



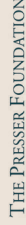
2024 Bach Festival!
 The Bach Choir of Bethlehem
 440 Heckewelder Place
 Bethlehem, PA 18018-5806

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- Full Festival programming.
- Livestream continues.
- Order your tickets TODAY!



The Bach Choir gratefully acknowledges and thanks our sponsors. The Choir is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.



116th Bethlehem
BACH FESTIVAL
 MAY 10-11 2024
 17-18

You Belong...

Connect with us!

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



Charlotte Mattax Moersch
harpsichord



Dr. Michael Marissen
Bach scholar

Distinguished GUESTS



Vincent Lauzer
recorder

Artist-in-Residence



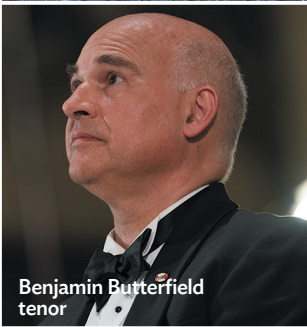
Mainstreet Brass



Sherezade Panthaki
soprano



Meg Bragle
mezzo-soprano



Benjamin Butterfield
tenor



William Sharp
baritone



introducing
Paul Max Tipton
bass-baritone

We

are nearing the exciting grand finale of our celebration of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem's historic 125th Season. It is with great anticipation and joy that I invite you to our unforgettable culminating event: the 116th Bethlehem Bach Festival!

Fresh off the heels of our Mendelssohn/Bach *Saint Matthew Passion* CD release, we are preparing to take The Choir to Europe, where we will reconnect with our historical roots and renew our standing among the most venerable Bach ensembles in the world. This year's Festival program is designed to take you with us. Each of the Festival concerts features music that we will be performing abroad, as well as music that looks back with reverence at our rich history.

Our Festival Artist-in-Residence, Vincent Lauzer, is heralded as a "rockstar" on a less frequently featured instrument: the recorder. A recorder virtuoso was the ideal choice for this year's residency as our hosts at the Bachfest in Leipzig asked us to perform multiple cantatas featuring this "lowly" yet remarkable instrument. Our Bach at 8 concert gives you a sneak peek at the same music we will be performing one month later at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig – on the same hallowed ground where Bach premiered nearly all of his greatest choral works. Other highlights at this year's Festival include works by Mozart, as we end our tour in Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace; shorter choral works by Josef Rheinberger, composer and teacher to J. Fred Wolle, The Bach Choir's first conductor; two *Brandenburg Concertos*, the *Goldberg Variations*, the deeply touching motet *Komm, Jesu, komm*, and the pillar of our beloved Festival: Bach's monumental *Mass in B Minor*.

Our beloved Bach Choir and the world-class instrumentalists and soloists you have come to know and love are all here in Bethlehem yet again to welcome you back. Dr. Michael Marissen, this year's Barnette Distinguished Lecturer, has prepared a new and special lecture, *The Low are Made Mighty*, to help shed light on Bach's use of the recorder. Bach Outdoors!, Zimmermann's Coffee House, and our Chorale Sings are here to lift your spirits and invite you take part in the full gamut of Festival traditions. And we are proud to continue to Livestream our beloved *Mass in B Minor* so that those of you unable to attend in person can feel the power of this music and this community from wherever you are.

Come, join us for what will be a jubilant conclusion to our historic 125th anniversary celebration and a proper send-off as we make our way back to Leipzig!

Christopher Jackson
Artistic Director & Conductor



America's oldest Bach Choir invites you to refresh your spirit at the 116th Bethlehem Bach Festival.

CONNECT WITH US!

■ MAY 10 & 17
FRIDAYS

■ 12 Noon | **Bach Outdoors!**

🚗 Payrow Plaza • FREE concert

Begin your Bach Festival experience with the lively and engaging music at this free concert, featuring Artist-in-Residence Vincent Lauzer. We herald the beginning of an exciting weekend of music-making and shared community together outside in beautiful downtown Bethlehem!

■ 2pm | **Dr. Michael Marissen – *The Low are Made Mighty*
The Barnette Distinguished Scholar Lecture**

🚗 Room 145, Zoellner Arts Center • FREE lecture, no tickets required

Spend an hour in the company of one of the great Bach scholars of our time. Marissen will discuss how Bach's church cantatas and secular chamber music sometimes exalt instruments of low degree (such as the recorder) and put down from their seats mighty instruments (such as the violin). Marissen is the Daniel Underhill Professor Emeritus of Music at Swarthmore College.

■ 3:30pm | **Chorale Sing**

Christopher Jackson and members of The Bach Choir gather to sing Bach Chorales prior to the Bach at 4 concert. All are welcome, and sheet music will be provided.

■ 4pm | **Performances in Intimate & Historic Settings**

Choice A: Bach at 4

🚗 Incarnation of Our Lord Church, Thomas & Buchanan streets (near Zoellner Arts Center)

Join The Choir, soloists, and Festival Artist-in-Residence recorder virtuoso Vincent Lauzer in an intimate celebration of Bach's instrumental and vocal music in the peerless acoustics of the Incarnation of Our Lord Church. Programming includes the strange and remarkable early cantata *Nach dir, Herr, verlangst mich*, BWV 150, and the confident, yet profoundly intimate funeral motet *Komm, Jesu, komm*, BWV 229.

