

# Out and About: 112th Bach Festival opens this weekend

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The Lehigh Valley is nationally renowned for its music festivals, and one of the oldest and most revered is the Bethlehem Bach Festival.

The [Bach Choir of Bethlehem](#) presents its 112th Bach Festival May 10-11 and 17-18 at various venues in Bethlehem.

This year's two-weekend event features a world premiere of a commissioned work by American composer Gwyneth Walker for the Bach Choir's Bel Canto Youth Chorus, Bach's rarely heard concertos for three and four harpsichords, and the return of lutenist Ronn McFarlane with flutist Mindy Rosenfeld, as well as performances by the Bach Choir, the Bach Festival Orchestra and various soloists under the direction of Greg Funfgeld.

The fest kicks off at noon both Fridays with a free outdoor concert on Payrow Plaza, at Bethlehem's City Hall. Bach Festival Orchestra principal violist Paul Miller performs on electric violin, as does Main Street Brass, making its festival debut.

At 4 p.m. both Fridays, there are two concerts. Lutenist Ronn McFarlane plays May 10, and returns with Mindy Rosenfeld on flute and recorder on May 17 for the Chamber Music in the Saal concert at Moravian Museum. For Bach at 4 concert, members of Bach Choir and Bach Festival Orchestra will present the festival premiere of Cantata 111, "Was Mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit" at the Incarnation of Our Lord Church in south Bethlehem.

Bel Canto Youth Chorus joins members of The Bach Choir and Bach Festival Orchestra in the world premiere of Gwyneth Walker's "The Day is Done" for the Ifor Jones Chamber Music concerts at 10:30 a.m. in Zoellner Arts Center

Also on the program is concerti for three and four harpsichords by Bach featuring Funfgeld, Thomas Goeman, Kerry Heimann, and Charlotte Mattax-Moersch.

Other highlights are the annual performance of Bach's "Mass in B Minor" with part 1 at 2:30 p.m. and part 2 at 4:30 p.m. Saturdays in Packer Memorial Church; Bach at 8 featuring two Bach

Cantatas and a Haydn concerto at 8 p.m. Saturday, also in Packer Memorial Church. and Zimmermann's Coffee House, modeled after Zimmermann's Coffee House of Bach's time in Leipzig, Germany and featuring performances by auditioned young people at 7 p.m. Saturday in Peter Hall, Moravian College.

Mezzo-soprano Krisztina Szabó and tenor Isaiah Bell makes their festival debut as soloists, joining sopranos Kendra Colton and Rosa Lamoreaux, baritone William Sharp, and bass David Newman.

Tickets are \$20 to \$58 for adults and \$9 to \$20 for students for the various events.

For information, call 610-866-4382, or go to [www.bach.org](http://www.bach.org).