



Members of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem  
& Bach Festival Orchestra  
Dr. Christopher Jackson, Artistic Director & Conductor  
present

# BACH at NOON

A Gift of Music & Spiritual Refreshment



## Soloists

Sylvia Leith – mezzo-soprano

Gene Stenger – tenor

Christopher Jackson

Artistic Director & Conductor

## April 9, 2024 – PROGRAM

**Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)**

*Concerto for Strings in A Major, RV 158*

*Allegro Molto – Andante Molto – Allegro*

**Jan Dismas Zelenka (1679–1745)**

*Hipocondrie à 7 Concertanti, ZWV 187*

*Grave – Allegro – Lentement*

**Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)**

*Cantata Ein Herz, das seinen Jesum*

*lebend weiss, BWV 134*

with members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

– Elizabeth Field, concertmaster, Stephani Bell, Inna Eyzarovich,

Linda Kistler, Rebecca Brown, Mary Ogletree – violin

Nina Falk & Agnès Maurer – viola

Loretta O'Sullivan – cello

Daniel McDougall – bass

Atao Liu – bassoon



Bach at Noon returns  
to Allentown in June!

**\*Tuesday,  
June 4, 2024**

**\*First Tuesday of the  
month for June only!**

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Downtown Allentown**



**125 YEARS**  
1898–2023

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.



## J.S. Bach | Cantata *Ein Herz, das seinen Jesum lebend weiss*, BWV 134

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

### Cantata for the third day of Easter

#### 1. Recitative (Tenor, Alto)

Ein Herz, das seinen Jesum lebend weiss,  
empfindet Jesu neue Güte  
und dichtet nur auf seines Heilands Preis.  
– Wie freuet sich ein gläubiges Gemüte. –

#### 2. Aria (Tenor)

Auf, Gläubige, singet die lieblichen Lieder,  
euch scheint ein herrlich verneuetes Licht.  
Der lebende Heiland gibt selige Zeiten,  
auf, Seelen, ihr müsset ein Opfer bereiten,  
bezahlet dem Höchsten mit Danken die Pflicht.

#### 3. Recitative (Dialogue: Tenor, Alto)

Wohl dir, Gott hat an dich gedacht,  
o Gott geweihtes Eigentum;  
der Heiland lebt und siegt mit Macht  
zu deinem Heil, zu seinem Ruhm  
muss hier der Satan furchtsam zittern  
und sich die Hölle selbst erschüttern.  
Es stirbt der Heiland dir zugut  
und fährt vor dich zu der Höllen,  
sogar vergiesset er sein kostbar Blut,  
dass du in seinem Blute siegst,  
denn dieses kann die Feinde fällen,  
und wenn der Streit dir an die Seele dringt,  
dass du alsdann nicht überwunden liegst.  
– Der Liebe Kraft ist vor mich ein Panier  
zum Heldenmut, zur Stärke in den Streiten:  
mir Siegeskronen zu bereiten,  
nahmst du die Dornenkrone dir,  
mein Herr, mein Gott, mein auferstandnes Heil,  
so hat kein Feind an mir zum Schaden teil. –  
Die Feinde zwar sind nicht zu zählen.  
– Gott schützt die ihm getreuen Seelen. –  
Der letzte Feind ist Grab und Tod.  
– Gott macht auch den zum Ende unsrer Not. –

#### 4. Aria (Duet: Alto, Tenor)

Wir danken und preisen dein brünstiges Lieben  
und bringen ein Opfer der Lippen vor dich.  
Der Sieger erwecket die freudigen Lieder,  
der Heiland erscheint und tröstet uns wieder  
und stärket die streitende Kirche durch sich.

