, mixing the old tradition of reciting the Gospel in the "passion tone", in which the congregation joined in with chorales, with elements of the new "passion oratorio": Italian-style operatic music that had become popular in Hamburg and Frankfurt at the time. The exhibition explains how Bach, bound by the conservative tradition that was dominant in Leipzig where he worked, nevertheless added in arias and arioso recitatives from a variety of sources to satisfy also the more progressively-minded amongst his contemporary audience. On display will be some of the sources from which Bach obtained the material for his St John Passion.

The Bach museum in Eisenach was the first of its kind, founded in 1907 by the New Bach Society (Neue Bachgesellschaft) at the place where Bach was born. Since 2016, the museum has been a guest at the "Bach in Jerusalem Festival," on invitation of its artistic director Dr David Shemer, and has been presenting exhibitions that strive to explain a central work performed during the festival, like this year's St John Passion.

**"Bach's St John Passion":** Exhibition by the Bach House, Eisenach, Germany, 22-26 March 2019. Lobby of the Jerusalem International YMCA, King David Rd. 26, Jerusalem, Israel.



**BACHHAUS  
EISENACH**

[www.bachhaus.de](http://www.bachhaus.de)

#### Location

Frauenplan 21  
99817 Eisenach

#### Opening times:

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day

#### Tickets:

10 € reduced 8 € students 6 €

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Neue Bachgesellschaft e.V.

An international association based in  
Leipzig, founded in 1900

[www.neue-bachgesellschaft.de](http://www.neue-bachgesellschaft.de)



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