

BACH together

BACH at NOON
Bethlehem 2020-2021

A Gift of Music &
Spiritual Refreshment



Soloists

Meg Bragle, mezzo-soprano

Elizabeth Field, violin

Robin Kani, flute

Mary Watt, oboe d'amore

Greg Funfgeld,

Artistic Director & Conductor



April 13, 2021 – PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major, BWV 1050

– Robin Kani, flute; Elizabeth Field, violin;
Greg Funfgeld, harpsichord

– Interview with Meg Bragle –

Johann Sebastian Bach

- Aria from the *Easter Oratorio*, BWV 249, No. 9
“Saget mir geschwinde”

- Aria from Cantata 170, No. 1 “Vergnügte Ruh”

Daron Hagen (b. 1961)

- *The Lamb*

Johann Sebastian Bach

- Aria from Cantata 129, No. 4 “Gelobet sei
der Herr”

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra – Robin Kani, flute;
Mary Watt, oboe d'amore; Charles Holdeman, bassoon;
Elizabeth Field & Stephani Bell, violins; Akhmed Mamedov, viola;
Loretta O'Sullivan, cello; Stephen Groat, string bass

Second Tuesdays

Next Bach Together

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Recorded LIVE!
in ALLENTOWN

Watch the concerts on our
YouTube channel or Facebook page



The April *Bach At Noon* concert was named in honor of the singers of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem during the 100th Bach Festival Season, 2006–2007, and all Bach Choir alumni. The concert is supported in part by generous endowment gifts from these Choir members and Choir alumni who have given of their treasure as well as their time and talent so that future generations of musicians and listeners can enjoy *Bach at Noon*.

Johann Sebastian Bach – Arias | Daron Hagen

German translations by H. Ellis Finger

Aria from the *Easter Oratorio*, BWV 249 No. 9 – “Saget, saget mir geschwinde”

Saget, saget mir geschwinde,
saget, wo ich Jesum finde,
welchen meine Seele liebt!
Komm doch, komm, umfasse mich;
denn mein Herz ist ohne dich
ganz verwaiset und betrübt.

*Tell me, speak quickly,
tell me where I might find Jesus,
the one my soul loves!
O come now and embrace me;
for my heart without you is
utterly forlorn and depraved.*

Aria from Cantata 170, No. 1 “Vergnügte Ruh”

Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust!
Dich kann man nicht bei Höllensünden,
wohl aber Himmelseintracht finden;
du stärkst allein die schwache Brust.
Drum sollen lauter Tugendgaben
in meinem Herzen Wohnung haben.

*Blessed repose, my soul's dear delight!
You cannot be found among hell's dark sins,
but rather in the harmonious realm of heaven;
you alone give strength to the feeble breast.
Therefore the perfect blessings of virtue
shall have their home within my heart.*

Daron Hagen – *The Lamb* the poetry of William Blake, 1757–1827

Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed
By the stream, and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name
For He calls Himself a Lamb.
He is meek, He is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child and Thou a lamb,
Little Lamb, we are called by His name.
Little Lamb, God bless Thee.
Little Lamb, God bless Thee.

Aria from Cantata 129, No. 4 “Gelobet sei der Herr”

Gelobet sei der Herr,
mein Gott, der ewig lebet,
den alles lobet, was
in allen Lüften schwebet;
gelobet sei der Herr,
des Name heilig heisst,
Gott Vater, Gott der Sohn
und Gott der Heilge Geist.

*Praised be the Lord,
my God, who lives in eternity,
praised by all things,
that hover in the air;
praised be the Lord,
whose name is said to be Holy,
God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Holy Spirit.*

BACH AT NOON RETURNS TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ALLENTOWN!

BACH
together

BACH at NOON

Tuesday, June 9

SAVE THE DATE!

Concerts presented VIRTUALLY on YouTube and Facebook! Join us!



