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 Wolfe, organist of Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, who founded The Bach Choir of Bethlehem in 1888 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—a recent publication 256-page book entitled Praise and Thanksgiving: 275 Years of Music at Central Moravian Church 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, Instagram and LinkedIn. Watch us on YouTube.

Free will offerings to help support Bach at Noon will be accepted at all four doors or you may 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. For further information about The Bach Choir of Bethlehem:

• Stephen Williams, keyboards
• Christopher Hanning, timpani
• Robert Skoniczin, Lawrence Wright, & Steve Heitzer, trumpets
• Charles Holdeman, bassoon
• Mary Watt & Nobuo Kitagawa, oboes d’amore
• Inna Eyzerovich, Linda Kistler & Mary Ogletree, violins
• Stephen Groat, string bass
• Mary Watt & Nobuo Kitagawa, oboes d’amore
• Charles Holdeman, bassoon
• Robert Skoniczin, Lawrence Wright & Steve Heitzer, trumpets
• Christopher Hanning, timpani
• Stephen Williams, keyboards

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany, on 21 March 1685 and died in Leipzig on 28 July 1750. He is considered the greatest composer of the Baroque era, and his influence on later music cannot be overstated. His output was massive, including nearly 300 cantatas, 20 Masses, and over 600 church cantatas. His works are still performed and recorded today, and his music is taught to musicians around the world. The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, under the leadership of Artistic Director Greg Funfgeld, presents concerts throughout the year, featuring works by Bach and other great composers of the Baroque era.

Members of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem & Bach Festival Orchestra

Greg Funfgeld, Artistic Director & Conductor

present

120th BACH at NOON

A Gift of Music & Spiritual Refreshment

March 15 & 16, 2022 – PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Violin Concerto in A Minor, BWV 1041

(Allegro)

Andante

Allegro assai

– Elizabeth Field, violin

Johann Sebastian Bach

Cantata BWV 120, Gott, man lobet dich in der Stille

– with members of the Bach Festival Orchestra:
• Elizabeth Field, Stephanie Bell, Rebecca Brown, Inna Eyzerovich, Linda Kistler & Mary Ogletree, violins
• Akhmed Mamedov & Lucy Windt, violas
• Noella Casella Grand & Elizabeth Thompson, cello
• Stephen Groat, string bass
• Mary Watt & Nobuo Kitagawa, oboes d’amore
• Charles Holdeman, bassoon
• Robert Skoniczin, Lawrence Wright & Steve Heitzer, trumpets
• Christopher Hanning, timpani
• Stephen Williams, keyboards

The March Bach at Noon concert is named in honor of the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach on 21 March, by Dr. Albert & Ingrid May, long-time Guarantors of The Choir, and residents of Marion, Ohio, and is supported in part by their generous endowment gift.
1. Aria (Alto)
Gott, man lob dich in der Stille zu Zion, und dir bezeiher man Gelübe.

2. Chorus
Jauchzet, ihr erfreuten Stimmen, steigt bis zum Himmel nauf! Lobet Gott im Heiligtum und erhebet seinen Ruhm; seine Güte, sein erbarmendes Gemüte, hört zu keinen Zeiten auf!

3. Recitative (Bass)
Auf, du geheime Lindenstadt, komm, falle vor dem HÖCHSTEN nieder, erkenne, wie er dich in deinem Schmuck und Pracht so süsslich erhält, beschützt, bewacht und seine Liebeshand noch über dir beständig hat. Wohlñan, bezahle die Gelübe, die du dem Höchsten hast getan, und sing Dank – und Demutslieder!

4. Aria (Soprano)
Heil und Segen soll und muss zu aller Zeit sich auf unsere Obrigkeit in erwünschter Fülle legen, dass sich Recht und Treu müssen miteinander freundlich küssen.

5. Recitative (Tenor)
Nun, Herr, so weise selbst das Regiment mit deinem Segen ein, dass alle Bosheit von uns fliehe und die Gerechtigkeit in unseren Hütten blühe, dass deines Vaters reiner Same und die Gerechtigkeit in unseren Hütten blühe, dass deines Vaters reiner Same

6. Chorale
Nun hilf uns, Herr, den Dienern dein, die mit deinem Blut erlosen sein! Lass uns im Himmel haben teil mit den Heiligen im ewigen Heil! Hilf deinem Volk, Herr Jesu Christ, und segne, was dein Erbteil ist; hilf deinem Volk, Herr Jesu Christ, mit den Heiligen im ewgen Heil!

