

20th
BACH at NOON
Allentown Summer Series

A Gift of Music
& Spiritual
Refreshment

BACH
together



Soloists

Dashon Burton, bass-baritone

Anthony Cecere, French horn

Karen Schubert, French horn

Robert Skoniczin, trumpet

*Greg Funfgeld,
Artistic Director & Conductor*



Second Tuesdays

Next Bach Together

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Join us in person at Central
Moravian Church or watch
the concert LIVE-STREAMED!



August 10, 2021 – PROGRAM

– Interview with Anthony Cecere & Karen Schubert –

Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)

Concerto in F Major, RV 538, for two horns and strings

Allegro – Largo – Allegro non molto

– Anthony Cecere & Karen Schubert, French horns

– Interview with Dashon Burton –

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Aria from the *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 248

No. 8. “Grosser Herr, o starker König”

– Dashon Burton, bass-baritone & Robert Skoniczin, trumpet

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

from *Four Serious Songs*, Opus 121

No. 4. “Wenn ich mit Menschen”

– Dashon Burton, bass-baritone

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Aria from *Messiah*, No. 48 “The Trumpet Shall Sound”

– Dashon Burton, bass-baritone & Robert Skoniczin, trumpet

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra:

Anthony Cecere & Karen Schubert, French horns;

Robert Skoniczin, trumpet; Christine Moulton, flute;

Elizabeth Field & Rebecca Brown, violins; Uri Wassertzug, viola;

Loretta O’Sullivan, cello; Dan McDougall, string bass;

Greg Funfgeld, keyboards

The August *Bach at Noon* is supported in part
by a generous endowment gift from The Reverend
Ronald R. Miller, Ph.D. in memory and celebration
of the life and work of Maestro James A. Simms.

Johann Sebastian Bach | Aria from the *Christmas Oratorio*, No. 8, BWV 248

Translation by H. Ellis Finger

Grosser Herr, o starker König,
liebster Heiland, o wie wenig
achtest du der Erden Pracht!
Der die ganze Welt erhält,
ihre Pracht und Zier erschaffen,
muss in harten Krippen schlafen.

Great ruler, o mighty king,
dearest Savior, how little
earthly treasures matter to you!
He who governs the whole world,
having created its splendor and sheen,
must sleep in a humble crib.

Johannes Brahms | from *Four Serious Songs*, No. 4, Opus 121

Translation adapted from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible by Ellis Finger.

Wenn ich mit Menschen und mit Engelszungen redete,
und hätte der Liebe nicht,
so wär' ich ein tönend Erz,
oder eine klingende Schelle.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels
and have not love,
I am a noisy gong
or a clanging cymbal.

Und wenn ich weissagen könnte,
und wüsste alle Geheimnisse
und alle Erkenntnis,
und hätte allen Glauben,
also, dass ich Berge versetzte,
und hätte der Liebe nicht,
so wäre ich nichts.

And if I have the gift of prophecy,
and understand all mysteries
and all knowledge;
and if I have all faith
so that I can move mountains,
and have not love,
I am nothing.

Und wenn ich alle meine Habe den Armen gäbe,
und liesse meinen Leib brennen,
und hätte der Liebe nicht,
so wäre mir's nichts nütze.

And if I give away all my goods to the poor,
and if I offer my body to be burned,
and have not love,
I profit nothing from this.

Wir sehen jetzt durch einen Spiegel
in einem dunkeln Worte;
dann aber von Angesicht zu Angesichte.

For now we see through a mirror
in darkness;
but then face to face.

Jetzt erkenne ich's stückweise,
dann aber werd ich's erkennen,
gleich wie ich erkennet bin.

Now I have partial knowledge;
but then I shall understand fully
even as also I am fully understood.

Nun aber bleibet Glaube, Hoffnung, Liebe,
diese drei;
aber die Liebe ist die grösste unter ihnen.
(I Corinthians 13:1-3, 12-13)

And now remain with us faith, hope, love,
these three;
but the greatest of these is love.

George Frederick Handel | Aria from *Messiah*, No. 48

The trumpet shall sound,
and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.
For this corruptible must put on incorruption,
and this mortal must put on immortality.
(I Corinthians 15:52-54)

