

**LONDON'S ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN THE FIELDS, LED BY MUSIC
DIRECTOR JOSHUA BELL, MAKES ITS BRAVO! VAIL MUSIC FESTIVAL
DEBUT
JUNE 23**

The ensemble's residency marks two important milestones for Bravo! Vail: It will be the first time that both a chamber orchestra and a non-U.S.-based orchestra performs at the festival

Vail, CO – June 20, 2016 – This summer, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields — the internationally acclaimed 58-year-old London-based chamber orchestra — will make its debut at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival in a three-concert residency led by music director and violin virtuoso Joshua Bell. The residency, which includes performances of blockbuster works on June 23, 25, and 26 at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, kicks off Bravo! Vail's 29th season and marks the first time a chamber orchestra and an international ensemble will perform at the festival.

“We are immensely proud and honored to be the first orchestra from outside the U.S. to be in residency at Vail, and I can't wait to introduce the Vail audiences to this wonderful group of musicians,” Bell said with regard to the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, which he's led since September 2011.

For the ensemble's inaugural concert on Thursday, June 23, Bell, who last appeared at Bravo! Vail in a sold-out concert with The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2014, will perform Mozart's charming, yet highly virtuosic Violin Concerto No. 4, written when the composer was 19 years old. Bell will also lead the orchestra from the concertmaster's chair in Mendelssohn's exuberant Symphony No. 4, known as his “Italian” Symphony, and Mozart's Symphony No. 25 — a work the Academy of St Martin in the Fields famously performed on the sound track to the Oscar-winning 1984 film *Amadeus*. The deeply dramatic piece is prominently featured during the film's powerful opening scenes.

The program for the second concert, held on Saturday, June 25, includes four works: Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1, known as the “Classical” Symphony due to Prokofiev's deliberate imitation of Haydn's style; Saint-Saëns's rousing Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, featuring Bell as soloist; Beethoven's lighthearted Symphony No. 8; and Mendelssohn's Concerto for Violin and Piano, which will again feature Bell as soloist, as well as pianist Jeremy Denk, winner of a 2013 MacArthur “Genius Grant” and one of Bell's frequent chamber music collaborators.

To close out its groundbreaking residency, on Sunday, June 26 the Academy of St Martin in the Fields performs the searingly beautiful Chaconne attributed to late-17th-century and early-18th-century Italian composer Tomaso Antonio Vitali, with Bell appearing as soloist. Bell will also solo in Vivaldi's sparkling and utterly evocative *The Four Seasons*, as well as Piazzolla's tango-infused *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*. The Academy of St Martin in the Fields' 1969 landmark recording of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* was an international best seller and earned the ensemble its first gold record.

Every summer, Bravo! Vail presents performances by powerhouse symphony orchestras from around the country, with this year's lineup including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic in addition to the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. Adding one of the world's most-respected chamber orchestras to the mix has been a longtime goal of pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, who's served as Bravo! Vail's Artistic Director since 2011.

"Ever since I became Artistic Director," McDermott said, "I have imagined how wonderful it would be for the audiences to experience the finest chamber orchestras from around the world." Reflecting on the important milestone of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields' debut this season, she added: "Nothing can replace the visceral and direct impact of masterworks originally intended for smaller forces. The impact is that much greater when the ensemble is led by a great violinist. It is a dream come true to bring the storied Academy of St Martin in the Fields to the Festival, led by the incomparable Joshua Bell."

About Bravo! Vail

Bravo! Vail inaugurates a new chapter this summer with two festival firsts. London's acclaimed Academy of St Martin in the Fields led by violinist Joshua Bell is both the first international ensemble and the first chamber orchestra to grace the Bravo! Vail stage. The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic all make eagerly-awaited returns, bringing inspiring masterworks, soulful jazz, and delightful pops programs to the spectacular majestic setting of the amphitheater. Plus, experience intimate chamber music concerts performed by world-renowned soloists in unique venues throughout the Valley. Visit bravovail.org for more information.

Fast Facts:

What: The Academy of St Martin in the Fields performs at Bravo! Vail

Where: Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail

When: June 23, June 25, June 26 at 6:00PM

How much: Tickets range from \$28-\$119. Lawn seats for children aged 3-12 are \$5. Limited tickets remain.

More info: Visit bravovail.org or call the box office at 877-812-5700.