

Wiemer Hosts Bach Choir of Bethlehem

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Mike Cutillo, Executive Editor

DUNDEE — Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard will host The Bach Choir of Bethlehem for an evening of music in its seventh annual Summer Musical Salon. The event will double as a benefit for the acclaimed choir.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 21.

The winery and adjacent vineyards will provide the setting for the evening's festivities.

This year's enigmatic salon, titled "Bach Masquerade: A Night of Music and Mystery," will offer a program that includes "Stars" by Eriks Esenvalds and a poem by Sara Teasdale, arranged for choir and tuned glasses. The choir will revisit composer Morten Lauridsen and offer "Sure on This Shining Night." The program also will include selections from Bach and Haydn.

Soprano Laurie Heimes joins the salon for the first time. Praised for her "sparkle and humor, radiance and magnetism" and hailed for "a voice equally velvety up and down the registers," Heimes has great versatility, with repertoire ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century.

Founded in 1898, the Bach Choir of Bethlehem is the oldest Bach Choir in America and gave the first performances in America of J.S. Bach's *Mass in B Minor* in 1900 and *Christmas Oratorio* in 1901.

Since then it has been attracting thousands from across the United States and beyond to its annual Bethlehem Bach Festival in May. A 2017 review of the Bach Festival in *The Huffington Post* called the performance "one of integrity, movement, passion and weight. The effortless virtuosity and stylistic homogeneity of the combined forces in the chapel's stone sanctity allowed Bach's music to sing out with infectious, exhilarating enthusiasm."

The choir will use proceeds from the Musical Salon for educational outreach. For more about The Bach Choir, visit its website, www.bach.org.

Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard is a pioneer of winemaking and viticulture in the Finger Lakes. Founded in 1979, it has earned national and international attention for the quality of its wines. For more information visit www.wiemer.com.

Concert tickets are \$60 per person guest and will include a variety of wine along with hors d'oeuvres served during the Intermezzo.

Tickets should be reserved as soon as possible due to limited seating.

For concert and dinner reservations and additional information, call the winery at (607) 243-7971 or email Jen Menges at jenny@wiemer.com.