Dashon Burton, Bass-Baritone, has established a vibrant career in opera, recital, and with orchestra. In key elements of his repertoire – Bach's *Passions* and the *Mass in B Minor*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Beethoven *Ninth Symphony*, the Brahms *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Mozart's *Requiem* – Dashon is a frequent guest with the major orchestras of the United States, Europe, and Japan and with The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. In the 2019/20 season, he performed these works and others with the Minnesota and National Arts Centre Orchestras, the St. Louis Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. A frequent guest of the Cleveland Orchestra, he sang Michael Tilson Thomas' *Rilke Songs* there, led by the composer. In the fall of 2019, Dashon sang the world premiere of Caroline Shaw's *The Listeners* (a part written by Shaw specifically for Burton), with the Philharmonia Baroque and Nicholas McGegan. Opera engagements have included Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* in Dijon and Paris and Jupiter in Rameau's *Castor et Pollux* with Les Talens Lyriques; and Strauss' *Salome* at the Salzburg Festival. Burton continued as a Resident Artist with San Francisco Performances, and sang recitals throughout the US, including a program based on works from his album *Songs and Struggles of Redemption; We Shall Overcome*, singled out by the *New York Times* as “profoundly moving...a beautiful and lovable disc.” Dashon is an original member of the groundbreaking vocal ensemble, Roomful of Teeth, with whom he won a Grammy for their recording of Caroline Shaw's Pulitzer-Prizewinning *Partita for 8 Voices*. In March of 2021, Burton won his second Grammy, this time for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album for Dame Ethyl Smyth's *The Prison* with The Experiential Orchestra on Chandos.

Anthony Cecere, French horn, was raised in Hicksville, NY and graduated from the University of Michigan. Tony has long been active in the New York musical scene. He joined the New Jersey Symphony in 1976 and was Principal Horn of the New Orleans Philharmonic from 1980-84, appearing as a soloist with them on numerous occasions. Tony was a founding member of the American Chamber Players of Washington, DC and performed as an extra musician with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for more than a decade. He has also performed with such groups as the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the NY Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Delaware Symphony and has been a member of the Philadelphia Brass for almost 20 years. Tony has been Principal horn of the Bach Festival Orchestra of Bethlehem since 1994. His recording credits include solo concerti by Mozart and Haydn, *Twilight Music for violin, horn and piano* by John Harbison (Library of Congress), *The Anniversary Album, Christmas in the Grand Tradition – The Wanamaker Organ, Notes from Faraway Places* music of David Sampson, with Philadelphia Brass, *Joseph Haydn Divertimento a tre in Eb and Blues for Monk* by David Amram for Voce Verace recordings. He also played for The Bach Choir's recordings of the *Mass in B Minor* and the *Christmas Oratorio* as well as *Christmas in Bethlehem Volume 4*. Tony has played for many Broadway musicals including *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Will Rogers Follies*, *Beauty and the Beast* and toured briefly with Frank Sinatra in 1992. He lives in Bernardsville, NJ with his wife, cellist Gerall Hieser. He loves railroads big and small and any wine from an upstart Sonoma vintner.

Karen Schubert, French horn, is an active horn player in the greater Delaware Valley and beyond. She is currently Principal Horn of the Delaware Symphony, Academy of Vocal Arts Opera Orchestra, the Kennett Symphony of Chester County, and the Atlantic Classical Orchestra (Florida). She is also a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Opera Philadelphia Orchestra, the Fairmount Brass Quintet, and the Timberdale Brass. Karen has appeared as a substitute musician with other area ensembles, including the Philly Pops, Pennsylvania Ballet, and Ocean City Pops. As an educator, Karen maintains a busy private teaching studio, with numerous former students who have gone on to careers as professional musicians and music educators. She is the horn instructor at Cairn University and serves on the coaching faculty of Bravo Brass, the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's brass ensemble. Karen has also been a horn instructor at Immaculata University, Widener University, and West Chester University. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, Karen lives in Harleysville, PA, and is active in the music ministry of her church. When not performing or teaching, she enjoys kayaking, reading, and cooking.

Robert Skoniczin, Trumpet, has combined a love for teaching music at all levels and performing in a variety of settings, including classical, commercial, jazz, and touring Broadway shows. Robert has backed various star attractions such as Aretha Franklin, Martina McBride, Anne Murray, Pete Fountain, Marvin Hamlisch, Mannheim Steamroller, and The Who. He can be heard on several recordings including Manhattan Transfer's DVD *The Christmas Concert*, *Reanimations and Shadowcatcher* with the West Chester University Wind Ensemble, *The Quest for Adventure* with Tromba Mundi, *American Anthems* with the Gramercy Brass Orchestra, and numerous spots for NFL Films. Maintaining a busy playing schedule, he often performs with the Delaware, Allentown, and Reading Symphonies; Opera Philadelphia and OperaDelaware; Pennsylvania Ballet; Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia; Ocean City Pops; and Liberty Wind Symphony. In December 2019, Robert made his debut as principal trumpet with the Bach Festival Orchestra, showcasing his piccolo trumpet virtuosity on arguably some of the most famous and challenging trumpet works in the repertoire. Robert is on staff at the Wells School of Music at West Chester University (WCU) and performs with Kryos Brass, the WCU faculty brass quintet. He is Associate Conductor with Bravo Brass, the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's Brass Ensemble program, designed to further the musicianship of advanced middle and high school brass players in the region. In 2015, Robert made his Carnegie Hall debut performing with Tromba Mundi, unveiling three new works for trumpet ensemble: *Birds of Paradise* by Erik Morales, *Swashbuckler* by Andrés Soto and *The Quest for Adventure* by Bertrand Moren. He has worked closely with the International Trumpet Guild since co-hosting the Conference in 2014 and now serves as the Conference Volunteer Coordinator. His principal teachers have included Vince Penzarella of the New York Philharmonic and Christopher Tranchitella of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Robert is a member of the National Band Association, the International Trumpet Guild, Phi Beta Kappa and is a performing artist for S.E. Shires trumpets.

