



Members of *The Bach Choir of Bethlehem*  
& *Bach Festival Orchestra*  
Dr. Christopher Jackson, *Artistic Director & Conductor*  
present *Bach at Noon in Allentown*

# BACH at NOON

A Gift of Music & Spiritual Refreshment



## Soloist

*Clara Rottsolk – soprano*

*Thomas Goeman – organ, piano*

*Christopher Jackson*

*Artistic Director & Conductor*

## August 8, 2023 – PROGRAM

**Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)**

***Cantata Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut, BWV 199***

– Stephani Bell & Liz Wright – violin

Nina Falk – viola

Loretta O'Sullivan – cello

Heather Miller Lardin – bass

Nobuo Kitagawa – oboe

Thomas Goeman – organ

**Father James Whittaker (1751–1787)**

***In Yonder Valley***

– Shaker song, arranged by Kevin Siegfried

**Sister Addah Z. Potter (c. 1838)**

***Lay Me Low***

– Shaker song, arranged by Kevin Siegfried

**Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)**

***Geistliches Lied, Op. 30***

– Thomas Goeman – organ

**Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)**

***Hör mein Bitten***

– Thomas Goeman – piano

**Second Tuesdays**

**\* 12:10–1:00pm**

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Downtown Allentown

Bach at Noon returns  
Central Moravian Church  
in Bethlehem

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023!**



**125 YEARS**  
1898–2023

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



# Johann Sebastian Bach | Cantata *Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut*, BWV 199

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

## 1. Recitative

Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut,  
weil mich der Sünden Brut  
in Gottes heiligen Augen  
zum Ungeheuer macht.  
Und mein Gewissen fühlet Pein,  
weil mir die Sünden nichts  
als Höllenhenker sein.  
Verhasste Lasternacht!  
Du, du allein  
hast mich in solche Not gebracht;  
und du, du böser Adamssamen,  
raubst meiner Seele alle Ruh  
und schliessest ihr den Himmel zu!  
Ach! unerhörter Schmerz!  
Mein ausgedorrtes Herz  
will ferner mehr kein Trost befeuchten,  
und ich muss mich vor dem verstecken,  
vor dem die Engel selbst ihr Angesicht verdecken.

*My heart is awash in blood,  
since the products of sins,  
in the sacred eyes of God,  
cast me as an ogre.  
And my conscience suffers pain,  
for my sins are nothing  
but hell's gallows henchmen.  
Hateful night of torment!  
You, only you  
have drawn me into such distress;  
and you, you wretched lineage of Adam,  
you rob my soul of all repose  
and deny it entry to heaven!  
Ah! Unspeakable pain!  
My withered heart  
will never again be moistened by comfort,  
and I must hide myself from that one  
before whom the angels themselves shield their eyes.*

## 2. Aria

Stumme Seufzer, stille Klagen,  
ihr mögt meine Schmerzen sagen,  
weil der Mund geschlossen ist.  
und ihr nassen Tränenquellen  
könnt ein sichres Zeugnis stellen,  
wie mein sündlich Herz gebüsst.

*Muted sighing, quiet grieving,  
you may give voice to my anguish,  
for my mouth is locked shut.  
And you, streaming founts of tears,  
can offer sure evidence  
of my sinful heart's repentance.*

Mein Herz ist itzt ein Tränenbrunn,  
die Augen heisse Quellen.  
ach Gott! Wer wird dich doch zufriedenstellen?

*My heart is now a stream of tears,  
my eyes torrid wellsprings.  
Ah God! Who then will place you at ease?*

• Nobuo Kitagawa, oboe •

## 3. Recitative

Doch Gott muss mir genädig sein,  
weil ich das Haupt mit Asche,  
das Angesicht mit Tränen wasche,  
mein Herz in Reu und Leid zerschlage  
und voller Wehmut sage:  
Gott sei mir Sünder gnädig!  
Ach ja! sein Herze bricht,  
und meine Seele spricht:

*But God must be merciful with me,  
for I anoint my head with ashes,  
and wash my face in tears;  
I strike my heart with remorse and pain  
and full of despair declare:  
God be merciful upon me, a sinner!  
Ah yes! His heart quakes  
and my soul speaks:*

## 4. Aria

Tief gebückt und voller Reue  
lieg ich, liebster Gott, vor dir.  
Ich bekenne meine Schuld,  
aber habe doch Geduld,  
habe doch Geduld mit mir!

