

## **Bach Choir of Bethlehem announces cancelations of concerts, adds video production for schools**

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The Bach Choir of Bethlehem has announced that two of its concerts for the first quarter of 2021 have been canceled, but the organization said the annual Bethlehem Bach Festival is still scheduled for May.

The choir also has announced plans for a new video production in lieu of its usual in-school programs.

**The Greg Funfgeld Family Concert**, which was scheduled Feb. 28, and the **Spring Concert**, scheduled for March 21, have been canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Funfgeld Concert was to be a collaboration with members of the Lehigh University Philharmonic and the Dance Department of Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts. The Spring Concert was to have been presented with the Bach Festival Orchestra.

The pandemic's effect on adequate rehearsal time for more than 150 members of the orchestra, dance ensemble and choir, as well as state gathering restrictions that are still in place, led to the decision.

If you have ordered tickets to either of these concerts, please contact The Bach Choir to process one of the following options upon request: a voucher toward a future concert, a donation in the amount of your ticket(s) or a refund: 610-866-4382 x110 or x115.

The annual **Bethlehem Bach Festival** is scheduled to take place in May. If necessary, an update about the concerts, events and venues for the festival will be shared in February.

The video presentation will make up for the inability to present the "**Bach to School**" programs for pupils in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. It will enable teachers, parents, and students to access it online and share virtually, along with activities that students can participate in relating to the video. All students who attend the program receive vouchers for two tickets to a Bach Choir concert, which will also be included in this year's video program. More information is available about Bach to School on the choir's website: <https://bach.org/education/>

Playing key roles in the creation of the video will be the Educational Outreach Committee of The Bach Choir, in consultation with artistic director and conductor Greg Funfgeld, and executive director Bridget George. The committee includes Joy Hirokawa, artistic director of the Bel Canto Youth Chorus of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem and teachers at the elementary, middle, high school and college levels, many of them singers in The Bach Choir and previous participants in "Bach to School."

"Through our (recent) Virtual Christmas Concert, we discovered an online audience of more than 8,000 people in 48 states, D.C., Puerto Rico and 18 countries, and have been flooded with grateful comments."

said George. "It is our hope that this new educational film will also be welcomed by audiences of all ages, far and wide."

For more information: <https://bach.org>