SOLOISTS

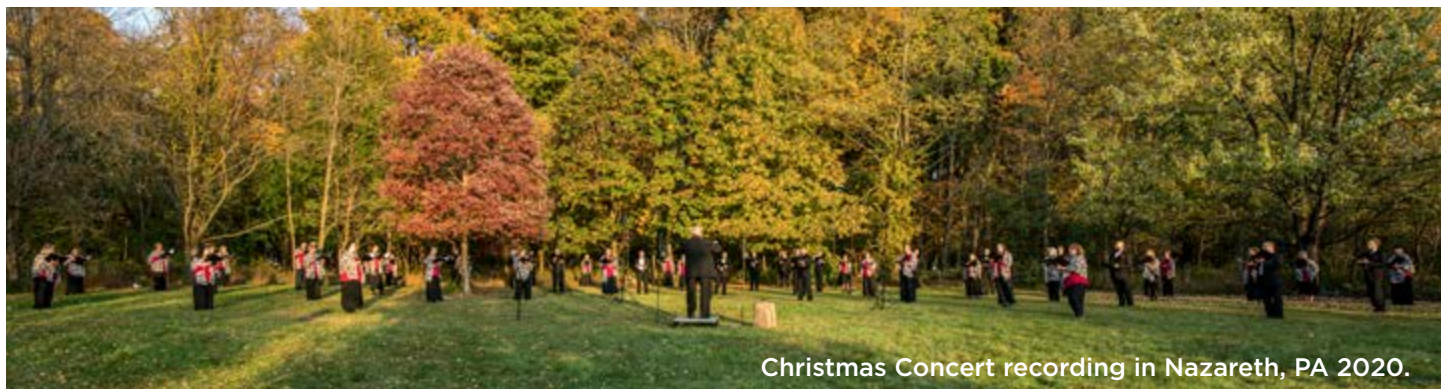
Meg Bragle, Mezzo-Soprano, Widely praised for her musical intelligence and “expressive virtuosity” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), Meg Bragle has earned an international reputation as one of today’s most gifted mezzo-sopranos, particularly in the field of early music. A frequent soloist with Sir John Eliot Gardiner and the English Baroque Soloists, she has made four recordings with the group, including Bach’s *Easter and Ascension Oratorios* – the vehicle for her BBC Proms debut – and the 2015 release of Bach’s *Mass in B Minor*. Highlights of her 2019/20 season include returns to Seattle Symphony (*Messiah*), Colorado Symphony, Winter Park Bach Festival, Carmel Bach Festival, Tempesta di Mare, and the Dunedin Consort. She makes her debut with the San Antonio Symphony this fall performing Mozart’s *Requiem*. Other performances include those with Voices of Music, Washington Bach Consort, and a recital of early George Crumb Songs at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to those with the English Baroque Soloists, she has made several recordings with Apollo’s Fire: Mozart’s *Requiem* (Koch), Handel’s *Dixit Dominus* and *Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne* (Avie), and Monteverdi’s *Vespro della Beata Vergine* (Avie), and L’Orfeo (Eclectra). Other recordings include Bach’s *Saint. John Passion* with Arion Baroque (ATMA Classique). A new recording of Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater* with the Winter Park Bach Festival is forthcoming. Ms. Bragle is based in Philadelphia where she is Artist-in-Residence at the University of Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth Field, Violin, enjoys an active career as a chamber musician and soloist on period and modern violin. Elizabeth is the concertmaster for the Bach Festival Orchestra and has served as a guest concertmaster for numerous ensembles including the Washington Bach Consort, Opera Philadelphia, The National Philharmonic, Opera Lafayette, Charleston Baroque Society and the Spire Ensemble in Kansas City. Field performs regularly with her chamber ensembles, The Vivaldi Project, The Eisenstadt Trio (with fortepianist Andrew Willis) and ArcoVoce and is a frequent guest artist with the Mallarme Chamber Ensemble and La Fiocco. Field holds a Doctorate in Historical Performance Practice from Cornell University and is the Founder and Co-Director (along with cellist Stephanie Vial) of The Vivaldi Project and its educational arm, the Institute for Early Music on Modern Instruments (EMMI). As a team, Field and Vial have served as performance-practice coaches for numerous universities and music schools including The Curtis Institute of Music, The Longy School of Music, Blair and Belmont Schools of Music in Nashville, and the Boston Conservatory of Music. Ms Field also performed and recorded extensively for Deutsche Gramophone with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and performed regularly with leading New York ensembles including the St. Luke’s Ensemble, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, American Composers Orchestra, the Solisti Chamber Orchestra and the New York City Opera. Dr. Field was the violin professor at California State University in Sacramento and at the University of California, Davis for several years before moving to D.C. with her husband Uri Wassertzug, who joined the Washington National Opera Orchestra. She is currently an Associate Professor of violin at George Washington University.