🚗 Shuttle service is provided to and from these venues.

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■ 4pm | **Choice B: Chamber Music in the Saal**

🚗 Saal of the Moravian Museum, Church Street ■ Please note: The Saal is on the second floor of the museum and is not handicapped accessible.

Our keyboard artist *par excellence*, Charlotte Mattax Moersch, offers Bach's spellbinding *Goldberg Variations* in the intimacy and beauty of the Saal at the Moravian Museum. These concerts sell out quickly, and this program promises to be a mountaintop experience of repertoire and setting.

■ 5:45pm | **Dinner/Discussion, May 10 only | Dr. Larry Lipkis**

🚗 Butz Lobby, Zoellner Arts Center

Tickets/Registration required, limited seating

The perfect choice for a meal between our 4pm concerts and Bach at 8. A delicious buffet dinner will be served, and lively discussion will follow! Host Dr. Lipkis is Professor of Music and Composer-in-Residence at Moravian University.

■ 8pm | **Bach at 8**

🚗 Packer Memorial Church

As a preview to our European concert at the Leipzig Bachfest, hear The Choir perform *Herr Christ, der einig Gottessohn*, BWV 96, and *Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele*, BWV 180. These two shimmering cantatas will be bookended by a *cappella* choral repertoire including works by Rheinberger, Mendelssohn, and American choral tradition pieces that The Choir will share with our European audiences. Our Festival Artist-in-Residence Vincent Lauzer's dazzling virtuosity will also be on display in Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 4*, completing an evening of exceptional artistry and riveting music.

“Recorder music might not bring to mind excitement and nuance, but a listen to Vincent Lauzer would certainly open audiences up to some exquisite musical moments with one of the most understated instruments in western music.” – Margaret Lam, Musical Toronto



■ MAY 11 & 18
SATURDAYS



Saturday programming for the two weekends have different start times. Easily compare times between the two weekends with the schedule below. Programming descriptions follow and are listed in alphabetical order.

MAY 11

- 10:30am Ifor Jones Chamber Music Concert
- 12:15pm Heritage Society Luncheon
- 2pm Chorale Sing
- 2:30/4:30pm *Mass in B Minor* Part 1 & 2
- 7-9:30pm Zimmermann's Coffee House

MAY 18

- 10:30am Chorale Sing
- 11am/1pm *Mass in B Minor* Part 1 & 2
- 2:30pm Heritage Society Luncheon
- 4pm Ifor Jones Chamber Music Concert
- 7-9:30pm Zimmermann's Coffee House



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- **Ifor Jones Memorial Chamber Music Concert**
May 11 • 10:30am | May 18 • 4pm
Vincent Lauzer, recorder + Bach Festival Orchestra

🚌 Baker Hall, Zoellner Arts Center

The concert showcases Festival Artist-in-Residence Vincent Lauzer in both soloist and supporting roles. Repertoire includes Telemann's *Suite for Recorder and Strings*, TWV 55:a2, and Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*, a jovial masterpiece featuring natural trumpet, violin, oboe, and recorder as soloists with the virtuosi of the Bach Festival Orchestra providing enchanting accompaniment. Also on the program are select movements from Mozart's *Serenade No. 5 in D Major*, K. 204/213a, for wind instruments, a work of kaleidoscopic beauty and a nod to our upcoming performance in Salzburg (where Mozart composed this work in 1775).

- **Mass in B Minor** | May 11 • 2:30 & 4:30pm 📡
May 18 • 11am & 1pm

🚌 Packer Memorial Church, Lehigh University

For over a century, The Choir has been bringing Bach's breathtaking *Mass in B Minor* to life. It's not just a cherished tradition for us – it's a melodic bridge that connects long-time companions and first-time listeners in a warm musical embrace. Be a part of this remarkable musical journey as we extend the reach of this colossal masterpiece with our global community through the livestream option on May 11.

- **Zimmermann's Coffee House** | May 11 & 18 • 7-9:30pm

Peter Hall, Moravian University

While living in Leipzig, Bach presented his music at Zimmermann's and we do the same, offered café style in the intimate Peter Hall. Hear Baroque chamber music performed by young musicians, chosen by audition. This is a casual and fun experience that connects history, culture, and music in perfect harmony! Seating is limited and will sell out quickly! Light refreshments are available for purchase.

Saturday, May 11 & 18 Programming

- **Chorale Sing** | May 11 • 2pm | May 18 • 10:30am

🚌 On the lawn outside of Packer Church • Inside the church in inclement weather

Friends and choral enthusiasts gather together to sing Bach chorales for 20 minutes with Christopher Jackson and members of The Choir, accompanied by Mainstreet Brass.

- **Heritage Society Luncheon** | May 11 • 12:15pm | May 18 • 2:30pm

🚌 Butz Lobby, Zoellner Arts Center • Tickets/Registration required, limited seating

Join us for luncheon refreshments and remarks by one of our Festival soloists or musicians. No fee for Heritage Society members and Guarantors in the top three giving circles (\$750+). Advance registration required.

🚌 Shuttle service is provided to and from these venues.

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Sunday, MAY 19

- **Young American Singers Competition Finals** | May 19 • 1-3 pm

Peter Hall, Moravian University

Free admission, no tickets required. The competition is sponsored by the American Bach Society and The Bach Choir of Bethlehem.

Photography by Ryan Hulvat, except where noted.