

BACH VIRTUOSI Festival

Sunday, June 17 - 24, 2018

This past month I heard some very great musical performances here in New York. One of the highlights was hearing countertenor Jay Carter and soprano Sherezade Panthaki sing at Alice Tully Hall as soloists with one of the great baroque music groups, the Bach Collegium Japan. They were both remarkable and I felt very honored that they would be returning to Portland in June with the Bach Virtuosi Festival.

I am also proud that Portland's own pianist Henry Kramer will be performing with us this summer. I first met Henry when he was 16 yrs old in 2003, and he participated in the Bowdoin Festival. I have watched with awe his astounding artistic growth at Juilliard and his developing solo career. Welcome, Henry. We look forward to some great music making by you in June.

Below are two Q&As from Jay and Henry. Each had such eloquent ways of phrasing how they feel about J.S. Bach. I hope you enjoy their short interviews.

-- Lewis Kaplan



Jay Carter - countertenor

Performing Bach's music is something of an all-encompassing and complex endeavor. I think that this is partially due to his self-imposed notion of craftsmanship, which you want to highlight as a performer, without getting caught in the technical traps...

[\[Click to read more from Jay\]](#)

Henry Kramer - piano

Bach's name in German means brook or stream, and I feel that his music comes closest to representing the divine perfection of nature. His counterpoint never ceases to stun me when I explore the beauty of how the voices interact with one another....

[\[Click to read more from Henry\]](#)



Portland residents can hear Henry Kramer perform with the Portland Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday, January 30. Click [HERE](#) for details.