*Deeply bowed down and filled with regret  
I lie prostrate before you, dearest God.  
I confess my guilt;  
but do have patience,  
have patience still with me!*

## 5. Recitative

Auf diese Schmerzensreu  
fällt mir alsdenn dies Trostwort bei:

*Unto this grievous remorse  
comes to me this word of consolation:*

# Bach | *Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut*, BWV 199 | continued

## 6. Chorale

Ich, dein betrübtes Kind,  
werf alle meine Sünd,  
so viel ihr in mir stecken  
und mich so heftig schrecken,  
in deine tiefen Wunden,  
da ich stets Heil gefunden.

*I, your downcast child,  
toss all my sins,  
so numerous as they are within me  
and bringing me such fright,  
into your deep wounds,  
where I have always found salvation.*

• Nina Falk, viola •

## 7. Recitative

Ich lege mich in diese Wunden  
als in den rechten Felsenstein;  
die sollen meine Ruhstatt sein.  
in diese will ich mich im Glauben schwingen  
und drauf vergnügt und fröhlich singen:

*I lay myself upon these wounds  
as though upon the solid rock;  
they shall be my place of rest.  
Through them will I soar in faith  
and content and joyously sing:*

## 8. Aria

Wie freudig ist mein Herz,  
da Gott versöhnet ist  
und mir auf Reu und Leid  
nicht mehr die Seligkeit  
noch auch sein Herz verschliesst.

*How joyous is my heart,  
that God is reconciled  
and no longer in sorrow and regret  
denies me his blessedness  
nor closes his heart to me.*

# Father James Whittaker | *In Yonder Valley*

– Arranged by Kevin Siegfried

In yonder valley there grows sweet union,  
let us arise and take our fill.

The winter's past and the spring appears.  
The turtle dove is in our land.

In yonder valley there flows sweet union,  
let us arise and drink our fill.

# Sister Addah Z. Potter | *Lay Me Low*

– Arranged by Kevin Siegfried

Lay me low, lay me low.  
Where the Lord can find me,  
Where the Lord can own me,  
Where the Lord can bless me.

# Johannes Brahms | *Geistliches Lied*, Op. 30

– Text by Paul Flemming (1609-1640) | Translation ©Pamela Dellal, courtesy Emmanuel Music, Inc.

Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren,  
sei stille, wie Gott es fügt,  
so sei vergnügt mein Wille!

*Do not be sorrowful or regretful;  
Be calm, as God has ordained,  
and thus my will shall be content.*

Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen?  
Der Eine steht allem für,  
der gibt auch dir das Deine.

*What do you want to worry about from day to day?  
There is One who stands above all  
who gives you, too, what is yours.*

Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel,  
steh feste, was Gott beschleusst,  
das ist und heisst das Beste.  
Amen.

*Only be steadfast in all you do,  
stand firm; what God has decided,  
that is and must be the best.  
Amen.*

## Felix Mendelssohn | Hör mein Bitten

– Text and translation by William Bartholomew (1793–1867)

Hör mein Bitten, Herr, neige dich zu mir,  
auf deines Kindes Stimme habe Acht!  
Ich bin allein; wer wird mir Tröster und Helfer sein?  
Ich irre ohne Pfad in dunkler Nacht!

Die Feinde, sie droh'n und heben ihr Haupt:  
"Wo ist nun der Retter, an den ihr geglaubt?"  
Sie lästern dich täglich, sie stellen uns nach  
und halten die Frommen in Knechtschaft und Schmach.