THE BACH CHOIR OF BETHLEHEM

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 Herkulesaal 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.

WELCOME BACK! Tuesday, September 14 BACH at NOON

Bach at Noon returns to Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem and is our first  LIVE-STREAMED concert of the Season! Join us *in person* or where ever you may be!

August Bach at Noon Challenge Gift!

With profound thanks, we are pleased to announce a Challenge Gift for our August *Bach at Noon* concert, from Guarantor Reverend Ronald R. Miller. In 2019, Reverend Miller's chose to underwrite the annual *Bach at Noon* concert at St. John's Lutheran Church in his hometown of Allentown, in perpetual and loving memory of his partner Maestro James A. Simms. When he announced his Challenge Gift of this month's concert, our 20th Allentown Bach at Noon, he wrote,

"The ultimate human enterprise is to acknowledge the eternal and ineffable truth, even when words alone fail. So, beyond poetry and prose, we are given the great ephemeral mystery of music, and the more substantial and solid expressions of art and architecture, with which to affirm that eternal and ineffable truth. At a Bach at Noon concert, at St. John's in Allentown, we have it all - poetry, music, art and architecture - and we have it in full abundance and at its very finest."

Please join us and help us meet the challenge! Your gift of any amount is deeply appreciated! Online at BACH.org/donate or text BNoon to 44-321 to make your donation.



2021-2022 SEASON

With great anticipation, we look forward to all the beautiful concerts to come! Throughout the year, we will celebrate and honor Greg Funfgeld, as he presents his final season as Artistic Director & Conductor of The Choir. Our community will reconnect with great joy, and experience the inspiration and comfort found in Bach's music like never before. Join us: *in person* or  LIVE-STREAMED option.

Bach at Noon Second Tuesdays | 12:10 – 1 PM

- Saint John's Lutheran Church, Downtown Allentown, PA
2021 June 8 | July 13 | August 10
- Central Moravian Church, Historic Downtown Bethlehem, PA
2021 September 14  | October 12 | November 9 
2022 January 11 | February 8 | March 8 | April 12

Christmas Concerts Bach *Christmas Oratorio* Parts 1, 2 & 3

- Saturday December 11, 2021 at 8pm | First Presbyterian Church of Allentown
- Sunday December 12, 2021 at 4pm  | First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Greg Funfgeld Family Concert *Dancing with Bach*

A Bach Choir collaboration with the Dance Department of Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts
• Sunday February 27, 2022 at 3pm | Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University

Spring Concert Duruflé *Requiem* | Handel *Messiah* Part 2

- Sunday March 27, 2022 at 4pm | First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

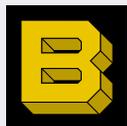
GALA Yo-Yo Ma & Kathryn Stott

A very special Gala; on sale in November!
• April 30, 2022 at 8pm | Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA

114th Bethlehem Bach Festival

- May 13-14 & May 20-21 , 2022 | Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

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



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Allentown was founded in 1855 as the first English-speaking Lutheran church in the predominantly immigrant German city. This forward-looking spirit has marked the history of the congregation. The current eighty-foot high cathedral was constructed amid the Great Depression in the 1930s following a unanimous decision by the congregation "to perpetuate its mission in the present location, believing that the voice of the Gospel is needed in the heart of every great city." With the conviction that beauty inspires meaningful worship, the architecture and the entire undertaking blended the religious and the aesthetic. The stained-glass windows, for example, are the creation of Nichola D'Ascenzo whose work is also displayed at the National Cathedral in Washington DC and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC. Matching the visual splendor of the church has been its long tradition of excellent music. The 5000-pipe Ernest M. Skinner organ with 4 manuals and more than 80 stops is one of the most outstanding instruments in the region. The Arts at St. John's, in its 31st year, is pleased to host as part of its series The Bach Choir of Bethlehem.

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, Instagram and LinkedIn.     Watch us on YouTube. 

Thank you to Reverend Ronald R. Miller 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

2021	2022
September 14	January 11
October 12	February 8
November 9	March 8
	April 12



Special thanks to: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Bradley T. Carroll, Pastor
Eric G. Gombert, Cantor
David Umla, Chairperson,
Arts at St. John's

John C. Baker, audio engineer
MBC Productions, Videography

The Guarantors of The Bach Choir
for their continuing support.

Bach at Noon Together Allentown 2021:

June 15 July 13 August 10

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