

BACH CHOIR NEWS

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GALA – 125TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT – A Groundbreaking Performance

by Ebony Stevens

THIS YEAR, THE BACH CHOIR CELEBRATES 125 years of inspiring audiences through the power of music. As part of the celebration, we're honored to announce our annual Gala Concert and Fundraiser on November 4, 2023, featuring the global premiere performance of the new scholarly edition of Felix Mendelssohn's interpretation of J.S. Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion*. This groundbreaking event marks yet another "first" for The Bach Choir and the world of classical music, celebrating our milestone anniversary and helping us raise funds for our community and youth engagement programs, such as Bach to School, Bach at Noon, and the Bel Canto Youth Chorus.

The 2023 Gala Concert is certain to be a historic event and not one to be missed! This performance will feature the distinguished Bach Choir and Bach Festival Orchestra, as well as renowned international soloists at Packer Memorial Church, Lehigh University



campus. To honor both The Choir's anniversary and this extraordinary performance, the concert will be recorded live and released on the Analekta label in spring 2024.

Please turn to page 3.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS – A Consonance of Anniversaries by David Ruhf

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERTS are wrapped in all sorts of anniversary consonance: It is the 300th anniversary of Bach's first Christmas at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, and the repertoire we are singing includes

two works Bach incorporated in the liturgical goings-on for his first year there: Cantata 63 and the *Magnificat*. This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the release of The Choir's 1988 recording, *Christmas in Leipzig*, which includes the fanfares and dances of Cantata 63. Cantata 63 will be heard in its entirety at this year's Christmas concerts.

Our Kapellmeister, Christopher Jackson, has put together an amazing program! Both works include Bach at his most unrestrainedly festive. In the infectiously joyful, vivid *Magnificat*, the song of Mary from St. Luke's Gospel (1:46-55), Bach crafts each line of Mary's hymn with tremendous photorealism, each movement a jewel of lucid and evocative beauty. From the effervescent choruses to the stunningly devout "Suscepit Israel," a trio of women's voices accompanied by continuo and oboe, Bach writes with great sweep and drama. Likewise,

in Cantata 63, some of Bach's most delightfully pompous trumpet fanfares are coupled with jaw-droppingly virtuosic writing for strings and winds (along with exhilarating singing from The Choir). This cantata also includes one of Bach's most striking accompanied recitatives for alto and one of his loveliest bass/soprano duets. Joining The Choir will be a fabulous quintet of soloists, including soprano Molly Quinn, who makes a long-anticipated Bethlehem debut.

This year's program also includes what we hope will be the establishment of a thrilling new Bethlehem tradition: the commissioning of a carol for the Christmas Concerts. We hope you'll join us to share in both the quiet devotion and radiant exultation of these timeless works. We're delighted to share the tremendous gifts of our heritage and offer something beautiful from our very exciting here and now!

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Dear Friends:



IT IS HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE, but I have now completed one revolution around the sun as the new Artistic Director and Conductor of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. One year is certainly not enough time to learn all there is to know about this organization, its incredible community, board, staff, volunteers, and patrons, or its seemingly limitless potential. I feel a massive sense of gratitude and joy as I reflect on the past year and, simultaneously, an intense excitement about the years to come.

This May's Bach Festival, my first, was the perfect culminating event. Performances by The Choir, Loretta O'Sullivan, Bach Festival Orchestra, our fine soloists, and Bel Canto were memorable not just because of their skill but even more so due to their intense focus and commitment. I am certain that our audiences could feel this too, and they responded in kind, fully investing in each concert and in each performer. This creates a special atmosphere – a type of electricity – that is what every conductor hopes for.

I was not fully prepared for the overwhelming dedication and support of the Festival audiences and our Guarantors. I spoke to many people for whom this was their 50th (or more!) Festival; I met Guarantors who traveled from another continent to welcome me in my first outing; I spent time with families, some with now three generations that have come to witness the power of this Festival. It was humbling. It gave me a sense of perspective about the role that The Bach Choir plays in the lives of our

visitors and the history of our shared culture. I must say, though, that most humbling of all was the love and respect shown to me by The Choir and Orchestra after my first *B Minor Mass*. I have rarely been so moved. This year's Festival is a moment that I will continue to treasure personally for decades to come.

This year, we have two milestone projects for The Bach Choir: the recording of Mendelssohn's *Saint Matthew* and our upcoming European tour. Expect to hear more Mendelssohn throughout the year, as we get to know the man largely responsible for the revival of Bach's music in the 19th century. We are also celebrating historic anniversaries, such as Bach's first Christmas in Leipzig, by performing his *Magnificat* and BWV 63, *Christen ätzt diesen Tag* at our Christmas Concert – the very same music Bach performed 300 years ago.