Robin Kani, Flute, has been described by the *New York Times* as an artist with “professional aplomb as well as technical authority...played with complete assurance and accuracy.” Ms. Kani made her debut at Carnegie Recital Hall after winning the Artists’ International Chamber Music Award. She has performed at Carnegie and CAMI Halls in New York, Albert Hall in London, and has been heard as recitalist and chamber musician in live broadcasts over National Public Radio. She recorded the *Sacred Flutist* through Alfred Publishing and regularly records for Warner Bros., Koch and Analekta. She was awarded, along with her husband Larry Wright, the Arts Ovation Award given by the Arts Council of the city of Allentown, Pa. Ms. Kani is principal flutist of the Bethlehem Bach Festival Orchestra, Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra, Allentown Symphony and has appeared in performance throughout the Eastern United States, Mexico, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic and the UK. Robin is an Alexander Technique Teacher, trained at the Philadelphia School for the Alexander Technique. She received a bachelor of music “with distinction” from University of Michigan and a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School studying with renowned flutist, Samuel Baron.

Mary Watt, Oboe is principal oboist of the Bach Festival Orchestra, and has performed with The Choir at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. She can be heard as a soloist on many of its recordings. Ms. Watt received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Juilliard School. She performed with orchestras in the New York area including the Brooklyn Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony, American Symphony Orchestra, Riverside Symphony, New Haven Symphony, and Hudson Valley Philharmonic. Ms. Watt was a member of the Quintet of the Americas, touring cities in the US and South America. She also played on Broadway with *Cats* and toured with *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. Ms. Watt lives in Exeter, New Hampshire, and has performed with the New Hampshire Symphony, Vermont Symphony, Portland Symphony, the New England Bach Festival, Emmanuel Church in Boston, as well as other choral and chamber groups in New England. As a teacher of oboe, Ms. Watt began her career as assistant professor at Virginia Tech University. With the Quintet of the Americas, she was in residence at Northwestern University, and she currently teaches and coaches chamber music at Phillips Exeter Academy. Through her long association with the Kinhaven Music School in Weston, Vermont, she has taught hundreds of young oboists, and founded the Kinhaven Adult Chamber Music Workshop. She has given master classes at the Eastman School of Music, Northwestern University, University of New Hampshire, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the University of Colorado Boulder.

THE BACH CHOIR OF BETHLEHEM



Christmas Concert recording in Nazareth, PA 2020.

THE OLDEST AMERICAN BACH CHOIR, The Bach Choir of Bethlehem gave the first complete American performances of Bach's *Mass in B Minor* in 1900 and *Christmas Oratorio* in 1901. Since its founding in 1898, the now-famous Choir has been attracting thousands of visitors from across the United States and beyond to the annual Bethlehem Bach Festival in Pennsylvania. Since 1983, under Greg Funfgeld's direction, the 85 dedicated volunteer singers of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, performing with the Bach Festival Orchestra and distinguished soloists, have received international acclaim. Programming has expanded to 40 concerts and educational programs per year for an audience of more than 22,000. Venues have included the Herkulessaal at Munich's Royal Residence and the Thomaskirche, Bach's church in Leipzig, as part of the 1995 Germany tour; The Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall as part of The Choir's Centennial Celebration in 1998-2000; the BBC Proms in London's Royal Albert Hall as part of an eight-concert tour of the United Kingdom in 2003; and Severance Hall, Cleveland, for the 75th anniversary of the Baldwin-Wallace Bach Festival in 2007. In September 2011, The Bach Choir represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a 10th anniversary musical observance of 9/11 in New York City, giving concerts in Saint Paul's Chapel and Trinity Church, Wall Street. In 2013, The Choir performed Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at Strathmore in the Washington D.C. area, and in 2014, the new opera *Young Meister Bach* for the 250th anniversary of the German Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

The Choir has released 11 recordings on the Dorian and Analekta labels including most recently *Bach's Cantata 21* (2018), *Handel's Ode for Saint Cecilia's Day* (2018), *A Child's Christmas in Bethlehem* (2013), and *Saint John Passion* (2012). The Choir has been featured on National Public Radio's Performance Today and Prairie Home Companion, Deutsche Radio, the BBC World Service, CBS Sunday Morning, and the Emmy award-winning PBS documentary on The Choir, *Make a Joyful Noise*. It has been recognized for its outstanding educational outreach programs (*Bach at Noon*, *Bach to School*, and interdisciplinary Family Concerts) by annual awards from the National Endowment for the Arts (2011-2020). The J.S. Bach Foundation in Switzerland named The Bach Choir of Bethlehem as the first American recipient of its annual award to a single Bach organization, recognizing The Bach Choir's outstanding work in Bach performance and education for young people (2012). *Mr. Bach Comes to Call*, a film based on the acclaimed Classical Kids CD, was co-produced by The Bach Choir of Bethlehem and is distributed internationally by the Children's Group. In July 2018, our affiliated Bel Canto Youth Chorus, currently celebrating its 27th year under the direction of founder Joy Hirokawa, officially merged with The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. Both organizations are looking to increase their impact in training the next generation of choral singers and cultivating a life-long passion for the choral arts.

