

Bach at Noon brings back ‘Joyful Noise’ vocal soloists

By STEVE SIEGEL
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For those who might have missed the performances of Sherezade Panthaki and Dashon Burton in "A Joyful Noise," have no fear. The duo will be back for the Tuesday, Oct. 8 Bach at Noon at Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem.

Panthaki and Burton are the soloists in Bach's Cantata 57, "Selig ist der Mann" (Blessed is the man), in a program that also includes Bach's Trio Sonata from The Musical Offering, BWV 1079, as the concert's instrumental work.



Featured in the sonata are Elizabeth Field, violin, Loretta O'Sullivan, cello, and Bach Choir director and conductor Funfgeld on harpsichord. Cantata 57 was written for the second day of Christmas, but don't expect it to bring that holiday's joyful festivities early this year. This is a rather solemn cantata, with no ebullient choruses, and no festive trumpets and timpani. In fact, the choir makes its only appearance in the closing chorale, and three of the four arias are in a minor key.

Having said all that, it still is a lovely work, with the oboes doubling the strings to create a contemplative mood in the outer movements. There are no solo parts for tenor or alto, only bass and soprano — the cantata was conceived as a

dialogue between Jesus and the Soul, and marked as such in the score by Bach himself.

As always, Funfgeld will present an informative introduction to each piece. The Bach at Noon programs in Bethlehem are presented on the second Tuesday of the month in September, October, November, January, February, March and April.

Bach at Noon, 12:10 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, Central Moravian Church, 73 W. Church St., Bethlehem. Admission: free; free-will offering. 610-866-4382, www.bach.org