The overwhelming sense of support and welcome that I have received from this entire community is absolutely extraordinary. And this community has affirmed the central reason that I chose to make a life in music and to dedicate myself to The Bach Choir of Bethlehem: There is no other more life-affirming pursuit than people gathering together to seek beauty or truth, create community, and serve something greater than themselves. It is with great confidence that I say The Bach Choir of Bethlehem have these qualities in abundance. It is an honor to be here. There is so much more to come.

Christopher Jackson, Artistic Director & Conductor



A PRIZED INVITATION – Calling All Bach Lovers

by Leela Breithaupt

OUR INVITATION TO PERFORM AT BACHFEST IN LEIPZIG and to have our concert featured in the eminent Thomaskirche is a singular honor. This is the church that was home to the bulk of Bach's creative choral output and is something of a mecca for all Bach enthusiasts. To say that this tour is a holy pilgrimage for us is no exaggeration. As great an achievement as this is for The Bach Choir, our tour will have many more life-changing and unforgettable moments. On this trip, we will also travel to and sing in Potsdam, home to Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, and C.P.E. Bach; Schwäbisch Gmünd, Bethlehem's sister city; and the birthplace of Mozart, the beautiful gem of Austria, Salzburg. We will even pay a special visit to Herrnhut, the German "home" of our Moravian heritage.

In 2024, the theme of the famous BachFest in Leipzig is **WE ARE FAMILY**. We are honored that The Bach Choir is one of 18 Bach choirs on six continents invited to give a featured performance of Bach Cantatas in the Thomaskirche, the church in Leipzig where Bach was the cantor from 1723–1750 and is buried.

This is our first international tour since 2003, and The Choir has not performed in Germany since 1995. The Choir will broaden its audience, gain increased international recognition, receive irreplaceable musical inspiration, and build unforgettable memories and friendships with world-wide Bach organizations.



Join the Tagalong Tradition. . .

a tradition begun during The Bach Choir's 1995 Germany Tour and continued in the 2003 UK tour, 45 places have been especially reserved for 45 lucky Guarantors! Enjoy the opportunity to support The Choir in its first performance at the Leipzig BachFest and hear Bach's incomparable music in four exquisite settings while you revel in the history and culture of Germany and Austria.

Guarantors, Reserve Your Places – we have only a handful spots left. Please call Cheryl Dungan 610-866-4382 x. 113 to reserve your Tagalong spot!



Dear Friends:



AS WE CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE of The Bach Choir's 125th anniversary, we find ourselves reflecting on our cherished past, while also looking ahead to a promising future. Our choir began its journey in 1898 grounded in a shared appreciation for the magnificent works of Johann Sebastian Bach. From our earliest days to the present, we have endeavored to embody Bach's musical spirit in every performance. The first year with Dr. Christopher Jackson, our new Artistic Director, at the helm marks a period of subtle transition for The Choir. His professional approach and creative insights have begun to shape our practices, providing a steady hand to guide us while respecting our established traditions.

Next year we will be undertaking a European tour that includes a visit to the Leipzig Bachfest. We understand the significance of performing in the church that was Bach's home for so many years, and we appreciate the responsibility it carries. We are also preparing for the inaugural performance and recording of Mendelssohn's interpretation of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion*. This particular rendition offers a unique perspective on Bach's masterpiece, promising a stirring musical experience for both performers and audiences.

Our youth chorus, Bel Canto, celebrating its 30th anniversary, is also experiencing change. Dr. Joy Hirokawa, the founder, stepped away, and a new leadership team of Kelly Rocchi and Alaina Schwartz has picked up the baton. Together we will continue to instill in our singers a lifelong passion for the choral arts.

These upcoming ventures reflect our commitment to deepening our understanding of Bach's works and expanding our reach to communities worldwide. These endeavors, while ambitious, are made possible through the steadfast support of people like you. The contributions you've made have not only sustained our choir but also helped further our mission to make Bach's music more accessible to wider audiences. As we move forward, we do so with measured optimism, grateful for the legacy we've inherited and conscious of our duty to enrich it. We invite you to accompany us on this exciting journey as we celebrate this landmark anniversary and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Harold G. Black, President

GALA cont. from page 1

This concert is the culmination of over five years of meticulous research by eminent musicologist Malcolm Bruno. Bruno's work specializes in Baroque and choral repertoire. He is equally known in the classical music recording world and will serve as producer for the live recording. Reflecting on this collaboration, Bruno stated, "As Mendelssohn's vision of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion*, it is particularly well suited to The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, the kind of 'Bach' choir for which Mendelssohn would have longed, but which, alas in his lifetime, he never experienced." The performance coincides with the publication of this new edition

by Bärenreiter, the world's most respected classical music publisher.

Leela Breithaupt, Executive Director, said, "The opportunity to premiere and record this scholarly edition of Mendelssohn's version of Bach's iconic work continues our legacy of premiering significant Bach-centric works in the United States since 1900."

