

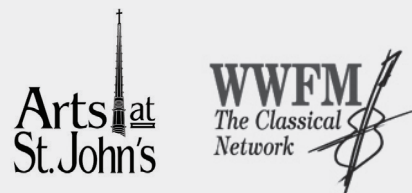
The Bach Choir of Bethlehem gratefully acknowledges our Bach at Noon corporate & foundation sponsors.



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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 NYC. Matching the visual splendor of the church has been its long tradition of excellent music. The 5,000-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:

- 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 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 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, or tune in to a station in your area.

Bach at Noon 2023-2024 Bethlehem Schedule

2023	2024
September 12	January 9
October 10	February 13
November 14	March 12
	April 9

Bach at Noon Allentown 2023 Schedule:

June 13 July 11 August 8

610-866-4382 | BACH.org



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.



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



Soloists

Katelyn Grace Jackson – soprano
Rebecca Myers – soprano
Rhianna Cockrell – alto
Nathan Hodgson – tenor
Timothy Hodges – tenor
Steven Berlanga – bass
Elizabeth Field – violin
Thomas Goeman – organ

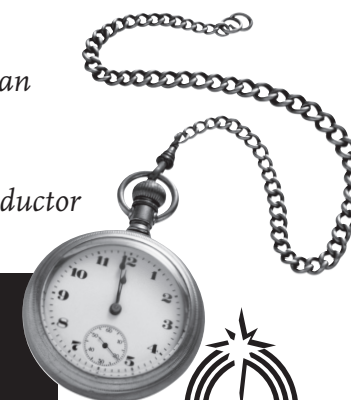
Christopher Jackson
Artistic Director & Conductor

Second Tuesdays

* 12:10–1:00pm

St. John Lutheran Church
Downtown Allentown

Next Bach at Noon
Tuesday, JULY 11, 2023!



125 YEARS
1898–2023

June 13, 2023 – PROGRAM

Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)
from *The Four Seasons, Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 8, RV 315, "Summer" (L'estate)*

Allegro non molto – Adagio e piano – Presto e forte – Presto

– Elizabeth Field – Concertmaster, Stephani Bell, Rebecca Brown, Linda Kistler & Mary Ogletree – violin | Nina Falk – viola
Loretta O'Sullivan – cello | Daniel McDougall – string bass
Thomas Goeman – harpsichord & organ

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
first movement *Organ Concerto in C Major, BWV 594*

– Thomas Goeman, organ

Johann Sebastian Bach
selections from *Tilge, Höchster, meine Sünden, BWV 1083*

Heinrich Schütz (1587–1654)
Jauchzet dem Herrn, alle Welt, SWV 36

Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643)
Beatus vir, SV 268

– Elizabeth Field & Linda Kistler, violin

The June Bach at Noon is named in honor of Dorothy Hess Baker & her mother, Elizabeth Leith Hess, both former members of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. The concert and the participation of featured soprano and alto soloists are made possible in part by a generous legacy gift from the Dexter F. and Dorothy H. Baker Foundation.



Johann Sebastian Bach | selections from *Tilge, Höchster, meine Sünden*, BWV 1083

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

Movement I (Soprano and Alto)

Tilge, Höchster, meine Sünden,
deinen Eifer lass verschwinden,
lass mich deine Huld erfreun.

*Erase my sins, Lord most High,
may your zeal vanish,
let me delight in your mercy.*

Movement VI (Soprano and Alto)

Siehe! ich bin in Sünd empfangen,
Sünde wurden ja begangen,
da, wo ich erzeuget ward.

*Behold! I was engendered in sin,
sins were committed
the moment I was conceived.*

Movement IX (Soprano and Alto)

Lass mich Freud und Wonne spüren,
dass die Beine triumphieren,
da dein Kreuz mich hart gedrängt.

*May I know your joy and delight,
may my bones be triumphant,
for your Cross weighs heavy upon me.*

Movement XII (Soprano and Alto)

Denn du willst kein Opfer haben,
sonsten brächt ich meine Gaben,
Rauch und Brand gefällt dir nicht.
Herz und Geist, voll Angst und Grämen,
wirst du, Höchster, nicht beschämen,
weil dir das dein Herze bricht.