Mich fasst des Todes Furcht bei ihrem Dräu'n!  
Sie sind unzählige, ich bin allein.  
Mit meiner Kraft kann ich nicht widerstehn.  
Herr, kämpfe du für mich, Gott, hör mein Flehn!

O könnt ich fliegen wie Tauben dahin,  
weit hinweg vor dem Feinde zu fliehn!  
In die Wüste eilt ich dann fort,  
fände Ruhe am schattigen Ort.

*Hear my prayer, O God, incline Thine ear!  
Thyself from my petition do not hide.  
Take heed to me! Hear how in prayer I mourn to Thee,  
Without Thee all is dark, I have no guide.*

*The enemy shouteth, the godless come fast!  
Iniquity, hatred, upon me they cast!  
The wicked oppress me, Ah where shall I fly?  
Perplexed and bewildered, O God, hear my cry!*

*My heart is sorely pained within my breast,  
my soul with deathly terror is oppressed,  
trembling and fearfulness upon me fall,  
with horror overwhelmed, Lord, hear me call!*

*O for the wings, for the wings of a dove!  
Far away, far away would I rove!  
In the wilderness build me a nest,  
and remain there for ever at rest.*

## 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. In 2022, Dr. Christopher Jackson became the seventh Artistic



Director and Conductor of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. The 90 dedicated volunteer singers of The Bach Choir, performing with the Bach Festival Orchestra and distinguished soloists, have received international acclaim. Programming includes 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 and 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. The Bel Canto Youth Chorus is currently celebrating its 30th year under the direction of Founder and Artistic Director Dr. Joy Hirokawa. The Bach Choir and Bel Canto Youth Chorus together are 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](http://BACH.org).

## Artistic Director & Conductor

**DR. CHRISTOPHER JACKSON**, now in his second season, is the seventh Artistic Director and Conductor of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. He has worked for 17 years as a conductor, educator, professional singer, and scholar. Throughout his career, he has led numerous collegiate, professional, and amateur ensembles across the United States, he and works frequently as a guest conductor for orchestras, choirs, and music festivals. His ensembles have toured China, Canada, and the continental United States. During his tenure at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA, he co-founded the Lycoming Baroque Choir and Orchestra and designed academic courses that allowed students to travel to Germany and explore links between Baroque music, art, and architecture. He has taught courses and master classes in conducting, music theory, music history, vocal methods and pedagogy, and Baroque performance practice and has been a guest artist and lecturer at the San Juan Conservatory, the Coro de Niños de San Juan, and the Baldwin Wallace Bach Festival. He was nominated as a finalist for the American Prize in Virtual Performance for his work with the Muhlenberg College choral ensembles during the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Jackson remains an active professional choral singer and soloist, with focuses in the Baroque, Renaissance, and Modern eras. As a member of the Boston-based chamber choir Skylark, he has appeared on three GRAMMY-nominated albums (Best Choral Performance) and also serves as the ensemble's Director of Education. In that position, he helped design free materials for music educators across the country to use for virtual music-making. He has performed with the GRAMMY Award-winning ensemble Roomful of Teeth, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Artefact Ensemble, Les Canards Chantants, and Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity Lutheran in New York City. Dr. Jackson received his Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance from Oklahoma State University, studying conducting under Dr. Dirk Garner (Baldwin Wallace Bach Festival). He received his Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College and was the graduate assistant conductor of the Westminster Symphonic Choir under Dr. Joe Miller and Dr. Amanda Quist, as well as studying with Dr. Andrew Megill (Carmel Bach, Illinois Bach Academy). He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of North Texas, studying with Dr. Jerry McCoy and Dr. Richard Sparks. His areas of research include the programming and performance of Baroque and Renaissance music for choirs of all ages and levels of experience, as well as the choral music of Benjamin Britten.

