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Arts Around Town: A man for all seasons for Bach Choir's Greg Funfgeld

By: [Susan Kalan](#)

Greg Funfgeld, the artistic director and conductor of [The Bach Choir](#) of Bethlehem and Bach Festival Orchestra, will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Moravian College at Tuesday's "Bach at Noon" at Central Moravian Church, 73 West Church Street, Bethlehem.

Funfgeld is now in his 35th season with The Bach Choir, having expanded its programs beyond the annual Bach Festivals to include year-round concerts and educational outreach. He led the choir on two major concert tours, one to Germany in 1995 and the other to the United Kingdom in 2003. He also directed the choir's centennial performances at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.



Commissioned works during his tenure have included Libby Larsen's *Cantata I It Am – The Shewings of Julian of Norwich*, co-commissioned with the BBC Proms and Stephen Paulus' *A Dream of Time*, commissioned in honor of Funfgeld's 25th anniversary with The Bach Choir.

Under Funfgeld's leadership, the choir has released 13 recordings and co-produced two films – the PBS documentary, "Make a Joyful Noise," and the internationally distributed Classical Kids' DVD, "Mr. Bach Comes to Call."



Funfgeld is a member of the advisory board of The American Bach Society. From 1976 to 2016, he served as director of music at First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem. He is a 1976 graduate of Westminster Choir College, where he studied under [Joseph Flummerfelt](#). In 1986, he received the Alumni Merit Award for excellence in musical performance. In 2007, he was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Lehigh University in recognition of his musical accomplishments locally, nationally, and internationally.

Footnote: The 111th Bethlehem Bach Festival will be held May 11-12 and May 18-19 at Lehigh University in Bethlehem.

For further info: bach.org