*For you do not desire offerings,
otherwise, I would have brought my gifts;
Incense and burnt offerings give you no pleasure.
Heart and Spirit, filled with anguish and torment,
will not suffer your scorn o Most High,
for such things cause your heart to break.*

Movement XIII (Soprano and Alto)

Lass dein Zion blühend dauern,
baue die verfallnen Mauern,
alsdenn opfern wir erfreut;
alsdenn soll dein Ruhm erschallen,
alsdenn werden dir gefallen
Opfer der Gerechtigkeit.

*May your Zion endure and flourish,
rebuilding the fallen walls,
only then will we renew our offerings,
only then shall your fame resound,
only then will you find pleasure
in offerings of righteousness.*

Movement XIV (Soprano and Alto)

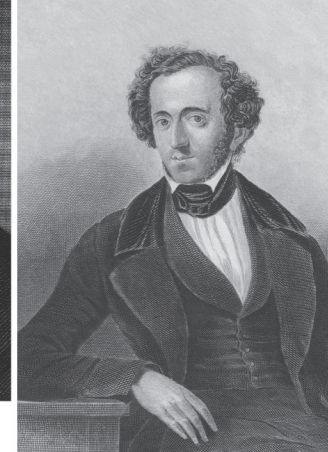
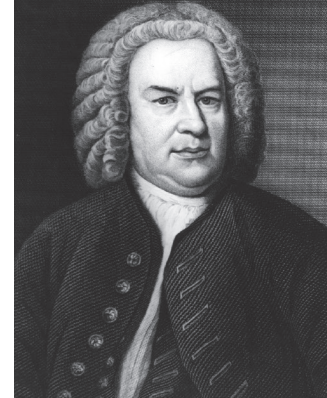
Amen
– from Psalm 51

Amen

Heinrich Schütz | *Jauchzet dem Herrn, alle Welt*, SWV 36

Jauchzet dem Herrn alle Welt.
Dienet dem Herrn mit Freuden.
Kommt vor sein Angesicht mit Frohlocken.
Erkennt, dass der Herr Gott ist. Er hat uns gemacht,
und nicht wir selbst,
zu seinem Volk und zu Schafen seiner Weide.
Gehet zu seinen Toren ein mit Danken.
Zu seinen Vorhöfen mit Loben.
Danket ihm, lobet seinen Namen.
Denn der Herr ist freundlich und seine Gnade währet ewig
und seine Wahrheit für und für.
– Psalm 100

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Acknowledge that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise;
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth shall last forever and ever.*



2023–2024 Season

125 YEARS
1898–2023

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 ätztet 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 Albulescu 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

Soloists

KATELYN GRACE JACKSON, soprano: Hailed by the *Washington Post* for her “supple, haunting soprano,” Ms. Jackson performs as a featured soloist and chorister with intelligence and “particular purity of tone” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*). Her choral and chamber experiences boast recording Dame Ethel Smyth’s *The Prison* with the Experiential Orchestra & Chorus (2021 GRAMMY Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album), and performances with The Thirteen, Clarion Music Society, Oregon Bach Festival, Third Practice, the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants, Ensemble Altera, and Three Notch’d Road. She has soloed with the American Bach Soloists (*Saint Matthew Passion*), Washington Bach Consort (*Saint John Passion*), the Nashville Symphony Orchestra (*Messiah*), the City Choir of Washington (*Solomon, Dona Nobis Pacem, Lord Nelson Mass*), the Washington Master Chorale (*Out of the Ashes of Holocaust* – premiere), and the Peabody Symphony Orchestra (Harmoniemesse, *Great Mass in C Minor*). Theatrical highlights include the titular role in Purcell’s *Fairy Queen* and Norina in *Don Pasquale*. Ms. Jackson spent six years teaching in the Montgomery County Public Schools and served as the Assistant Artistic Director of the Six Degree Singers, a community choir based in Silver Spring, MD, from 2013–2019. She currently serves on the artistic committee for Third Practice.