God, we praise you in the stillness of Zion, and you to you are fulfilled. (Psalm 65:1)

Rejoice, you glad voices, rise upward into heaven's realm! Praise God in his holy temple and raise high his fame; his goodness, his gracious spirit, endures for all time!

Strength and blessing must and shall at every moment be laid upon our government in desired abundance, so that justice and allegiance shall join together in loving embrace.

New, Lord, consecrate our government with your blessing, so that all nations shall flee from us and that justice may flourish in our dwellings, so that your Father’s pure seed and your blessed name might be magnified among us!

New, Lord, help us your servants, given salvation through your blood! Grant that we find our share in heaven, with all the blessed, in eternal salvation! Help your people, Lord Jesus Christ, and bless all that is your inheritance. Attend to them and nurture them at all times and glorify them in eternity!

Translation by H. Ellis Finger

Cantata BWV 120 | Gott, man lob dich in der Stille

Translation by H. Ellis Finger

1. Aria (Alto)
Gott, man lob dich in der Stille zu Zion, und dir bezeiher man Gelübe.

2. Chorus
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Thank you to these businesses and organizations, who help bring Bach at Noon to you each month!

www.psl.org/kirkland

Thank you for the joy, the Bach Choir brings to the people who live at...
Elizabeth, Violin, has served as concert master of the Bach Festival Orchestra since 2001. She enjoys an active career as a chamber musician and soloist on period and modern instruments. She has served as guest concertmaster of the Washington Bach Consort, National Philharmonic, Opera Lafayette, and Choral Arts Society. Ms. Field founded the period instrument group, the Vivadi Project in 2007 and directs the Modern Early Music Institute (historical performance practice for modern players). She also plays with Hesperus, Harmonious Blacksmith, 4 Nations Ensemble, and her mixed modern and period instrument chamber group, ArcoVoce. As a Baroque violinist, she has recorded for the Hungaroton, Naxos, and Dorian labels. Ms. Field collaborated on a DVD with fortepianist Malcolm Bilson, exploring the historical performance practice of 18th-century violin and piano repertoire. As a modern violinist, she performs frequently with the Washington National Opera and, along with her husband, Uri Wurtzrung, is a member of the Novellia Chamber Players. From 1982-1991, she performed and recorded for Deutsche Grammophon with the Orpheus Chamber Orchesra and also performed with leading New ensembles such as the St. Luke's Ensemble, Brooklyn Philarmonic and New York City Opera. In 2015, she was the Alan and Wendy Poskya Artist-in-Residence at Lafayette College in Easton.

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 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. Since 2001, The Choir performed The Christmas Oratorio in a 10th anniversary musical observance of 9/11 in New York City, giving concerts in St. 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 (2015), and Saint John Passion (2013). The Choir has been featured on National Public Radio's Performance Today and Prairie Home Companion, Deutsche Radio, the BBC World Service, CBC 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 (2001-2020). 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 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 and is distributed internationally by the Children's Group. In July 2018, our affiliated Bel Canto Youth Chorus, currently celebrating its 28th 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR APRIL 12, when Artistic Director & Conductor Greg Funfgeld conducts his final Bethlehem Bach at Noon concert, the program he introduced to our community in 2005.

Proof of vaccination required along with photo ID. Masks must be worn indoors.

Bach Choir premieres – Durufle & Handel 4pm Sunday, March 27, 2022 First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

To soothe . . . “In Paradisum” Maurice Durufle’s Requiem offers consolation and beauty – a mystic sense of peace with moments of extraordinary power.

To celebrate . . . “Hallelujah!” George Frideric Handel’s Messiah Part 2 Performed for the FIRST TIME by The Bach Choir! The jubilant Hallelujah chorus will no doubt inspire a feeling of gratitude – for enduring and emerging from the many challenges surrounding us.

The Choir and Bach Festival Orchestra are joined by guest soloists Ellen McAteer, soprano; Daniel Taylor, counter-tenor; Benjamin Butterfield, tenor; and Daniel Lichti, bass-barytone.

Discover Youth in the Arts this Spring:

To Rise Up Singing! 2pm Saturday, April 23, 2022 Lehigh Valley Charter High School For the Arts

Celebrating how song has the capacity to lift us up, call attention, and make a statement. Get ready to take a musical journey! BACH.org/belcanto

COVID protocol may be found on our website: BACH.org/coronavirus.

Return this form to: The Bach Choir of Bethlehem • 440 Heckewelder Place • Bethlehem, PA 18018

Tickets also available online at BACH.org/tickets or by calling 610-866-4382 ext. 110/115.