## Soloists

**CLARA ROTTSOLK, soprano** A brilliant and accomplished concert artist, "resplendent" soprano Clara Rottsolk has appeared as a soloist with orchestras including American Bach Soloists, Santa Fe Pro Musica, Pacific MusicWorks, the American Classical Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Richmond Symphony, Bach Collegium San Diego, Virginia Symphony, New Mexico Philharmonic, Pacific Symphony, Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, Trinity Wall Street, and Seattle Baroque Orchestra, under the direction of conductors, including Stephen Stubbs, David Danzmayr, Nicholas McGeegan, Grete Pedersen, Jeffrey Thomas, Daniel Hyde, Joshua Rifkin, Bruno Weil, John Sinclair, Chia-Hsuan Lin, Gabriel Crouch, Timothy Nelson, and Andrew Megill. With "sophisticated mastery of the nuances of the libretto: with perfect diction and expressive delivery" (*Cleveland Classical*), she performs chamber and recital repertoire with Les Délices, ARTEK, TENET, Folger Consort, Piffaro, Byron Schenkman & Friends, Colorado Bach Ensemble, and as soloist at festivals, including Carmel Bach, Berkeley Early Music, Montréal Baroque, Spoleto USA, Winter Park Bach, St. Louis Bach, Indianapolis Early Music, Whidbey Island Music, and Boston Early Music Fringe. Her solo recordings can be found on Chandos, MSR Classics, and independent labels. Currently she is based in Philadelphia and teaches voice at Swarthmore, Haverford, and Bryn Mawr colleges.

**THOMAS GOEMAN, organ, piano**, is the assistant conductor of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem and has served as The Choir's accompanist for 36 years, as well as organist for the Bach Festival Orchestra. He has been featured as a piano soloist with The Choir, most recently in the 2013 Bach Festival performance of Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*. He has toured widely throughout the United States, Europe, and Russia, including performances in St. Petersburg, Vienna, Salzburg, Leipzig, München, Hamburg, Copenhagen, and at St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in London. Also in demand as a recording artist, he is organist for Angel, Virgin Classics, Dorian, and Analekta recordings and Warner Brothers, Alfred, and Harold Flammer publishing companies. He has also accompanied for such notable conductors as Kurt Masur, Riccardo Muti, Andre Previn, and Raphaël Kubelik. Mr. Goeman holds degrees in church music and organ performance from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, and Westminster Choir College, Princeton NJ, and has studied with Martin Katz at The University of Michigan.

**BACH at NOON** returns to Bethlehem!

**Tuesday, September 12 – Central Moravian Church**

# Gala

Anniversary Concert & Fundraiser



## World Premiere & CD Recording

Mendelssohn's completed version of Bach's

## Saint Matthew Passion

### A GROUNDBREAKING PERFORMANCE & LIVE CD RECORDING

of the newly published and first completed edition of Mendelssohn's version of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion* will be performed for the first time by The Bach Choir of Bethlehem and Bach Festival Orchestra, under the baton of Christopher Jackson. Producing the recording is Music Scholar Malcolm Bruno, a luminary in the realm of early music ensembles and choir recordings.

Join America's oldest Bach Choir in celebrating our 125th milestone anniversary, marking yet another "first" for The Bach Choir and for the world of classical music!



Soloists: Dann Coakwell, Evangelist • William Sharp, Jesus Clara Rottsohl, soprano • Luthien Brackett, alto  
Isaiah Bell, tenor • Enrico Lagasca, bass



BE PART OF HISTORY!

BACH.org/tickets • 610-866-4382 x. 115/110

## SAINT JOHN'S

Evangelical Lutheran Church



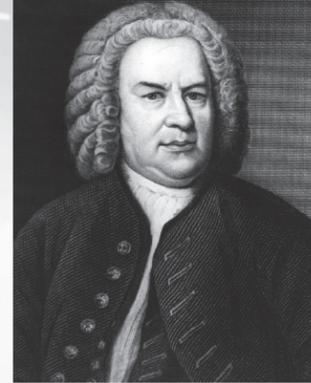
WELCOME to St. John's! We are glad that you are here today and invite you to return again for any of the worship or arts offerings that are held in this great space.

