“BACH TO SCHOOL”
Elementary School Lesson Plan
(Grades 3 – 6)

I. Introduction - Represent Bach Choir of Bethlehem
   A. Historical data on Choir (in teaching packet)
      1. When founded – 1898
      2. Commitment to Bach's music over 100 years; Centennial in 1998
      3. Commitment to high musical standards
      4. Community choir – number of directors – 6

   B. Present day data
      1. Size – 95
      2. Types of people who sing in choir (all volunteers, all walks of life): music teachers, ministers, piano teachers, business men & women, school principals, engineers, nurses, moms & dads, computer designers
      3. Concert traditions in Bethlehem (use concert programs)
         a. May Festival
         b. Christmas concerts
         c. Spring concert
         d. Family Concert
         e. Bach at Noon

      4. Recordings – listened to worldwide – Many CDs: recorded a children's Christmas CD this past June
      5. Use excerpts from Mr. Bach Comes to Call or the CD Bach - Life & Works by Will Wagner

II. Who is Johann Sebastian Bach?
   A. Picture from Poster or the Student Booklet
      1. Discuss appearance – intensity, wig
      2. 1685-1750
      3. Pennsylvania was founded in 1689, Bethlehem in 1742

   B. Use timeline (see booklet)
      1. All music was copied by hand – family job
      2. As data is read on each year of timeline – students figure out his age and add one key word to the specific year

1685 - Born – in Eisenach, Germany

1695 – Orphan – both parents had died by the time he was 10; lived with older brothers and learned to play the organ, violin, harpsichord as well as to sing

1700 - Student – studied music at St. Michael's School in Germany

1703 – Organist, took a job as organist and choirmaster at Arnstadt

1705 – Nannygoat – called some of his students that because they weren't very good; he walked 260 miles just to hear a concert

1707 – Married Maria – had 7 children before she died 13 years later
**1708** – Duke - – worked for the Duke of Weimar as a court musician – he had to compose music for all the parties and grand occasions; wrote Toccata in D (play excerpt from Phantom of the Opera ); started to become famous

**1714** – Director – became the director of the Duke’s orchestra – had to compose one cantata per month (explain what a cantata is – listen to excerpt of your choice)

**1717** – Wins hands down – wins a big harpsichord contest – other guy “chickens out” when he hears JSB practicing; **Prince** - JSB gets thrown in jail by the Duke because he wants to go to work for the Prince; composed all of the Brandenburg Concertos for the Prince (play excerpt)

**1720** – Widower - Maria dies – 7 children – ages 1 to 12; he was away, came back for funeral, but she was already buried (no phones!)

**1721** – Marries Anna – they had 13 children! 7 + 13 = 20 children – Bach had 20 children, 11 died as babies, no hospitals or medicine, no shots or vaccines

**1723** – Cantor – moves to Leipzig to take a job at a big church; stayed there until he died. Bach composed one cantata per week; had to take care of the boys at school, began to lose his sight towards the end of his life (play excerpt Gloria from the Mass)

**1750** – Died – operation on eyes failed – died from infection; three of his sons became composers and musicians; his wife was left poor and died in poverty **1830 1830– 80 years later**

– Mendelssohn rediscovered Bach’s music and Bach became very famous

**Closing:**

Review his life

Discuss the excerpts used

Discuss concert manners from the insert in the student brochure

Discuss the student brochure: Choir Logo - window from Packer Chapel at Lehigh University; his portrait - can be colored; the Wordsearch

Discuss the upcoming Bach to School concerts

Discuss the free ticket opportunity - all students will receive a postcard with information about free tickets; encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity

Revised: Aug 2013