#### 5. Recitative (Tenor, Alto)

Doch würke selbst den Dank in unserm Munde,  
in dem er allzu irdisch ist;  
ja schaffe, dass zu keiner Stunde  
dich und dein Werk kein menschlich Herz vergisst;  
ja, lass in dir das Labsal unsrer Brust  
und aller Herzen Trost und Lust,  
die unter deiner Gnade trauern,  
vollkommen und unendlich sein.  
Es schliesse deine Hand uns ein,

*The heart, given knowledge of this living Jesus,  
grasps Jesus's goodness afresh  
and places full devotion to its Savior's praise.  
– How joyous every faithful spirit shall be. –*

*Rise up, faithful ones, sing the cherished hymns,  
to you has appeared a splendid rekindled light.  
The living Savior offers hours now blessed  
rise up, souls, you must prepare an offering,  
perform with thanks your duty to the Most High.*

*A blessing to you, God has turned his thoughts to you,  
o dear estate consecrated to God,  
the Savior lives and triumphs with might  
favoring your well-being, favoring his own renown,  
here Satan must tremble in fear  
and hell itself must feel shaken.  
The Savior dies for great gain  
and descends into hell for your sake,  
pouring out indeed his precious blood,  
so that you shall triumph through his blood,  
for this can slay the foes,  
and when the struggle lays siege to your soul  
that you not fall prostrate in defeat.  
– The power of love is my battle flag  
of heroic bearing, of strength in our struggle  
to prepare for me a crown of victory  
You took upon yourself the crown of thorns,  
my Lord, my God, my resurrected Savior,  
no villain shall inflict harm upon me. –  
The enemies are indeed countless.  
– God shelters those who trust in him. –  
The final enemy is the grave and death.  
– God puts a final end to our distress. –*

*We give thanks and glorify your fervent love  
and bring unto you an offering from our lips.  
The Victor brings forth the joyful songs,  
the Savior appears and comforts us anew  
and strengthens the troubled church through himself.*

*Indeed enact the very gratitude through our words,  
though they are all too human;  
Indeed make it so that at no time  
shall you and your deeds be forgotten by human hearts.  
Indeed grant that through your grace  
and the solace and desire of all souls  
who are faithful within your mercy  
are ever perfect without end.  
May you gather us in your hand*

## Bach | Cantata *Ein Herz, das seinen Jesum lebend weiss*, BWV 134 continued

dass wir die Wirkung kräftig schauen,  
was uns dein Tod und Sieg erwirbt  
und dass man nun nach deinem Auferstehen  
nicht stirbt, wenn man gleich zeitlich stirbt,  
und wir dadurch zu deiner Herrlichkeit eingehen.  
– Was in uns ist, erhebt dich, grosser Gott,  
und preiset deine Huld und Treu;  
dein Auferstehen macht sie wieder neu,  
dein grosser Sieg macht uns von Feinden los  
und bringet uns zum Leben;  
drum sei dir Preis und Dank gegeben. –

#### 6. Chorus

Erschallet, ihr Himmel, erfreue dich, Erde,  
lobsinge dem Höchsten, du glaubende Schar.  
Es schauet und schmecket ein jedes Gemüte  
des lebenden Heilands unendliche Güte,  
er tröstet und stellet als Sieger sich dar.

*so that we shall powerfully perceive the mysterious deed  
that your death and triumph attained for us  
and that humankind, following your Resurrection,  
not die, even though suffering temporal death,  
but rather enter into your perfect splendor.  
– And that which is in us exalts you, great God,  
and proclaims your blessedness and faith,  
Your resurrection makes these things new,  
your great victory frees us from the enemies' grasp  
and ushers us into life;  
therefore let praise and thanksgiving be given to you. –*

*Sound forth, ye heavens, be joyful, o earth,  
sing praise to the Most High, you faithful throng.  
Every living spirit beholds and savors  
the risen Savior's unending goodness,  
in full consolation he offers himself as victor.*

## 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 95 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 12 recordings on the Dorian and Analekta labels, including most recently Mendelssohn/Bach *Matthäus-Passion* (2024), 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 The Bach Choir's youth choir educational program under the direction of Director Kelly Rocchi. Through Bel Canto and other educational programs, The Bach Choir is 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).



