

AUTHENTIC

Leading the way through innovation and example.



Authentic: Greg Funfgeld

TO THE MUSICIANS, scholars, colleagues and friends who've had the pleasure of knowing him, Greg Funfgeld may seem like one in a million. (And he is!) But more accurately, he's one in six: since the Bach Choir of Bethlehem was founded in 1898, he is only its sixth artistic director and conductor.


Funfgeld, celebrating his 36th year with the Choir, is humbled and grateful: by the pleasure of continually discovering the works of J.S. Bach—"Bach is smarter than all of us, so you have to keep working at it"—and the joy of collaborating with extraordinary people. "There are so many wonderful people connected to this organization," he says. "It's the ultimate embarrassment of riches."

A native of Long Island—whose parents found his first piano teacher in the Yellow pages—and graduate of Westminster Choir College in organ performance, Funfgeld became the music director of the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem in 1976. The Bach Choir position opened up, and the rest is history.

You could say all of it is history. The Choir, the first to perform Bach's *Mass in B Minor* in the U.S. in 1900, represents over a century of tradition in Bethlehem. During Funfgeld's three and a half decades, the Choir has grown beyond its Christmas and May concerts to offer family and spring concerts, monthly free Bach at Noon concerts, and Bach to School outreach programs. "I've wanted to make it much more a part of the life of the whole community," Funfgeld says, "to open the doors as wide as we can and invite people in." A life well lived, after all, is a life shared.

Learn more about

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem at: bach.org

A full-length photograph of Greg Funfgeld, an older man with white hair and a beard, wearing glasses, a dark suit jacket, a blue and white checkered shirt, and dark trousers. He is standing in a music room, leaning on a music stand with sheet music. He is holding a yellow folder with 'BACH' written on it. In the background, there is a fireplace, a painting of a man, and a desk with a lamp.

*Greg Funfgeld,
Artistic Director and
Conductor*