We are still planning our upcoming Arts at St. John's season. More information available soon at [sjat.org](http://sjat.org)

- WORSHIP every Sunday at 10:30am



Visit our website [sjat.org](http://sjat.org) for more information including links for livestreams.



125 YEARS 1898-2023

2023-2024 Season

The 125th Anniversary Celebration Continues

### Exploration & Adventures

- BACH AT NOON ■ Second Tuesdays 12:10-1pm  
St. John's Lutheran Church ■ Downtown Allentown, PA 2023 ■ June 13 July 11 August 8  
Central Moravian Church ■ Historic Downtown Bethlehem, PA 2023 ■ September 12 October 10 November 14 2024 ■ January 9 February 13 March 12 April 9
- GALA: Concert & World Premiere Recording  
Mendelssohn's Reconstruction of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion*  
Saturday, November 4 ■ Packer Memorial Church
- GALA: Fundraiser ■ Saucon Valley Country Club
- Christmas Concerts  
Bach *Magnificat* + *Christen ätzt diesen Tag*, BWV 63  
Saturday, December 9 at 4pm
- First Presbyterian Church of Allentown  
Sunday, December 10 at 4pm
- First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
- Greg Funfgeld Family Concert ■ DANCING WITH BACH  
In collaboration with the dance departments of Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts and Muhlenberg College  
*Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes* + *Bach First Orchestral Suite*  
Featuring Greg Funfgeld and Eugene Albuлесcu playing piano 4 hands  
Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 3pm
- Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University
- Spring Concert ■ BACH INSPIRED  
*Bach Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, BWV 80  
+ Selections from our upcoming European tour  
Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 4pm
- First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
- 116TH BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVAL ■ May 10-11 & May 17-18, 2024
- Lehigh University & sites in Historic & Southside Bethlehem



### Special Events & Performances

- Musikfest Concert to welcome the delegation from Bethlehem's sister city, Schwäbisch-Gmünd  
Saturday, August 5 at 5pm
- Central Moravian Church
- Zimmermann's Coffee House, Oktoberfest Edition  
September 30, 2023 at 7:30pm
- Peter Hall, Moravian University
- 2024 European Tour  
June 6-16, 2024
- Germany: Berlin/Potsdam, Leipzig, Herrnhut, and Schwäbisch-Gmünd ■ Austria: Salzburg



610.866.4382 • 440 Heckewelder Place  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

BACH.org

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



Jephson Educational Trusts

Keystone Savings Foundation

THE PRESSER FOUNDATION



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, D.C., and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Matching the visual splendor of the church has been its long tradition of excellent music. The 5,000-pipe Ernest M. Skinner organ with four manuals and more than 80 stops is one of the most outstanding instruments in the region. The Arts at St. John's, in its 32nd year, is pleased to host as part of its series The Bach Choir of Bethlehem.

### For further information about The Bach Choir:

- Visit [BACH.org](http://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 ext. 113.
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.     Watch us on YouTube. 

### Freewill offerings to help support Bach at Noon will be accepted at all doors or you may donate online at [BACH.org](http://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.

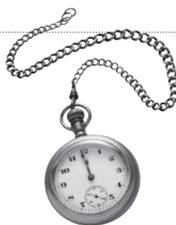
### Bach at Noon broadcast LIVE on WWFM

Bach at Noon concerts are broadcast live on WWFM, a long-time media sponsor. This year's broadcasts are made possible by the generous support of John L. and the late Carol H. Daniel and Arthur Mead Martin. Listen Live at [wwfm.org](http://wwfm.org) or tune in to a station in your area. Please donate to support our Bach at Noon live broadcast.

### Bach at Noon 2023-2024 Bethlehem Schedule

**2023**  
September 12  
October 10  
November 14

**2024**  
January 9  
February 13  
March 12  
April 9



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

The Guarantors of The Bach Choir for their continuing support.

### Bach at Noon 2023 Allentown Schedule:

June 13      July 11      August 8

610-866-4382 | [BACH.org](http://BACH.org)