

Call Board: Bach Choir to hold auditions for Zimmermann's Coffee House and The Chaconne Project

The Morning Call January 22, 2020

The 2020 Bethlehem Bach Festival will offer two performance opportunities for young musicians to showcase their gifts to its enthusiastic audience through Zimmermann's Coffee House and the Chaconne Project.

Since its debut at the 2015 Bethlehem Bach Festival, Zimmermann's Coffee House has been showcasing some of the most outstanding young musicians in our community. This casual evening is our 21st century version of Zimmermann's Coffee House, which Bach attended during his time in Leipzig. It's held café-style in the charming Peter Hall of Moravian College with its famous 19th century stained glass windows and beautiful acoustics. Patrons enjoy German-themed food and drink as they listen to Baroque chamber music performed by young musicians. Appearances by conductor Greg Funfgeld and friends – including Bach Festival soloists - add to the festivities.

The Coffee House be part of the 113th Bethlehem Bach Festival in May 2020. Auditions for college and high school students will take place 1-5 p.m., Feb. 14 and Feb. 21 at The Bach Choir Offices located at 440 Heckewelder Place, Bethlehem. Auditions are open to individuals and ensembles who play or sing Baroque music, and live or study in PMEA District 10. Final auditions/dress rehearsal will take place 10 a.m.-noon, April 25 at Peter Hall at Moravian College.

Zimmermann's Coffee House performances will be held 7-9:30 p.m., Saturdays May 9 and 16 at Peter Hall, Moravian College, Bethlehem.

Also at this year's festival, the choir will offer students a chance to participate in The Chaconne Project, where selected students will work on composing variations over the ground bass from Bach's famous Chaconne in D Minor. Auditions will take place on 10 a.m.-noon, Feb. 8 and 15 at Heckewelder House. Students will have five 60-minute sessions on Saturday mornings with Dr. Larry Lipkis, Composer-in-Resident and music professor at Moravian College, to work on their compositions. Composing sessions will be held March 14, 21 and 28; April 4 and 25 at Moravian College Music Department. Rehearsal with Greg Funfgeld, Bach Festival Orchestra and Eliot Fisk, guitar will be 7:30 p.m., May 7 at Zoellner Arts Center. Under the direction of Greg Funfgeld, the students will then perform these variations at the May 9 and 16th Ifor Jones Chamber Music concerts, with The Bach Festival Orchestra playing the ground bass. Following the variations, Artist-on-Residence guitarist Eliot Fisk will perform the Chaconne.

The Chaconne Project performances will be held 10:30 a.m. May 9 and 16 at the Ifor Jones Chamber Music Concert, Baker Hall, Zoellner Arts Center, Bethlehem.

Eligibility requirements for both Zimmermann's Coffee House and The Chaconne Project may be found at www.bach.org

To schedule an audition, students should contact Mike DeCrosta, 610-866-4382 Ext. 110, mike@bach.org. Teacher recommendations should be sent to Bridget George bridget@bach.org.