**THE GENEROUS CARE OF** Our Funding Organizations  
by Bridget George & Cheryl Dungen

AMONG OUR MOST VALUED RELATIONSHIPS are those we have with corporate, government, foundation and business supporters, many of whom have been steadfast in their enthusiasm and commitment to our organization and mission for decades. Through their generous financial and in-kind support, they have helped The Bach Choir develop into the dynamic, relevant, nationally respected choral arts organization it is. Their support underscores The Bach Choir as a valued community asset which contributes to the overall health and vitality of our community through our music, collaborations and outreach programs.

Special support during the Pandemic: Our special thanks to three organizations that gave us very significant additional support, they have helped The Bach Choir develop into the enthusiastic and committed to our organization and mission supporters, many of whom have been steadfast in their contributions.

**SUPPORT FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS:**

- **Air Products**
- **Dexter and Dorothy Baker Foundation**
- **B Braun Medical Inc.**
- **Lehigh Valley Community Foundation**
- **Keystone Savings Foundation**
- **Lutron Electronics**
- **MPS**
- **PPL Utilities**
- **Spotlight Mobile**

The Presser Foundation

**THE PRESSER FOUNDATION**

Teresa Rogers, Executive Director of The Presser Foundation in Philadelphia recently sent us a lovely message responding to our September Bach at Noon Watch Party. This is a foundation that exemplifies enormous care for the classical music organization it supports, demonstrated in personal engagement with the people it serves.

"Wherever and with whomever Greg shares his love for music, he is a humble but unheralded success…his passion for his art form, performance perfection, and quiet modest leadership always stand out."

— Ellen Baker Ghelardi

Dexter F. and Dorothy H. Baker Foundation

Bach Choir Guarantors

**– A Tradition of Support, A Special Inspiration to Us All**  
by Cheryl Dungen

WE CONSIDER OURSELVES FORTUNATE to have the enthusiastic, generous support of our family of Guarantors – special people who express their deep appreciation for The Bach Choir and Bach’s music through their dedicated support and annual contributions.

Guarantors have played a significant role in the legacy of The Bach Choir for decades but this year our Guarantor families have been an especially important source of inspiration and support for efforts to share our music in modified and innovative ways.

Thank you for saying “Yes!” We want to say a special thank you to some Guarantors who responded to our Bach at Noon appeal with a challenge donation, intended to inspire others to support The Choir. Each month that we have been able to offer these challenge grants, we have met and exceeded our Bach at Noon goals!

Special thanks to these Guarantors for sponsoring our Bach at Noon Giving Challenge:

- **April**
  - Sue & George Driessen, Maryland
  - May
  - Jan C. MacLennan-Kennedy, New Hampshire (Gwen and mother, Corrine M. Kennedy)
  - June
  - John Howell, Pennsylvania
  - July
  - John Koonte, New Jersey
  - August
  - William F. Murphy, Pennsylvania
  - September
  - Linda & Walt Ritter, Pennsylvania
  - October
  - Jane Pearson & Ray Malec,
  - Pearl Funeral Home, Pennsylvania

"We have attended most of the Bach concerts since the beginnings and each concert always more than lived up to our expectations. It is with joy that I offer this donation and ask you to join me to help ensure that these wonderful concerts continue, virtually for now, but hopefully with all of us present again soon!"

— Bill Murphy, Guarantor since 1990

**IMAGINE THERE WAS NO MUSIC…**

IMAGINE YOUR FAVORITE MOVIES without that unforgettable music score that conveyed the emotion, energy, and significance of what was portrayed on screen. The music drew you in and connected you to the events as they unfolded, and helped bring closure at the end. So many of you have told us that our virtual performances have been a source of comfort, a means of connection, and a reflection of feelings that simply cannot be expressed in words. For our singers, musicians, and staff, it is inspiring and validating to know that these musical efforts are making a difference.

We know that there are many needs and worthy appeals for your support this year. We will be grateful if you can include The Bach Choir as you make your year end of year gifts.

There are many ways to help us share the music of The Bach Choir:

- • Giving a gift of any amount to The Bach Choir or satisfying your annual Guarantor pledge before the end of this year means that we will have use of these funds for our entire season.

**BOARD & STAFF cont.**

**MIKE DECOSTA,** Administrative Assistant, joined the staff in January 2020. He is a native of Bethlehem and received a BA in Economics & Sociology (2011) and an MA in Sociology (2015), both from Lehigh University. Work experience includes part-time Southside Arts District Coordinator for the Bethlehem Economic Development Corp., Research Analyst for Health Strategies Group, a Community and Regional Planner for Urban Research & Development Corp., and Community Manager for Spotlight mobile app, which involved cultivating and maintaining business relationships with 30 Lehigh Valley restaurants. Mike’s interest in the arts as an important force in economic and community development, and his own musical interest as a blues and jazz guitarist led him to look for a full-time position working with a Lehigh Valley arts organization.

**SOPHIA VEBISCAR,** Production & Office Assistant, has worked as a seasonal freelance production assistant for The Choir for several years. In January 2020, she joined the salaried staff as a part-time Production and Office Assistant helping with the ever-expanding activities of The Choir. Sophia was Theatre Manager of Landmark Theatre in San Diego, CA from 2008-2015 and relocated to Bethlehem in 2016 where she has worked as a Children’s Lead and Assistant. She has also done extensive free-lance work as a technician for Rooftop Films, Brooklyn New York, Zoeller Arts Center, and other Lehigh Valley venues.

**Welcome!**

Guarantors Linda and Walt Ritter note that Bach at Noon and the annual Bach Festival concerts have been high points of their years. Walt was a commercial banker and Linda created a garden design business. They have been married for 55 years and treasure times with their children and six grandchildren.

"Linda and I placed Bach at Noon at the top of our ‘to-do’ list since 2007 upon my retirement from the world of banking. Of course, the Mass in B Minor performances are at the top of the May list. The 50+ mile trips to Bethlehem are always well worth the time. Giving The Bach Choir of Bethlehem staff upon entering Central Moravian Church, watching the soloists, orchestra members and choir take their places and feeling the joy of Greg Fundel as he addresses the audience prior to the performance are all part of our enjoyment of Bach at Noon. Thank you.”

— Walt & Linda Ritter, Guarantors since 2005

And thank you to everyone who said “yes” and made a donation to help us achieve our challenge goal! To contribute a Bach at Noon Challenge Grant, please contact the development office by emailing Cheryl@Bach.org.