



Guarantor Spotlight – Meet John Koontz & Family by Cheryl Dungan

AT FESTIVAL IN MAY, we had the pleasure of welcoming John Koontz of Ridgewood, New Jersey, who was attending Festival for the first time. John firmly believes it is important to encourage appreciation of the arts, particularly great classical music, in young family members. To share his love of the music of Bach, John brought his three delightful young granddaughters to Festival. It was clear that they were enjoying this special experience and a very full day of Bach Choir concerts and events!

John attends *Bach at Noon* concerts regularly, often bringing his two sisters, Marylou and Kathryn. John and his sisters have become great ambassadors for The Bach Choir and we are thrilled to welcome their family to ours!

When my three granddaughters, the oldest of whom is nine, learned that we'd be going to Bethlehem to hear Bach, they took it in stride. They are accustomed to visiting unfamiliar places. But Bethlehem? Bach?

The decision had been made hastily and at the last minute. When I called for tickets, I worried that my order was akin to announcing that I'd be bringing the eighth plague. But Renee James, Bach Choir's Marketing Director, could not have been more welcoming. You'd have thought I'd offered her flowers in May.

We arrived Friday and attended Saturday's performance of The Nightingale at the Zoellner Arts Center. This would be their first Festival event, their first encounter with Bach, and, for the two youngest, their first real concert. Before the lights dimmed, they sat in their seats, chirping like birds at a fountain, fluttering, giggling, looking around at the large, almost cavernous space of Baker Hall. But when the Bel Canto Children's Chorus took the stage and lights dimmed, they became like nestling hawks with eyes fixed on the performance. It was, indeed, a magical event.

Afterwards, we attended the luncheon, warmly greeted by Cheryl Dungan, who introduced us to our hosts. They could not have been more gracious. The girls felt right at home.

Saturday night found us at Zimmerman's Coffee House. We had been thoughtfully placed close to the action in Peter Hall, next



to the harpsichord, which, with its unfamiliar tones, fascinated the girls. When he sat to play it, Greg Funfgeld generously took a moment to turn and greet them. They left the event in very high spirits.

As our weekend ended, I asked the girls to rate what they had seen and done. Moravian Book Store? Thumbs up. Candy store in Easton? Two thumbs up. WK&S Railroad in Kempton? Another two thumbs up. Bach Festival? Two thumbs suddenly were not enough. They lifted their toes along with their thumbs high into the air.

For me, Bach's music is as close to transcendence as I ever expect to come in this life. This is why I wanted my granddaughters beside me. They accompanied me cheerfully. In so doing, they allowed me to experience these pieces not only with children but also through them, as I joined my own granddaughters in the simple, palpable joys of Bach. – John Koontz

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Guarantors!

Every time a new Guarantor joins our Bach Choir family, it is cause for rejoicing, especially in this 120th Birthday season. So let's give a warm welcome to the Guarantors who have joined us since the 2017 Bach Festival and when you see them at our events, please make a special point of greeting them.

Jay P. Brenneman, PA
Margaret Brownell, MA
Carol & Frank Cornwell, NJ
Marylou Fulford, NJ
John Kootnz, NJ
William Krapf, DE
Jan C. MacLennon-Kennedy, MA
Bruce A. Maza, PA

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Palms, PA
Deborah Prince, PA
Kathryn Quinn, NJ
Mary Anne Tilney, MA
George Watkins, VA
Thomas Wotring, MD
Nancy S. Ziegler, PA