For more information visit The Bach Choir's website - BACH.org.

Our April *Bach at Noon* Donation Challenge

Dr. David and Carol Beckwith have graciously offered a donation challenge, given in honor of Paul and Janie Florenz, who were early advocates for our *Bach at Noon* concert series...

"When I think of Bach at Noon I often think of Paul Florenz, our past Board Vice President and his wife, contralto Janie Florenz, who were enthusiastic and adamant early advocates for the concept of *Bach at Noon*. Today we will hear the 114th Bach at Noon performance attesting to the concert's appeal and its status as a community favorite."

This month, every Bach at Noon contribution we receive will be matched, up to \$1500!

Please consider joining David and Carol Beckwith and make a donation to share your appreciation of our *Bach at Noon* concerts. **Give by phone!** Text BNOON to 44-321 or online at bach.org/general-donations.



VIRTUAL 113TH BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVAL

One weekend only!

Friday, May 14:

4PM • The Barnett Distinguished Scholar Lecture

- Peter Wollny, Director of The Bach Archiv in Leipzig, Germany

7:30PM • Ifor Jones Chamber Music Concert

- Paul Taylor Dance Company • Bach Flute Sonata

Saturday, May 15:

4PM • Chamber Music – Bach & Vivaldi

- Chamber Music by Bach and other composers including Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*

7:30PM • Blessings & Benediction Concert – Four Bach Cantatas

- Choir, Orchestra, and featured soloists

FREE Registration for All-Festival Pass: bach.org/tickets/

JOIN US!



The Bach Choir of Bethlehem gratefully acknowledges our *Bach at Noon* corporate & foundation sponsors.



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THE CENTURY FUND







The Bach Choir is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts



THE CENTRAL MORAVIAN CHURCH

The Moravian Church had its origin in the pre-Reformation awakening under John Hus. The Unitas Fratrum (Unity of the Brethren) was organized in 1457. Because much of its early history is centered in Moravia, the Unity is known formally as the Moravian Church, and recognized as the oldest organized Protestant denomination in the world. The Moravian Church places much emphasis on mission, music, and education. It was J. Fred Wolle, organist of Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, who founded The Bach Choir of Bethlehem in 1898 and conducted The Choir in the first performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor* in America here at Central Church in 1900. Central Moravian Church continues to have a flourishing music program presented by its resident music ensembles and visiting artists, under the leadership of Director of Music and Organist, Rebecca Lepore. In addition to five Central Moravian Church music CDs including *An Old Fashioned Moravian Music Christmas* – an organ recording featuring Rebecca Lepore, and *Christmas Eve at Central Moravian Church*, a recently published 256-page book entitled *Praise and Thanksgiving: 275 Years of Music at Central Moravian Church* is available at the Moravian Book Shop.

For further information about The Bach Choir of Bethlehem:

- Visit Bach.org for upcoming concert and ticket information, to join our mailing list or to order CDs and other Bach Choir merchandise.
- Consider becoming a Guarantor with The Choir: learn more at the website or by calling 610-866-4382 extension 113
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.    Watch us on YouTube. 

Thank you to Dr. David and Carol Beckwith for this month's Challenge Gift. Will you help us reach it? Your free will contributions support The Choir's Community programs like *Bach at Noon*. Please donate online at BACH.org or send your contribution to:

- The Bach Choir of Bethlehem • 440 Heckewelder Place, Bethlehem, PA 18018
- To donate by phone, text BNOON to 44-321.

Bach at Noon Broadcast

Bach at Noon concerts are broadcast on WWFM, a long-time media sponsor. This year's broadcasts are made possible by the generous support of John L. and Carol Daniel and Arthur Mead Martin.

Broadcast dates are on our website.

Bach at Noon 2020-2021 Bethlehem Schedule

2020	2021
September 15	January 19
October 13	February 16
November 10	March 9
	April 13



Special thanks to:

Central Moravian Church,

especially Rt. Rev. Hopeton Clennon, Rev. Dr. Lynnette Delbridge, and Rebecca Lepore, Director of Music

John C. Baker, audio engineer
Bill George, videographer

The Guarantors of The Bach Choir for their continuing support.

Bach at Noon Together Allentown 2021:

June 8 July 13 August 10

610-866-4382 | BACH.org