## Soloists

**SYLVIA LEITH, mezzo-soprano**, is a soloist and consort singer based in New York City. She has appeared as a soloist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Washington Bach Consort, the Oregon Bach Festival, St. Thomas Fifth Avenue, American Classical Orchestra, Bach Akademie Charlotte, Cantata Collective, Riverside Choral Society, Princeton Pro Musica, Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity, Baroque Music Montana, Early Music Access Project, and Emmanuel Music Baltimore, among others – in repertoire spanning from Bach, Handel, and Purcell to Mahler, Duruflé, and world premieres. Her ensemble credits include TENET, Lorelei, Bach Collegium San Diego, Ekmeles, the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus, Musica Sacra, Ensemble Altera, the Crossing, and the Choir of Trinity Wall Street. Her operatic roles range widely from Nerone in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* to Nancy in Britten's *Albert Herring*. With a special interest in one-per-part chamber singing, she is a founding member of the Polyphonists, a vocal quartet that includes her husband, bass-baritone Edmund Milly, and two of their dearest friends, soprano Amy Broadbent and tenor Matthew Hill. Leith holds a bachelor's degree in German from Yale University and a master's in Voice from Boston University. [sylvialeith.com](http://sylvialeith.com)

**GENE STENGER, tenor** Hailed as an "impressive tenor" (*New York Times*) who sings with "sweet vibrancy" (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*), Stenger is one of the country's most called-upon Bach specialists and is

also heralded for his performances of oratorios by Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn, and Mozart. Stenger's 2023–2024 season includes solo debuts with the Washington Bach Consort (Bach's *Saint John Passion*), Winston-Salem Symphony (Handel's *Messiah*), Baltimore Choral Arts Society (Bach's *Magnificat*), Resonance Works Pittsburgh (Bach's *Magnificat*); Esmail's *This Love Between Us*), The Bach Choir of Bethlehem (BWV 134), and The Cathedral Church of the Advent Birmingham (Handel's *Messiah*). He makes returning solo appearances with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra (Handel's *Messiah*), Bach Society of St. Louis (Bach's *Saint John Passion*), Colorado Bach Ensemble (Bach's *Mass in B Minor*), Yale Symphony Orchestra (Britten's *War Requiem*), Upper Valley Baroque (Bach's *Saint John Passion*), Bach Collegium at St. Peter's New York (Bach's *Saint John Passion*), Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity New York (BWV 75; 165), and a solo quartet performance of David Lang's *the little match girl passion* at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Stenger holds degrees from Yale University's School of Music, Institute of Sacred Music, Colorado State University, and Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music. He recently recorded a new solo quartet version of David Lang's *the little match girl passion*, which was released this past fall on Cantaloupe Records and is now available on all streaming platforms. He currently resides in New Haven, CT, where he serves as an instructor of voice at Yale.



**First Tuesday for this month only! Bach at Noon returns to Downtown Allentown on Tuesday, June 4. This will be the final concert before we embark on our European Tour on June 6! Join us at the beautiful St. John's Lutheran Church, 37 S. 5th Street. Doors open at 11:30**

## 116th Bethlehem BACH Festival

May 10–11 & May 17–18  
Southside & Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Each May, America's oldest Bach Choir sings the restorative music of J.S. Bach and other composers at the annual Festival – two weekends of glorious music in a joyful, celebratory setting.

The Festival kicks off with the free Bach Outdoors! concert featuring Artist-in-Residence Vincent Lauzer on recorder. Noon to 1pm on Fridays, just up the street at Payrow Plaza (next to the library).  
Schedule: [BACH.org/bach-festival/](http://BACH.org/bach-festival/)

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Thank you to these businesses and organizations that help bring Bach at Noon to you each month!



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



## 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:

- 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, X (formerly 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:  
Central Moravian Church,  
Sister Janelle Rice  
Rebecca Lepore, Minister of Music

The Guarantors of The Bach Choir  
for their continuing support.

### Bach at Noon 2024 Allentown Schedule:

June 4 (first Tuesday due to European Tour) July 9 August 13

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