REBECCA MYERS, soprano, is a soloist, vocal chamber singer, collaborator, recording artist, and creator in high demand. Indulging and specializing in vocal repertoire spanning from the Medieval to scores written especially for her, Ms. Myers has gained a reputation for her “timbral clarity and flawless pitch,” “nimble coloratura” and singing with “vulnerability and grace.” Ever ready to tackle a wide range of repertoire, Ms. Myers’ 2022/2023 season includes an exciting lineup of performances across the country. Notable engagements include her New World Symphony debut as soprano soloist in *Carmina Burana*, performances with Apollo’s Fire Baroque Orchestra in Monteverdi’s *Vespers of 1610* as soloist, performances of obscure polyphony with NYC-based ensemble, Tenet Vocal Artists, participation in the two-week long Enlightenment Festival featuring music of J.S. Bach with Seraphic Fire, a return to the central coast of California for the annual CalPoly Bach Festival, work with the newly formed Bach Vocal Arts at the annual Bach Festival Society in Winter Park, Florida, and performances with Lorelei Ensemble and the Boston Ballet. Rebecca has been a core member of The Crossing – the country’s premiere chamber choir dedicated entirely to new music – for over a decade. Her work with The Crossing has included countless world premieres, over 15 commercial recordings, one GRAMMY award (best choral performance 2018), and seven GRAMMY nominations. Ms. Myers is the co-artistic director, founding member, and singer in the genre-bending, cutting-edge vocal ensemble, Variant 6. Her creative work with Variant 6 strives to blur the lines between audience and performer. The ensemble seeks to change perceptions of what a vocal ensemble can be by presenting virtuosic and obscure works from all eras of history in new and surprising ways.

RHIANNA COCKRELL, alto: Admired for her “luscious” and “pleading” mezzo, (*Washington Classical Review*) Ms. Cockrell has captivated audiences with her interpretations of Renaissance and Baroque works, as well as her passion for contemporary works. Ms. Cockrell’s 2022–23 season sees her as the alto soloist in Bach’s *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, BWV 80, with Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New York, Handel’s *Messiah* with South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* with Kentucky Bach Choir, Vivaldi’s *Gloria* and Bach’s *Magnificat* with The Thirteen, Bach’s *Mass in B Minor* with Cantata Collective, as well as Bach’s *Jesus nahm zu sich die Zwölfe*, BWV 22, and *Jesus bleibet meine Freude*, BWV 147, with Oregon Bach Festival. She was recently chosen to perform *airs de cour* in a masterclass with Dame Emma Kirkby and Jakob Lindberg hosted by Gotham Early Music Scene. Previously, Ms. Cockrell won the Colorado Bach Ensemble’s 2020 Young Artist Competition and an encouragement award in the 2021 Audrey Rooney Bach Competition. In past seasons, she has appeared as a soloist with St. Peter’s Bach Collegium, The Thirteen, and Oregon Bach Festival. She has also performed with True Concord Voices & Orchestra, Apollo’s Fire, Oregon Bach Festival Choir, The New Consort, and Musica Sacra. Ms. Cockrell earned her master of musical arts in early music voice performance from the Yale School of Music, where she performed as the alto soloist in works by Telemann and Schütz with Masaaki Suzuki and the Yale Schola Cantorum. Most recently, she was hired back to join Yale Schola Cantorum in its Germany tour as the soloist in Aaron Copland’s *In the Beginning*. Ms. Cockrell holds degrees from George Mason University, University of Minnesota, and Yale University.

NATHAN HODGSON, tenor, is a New York-based tenor specializing in early music, chamber music, and choral singing. He is on the permanent roster in the Schola Cantorum at The Church of Saint Vincent Ferrer in New York City and performs with ensembles across the nation. Past performances include appearances with Ensemble VIII in Austin, TX; Skylark Vocal Ensemble in the Greater Boston area, and in Cleveland with Apollo’s Fire. A native of Dallas/Fort Worth, Nathan studied at the University of North Texas where he was immediately drawn to Renaissance and Baroque music and sang in the Collegium Musicum program. After receiving a bachelor of music in music education, Mr. Hodgson sang regularly in the Dallas area with ensembles including the Orpheus Chamber Singers, Dallas Bach Society, and Denton Bach Society before moving to New York City in 2015.

Claudio Monteverdi | *Beatus vir*, SV 268

Beatus vir, qui timet Dominum,
in mandatis ejus volet nimis.
Potens in terra erit semen ejus,
generatio rectorum benedicetur.
Gloria et divitiae in domo ejus, et iustitia
ejus manet in saeculum saeculi.
Exortum est in tenebris lumen rectis,
misericors et miserator et iustus.
Iucundus homo, qui miseretur et commodat,
disponet res suas in iudicio,
quia in aeternum non commovebitur.
In memoria aeterna erit iustus,
ab auditione mala non timebit.
Paratum cor ejus, sperare in Domino,
non commovebitur,
donec despiciat inimicos suos.
Dispersit dedit pauperibus;
iustitia ejus manet in saeculum saeculi,
cornu ejus exaltabitur in gloria.
Peccator videbit et irascetur,
dentibus suis fremet et tabescet.
Desiderium peccatorum peribit.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.
– Psalm 112

*Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,
who finds great delight in his commands.
His children will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.
Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, f
or the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.
Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely,
who conducts his affairs with justice.
Surely he will never be shaken;
a righteous man will be remembered forever.
He will have no fear of bad news;
his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
His heart is secure, he will have no fear;
in the end he will look in triumph on his foes.
He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor,
his righteousness endures forever;
his horn will be lifted high in honor.
The wicked man will see and be vexed,
he will gnash his teeth and waste away;
the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.*

Next up

BACH at NOON Tuesday, JULY 11, 2023

Our journey through the Baroque world continues, as we meet some of J.S. Bach’s older realtives in the second session of the summer series. Won’t you join us as we continue our musical travels?

Soloists

TIMOTHY HODGES, *tenor*, whose singing has been described in the *New York Daily News* as having “both purity and depth,” has an active career performing as a soloist and ensemble singer throughout the United States. A graduate of Westminster Choir College, he has performed in many ensembles, including Vox Vocal Ensemble, Clarion Choir, Fuma Sacra, Seraphic Fire, and Antioch Chamber Ensemble. Mr. Hodges is currently a member of the Trinity Choir at Trinity Wall Street Church in New York City. He has participated in many festivals including The Carmel Bach Festival, Connecticut Early Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, and the Golden Mask Festival in Moscow, Russia. As a soloist, Mr. Hodges has performed with the Trinity Baroque Orchestra, REBEL Baroque Orchestra, Carmel Bach Festival Orchestra, Garden State Philharmonic, Spoleto Festival Orchestra, and Princeton University Glee Club, and has made numerous appearances in Handel’s *Messiah* in New York, New Jersey, and Florida.

STEVEN BERLANGA, *bass-baritone*, conductor, and composer resides in Philadelphia, PA, where he freelances locally and nationally and maintains a private studio. Studying primarily conducting, voice, opera, and choral music, he is finishing his doctorate at Indiana University. He has also studied at College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, California State University–Long Beach, and Cabrillo College. In the genres of opera, oratorio, musical theater and concert repertoire, Mr. Berlanga has worked with organizations such as West Bay Opera, Cabrillo Stage, IU Opera, New Voices Opera, Arizona Philharmonic, and Santa Cruz Symphony. As a choral artist, he has sung with professional chamber choirs in the United States, such as The Crossing, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, The Thirteen, Kinnara, Exigence, Brevitas, the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, BorderCrosSing of Minneapolis, and the Quartz Ensemble. As an educator he has worked with the Snyder School of Singing, Youth Orchestra Salinas, the Williston Northampton School Choirs, Indiana University Choirs, University of Cincinnati Cabaret Singers, CSULB Bel Canto Chorus, and Cabrillo Youth Chorus. Passionate about accessibility through breaking barriers and traditions within classical music, Mr. Berlanga often works with programs involving change within the industry, such as El Sistema, the Sphinx Organization, and the Santa Cruz Opera Project.

ELIZABETH FIELD, *violin*, has served as concertmaster 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 Vivaldi Project in 2006 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 the Dorian labels. Ms. Field collaborated on a DVD with forte-pianist 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 Wassertzug, is a member of the Novella Chamber Players. From 1982–1991, she performed and recorded for Deutsche Grammophon with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and also performed with leading New York ensembles such as the St. Luke’s Ensemble, Brooklyn Philharmonic, and New York City Opera. In 2015, she was the Alan and Wendy Pesky Artist-in-Residence at Lafayette College in Easton.

THOMAS GOEMAN, *organ*, 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.

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**.

Dr. Christopher Jackson, Artistic Director & Conductor



DR. CHRISTOPHER JACKSON is completing his first season as the Artistic Director and Conductor of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. He begins his tenure having worked for 15 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 and works frequently as a guest conductor for orchestras, choirs, and festivals. His ensembles have toured China, Canada, and the continental United States and have been selected to perform at multiple Pennsylvania ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) conferences. 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 pandemic. Dr. Jackson remains an active professional choral singer and soloist, with focuses in the Baroque, Renaissance, and Modern eras. As a core 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. Gerry 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.



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

- WORSHIP every Sunday at 10:30am

Visit our website sjat.org for more information including links for livestreams.