Around 700 attendees are anticipated at the Gala Concert, and a group of 150 Benefactors will attend an exclusive dinner and fundraiser at the Saucon Valley Country Club after the concert that will benefit The Choir's Educational and Community Engagement programs. Your

participation ensures that our programs continue to engage, inspire, and educate for many years to come. Join us as we celebrate 125 years of The Bach Choir and our enduring commitment to our core mission.

To secure tickets, including Benefactor tickets, contact our ticket office at 610.866.4382 ext. 110 or 115. For inquiries about sponsorship opportunities, please reach The Bach Choir's development office at 610-866-4382 ext. 113. To learn more about the new scholarly edition and the recording project, visit BACH.org.



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

Bel Canto – NEW SEASON, NEW DIRECTION by Kelly Rocchi

WHAT A MOMENTOUS TIME in the history of this organization to be stepping into this position as the Director of the Bel Canto Youth Chorus! This year, The Bach Choir of Bethlehem is celebrating its 125th anniversary year and Bel Canto Youth Chorus is celebrating 30 years since its inception. The entire Bel Canto team are so excited to bring Bel Canto into this new era while maintaining the standards of excellence and community that have been such an important part of the Bel Canto experience for its singers and their families.

My history with The Bach Choir, however, goes well beyond this new appointment. As a new college graduate recently relocating to the Lehigh Valley and far from home, I had my first experience with The Bach Choir. I was homesick, didn't know anyone, and was looking for a way to feel a sense of belonging in this new home. After a lovely audition with Greg Funfgeld, I found myself becoming a member of this outstanding organization. I cherished my time in the group, the high standard of performance, and of course, the wonderful friendships I formed through my time with The Choir.

Fast forward a few years, and life became very busy, especially after the birth of my twin children! However, with the deep connections I had made with The Choir, and specifically with Greg, I was able to create partnerships with The Bach Choir and my choral program at Nazareth Area High School. My choirs have participated in several family concerts, were featured in the Moments of Comfort during the pandemic, and even sang for Greg at his retirement dinner. What a wonderful experience to bridge these two parts of my life together!

The idea that a child could enter the Bel Canto Youth Chorus in fourth grade, continue into the Concert Choir in ninth grade, and perhaps continue singing in The Bach Choir as an adult – what an inspiring idea!



And now, another chapter begins. I am beyond excited to be partnering with Bach Choir Artistic Director and Conductor Dr. Christopher Jackson on what we hope will be a bright and exciting future for the Bel Canto Youth Chorus. We have expanded the Concert Choir to include not only high school students but also freshmen in college and have changed the voicing to a full mixed choir. The Youth Chorale, under the direction of Mrs. Alaina Swartz, will be a wonderful springboard for our young members. The idea that a child could enter the Bel Canto Youth Chorus in fourth grade, continue into the Concert Choir in ninth grade, and perhaps continue singing in The Bach Choir as an adult – what an inspiring idea!

And what could be a more perfect way to imagine forming lifelong singers and passionate patrons of our art!

Christopher, Alaina, and I are busy planning for this celebratory season. The Bel Canto Youth Chorus will present our Bel Canto Youth Chorus Festival on December 3. This special performance event will be a testament to the unique relationship our organization shares between its choirs and its community. We hope you will all come to support our new and returning singers at what is sure to be an exhilarating performance.

As we reflect on the work we have already done and the wonderful potential this year promises, I can't help but feel a deep sense of reverence for what we do as artists and singers. I go back to that sense of belonging that I felt when I first joined The Bach Choir so many years ago. We give our students an opportunity to participate in an ensemble held to a standard of excellence, where musicianship, leadership, and community are all cornerstones of what we do. We are providing the singers with a wide breadth of vigorous choral repertoire, expanding their worldview. In this consequential time for our organization, may we continue to welcome more and more students into this special community and advance the choral arts for many years to come!

BEL CANTO SEASON 2023-2024

Winter Concert

• **December 3, 2023 at 4pm**
Cathedral Church of the Nativity,
Bethlehem, PA

Spring Concert

• **April 21, 2024 at 4pm**
Cathedral Church of the Nativity,
Bethlehem, PA

Information & Tickets:
[BACH.org/Belcanto](https://www.bach.org/belcanto)
• 610-866-4382 x.110/115

The Choir Unveils STRATEGIC FIVE YEAR PLAN by Leela Breithaupt

THE PAST SEASON has witnessed not only the success of the leadership transition to Christopher as Artistic Director but also the meticulous development of our Strategic Plan, designed to steer The Bach Choir's direction and endeavors over the next five years.

This ambitious plan was constructed on the foundation of seven guiding principles:

1. **Authenticity:** Embracing the spirit of The Choir and its 125 years of history.
2. **Excellence:** Striving for unparalleled quality in every activity.
3. **Traditions and Innovation:** Celebrating our deep-rooted traditions while fostering innovation to grow and evolve.
4. **Engagement:** Creating meaningful interactions and connections with our audiences.
5. **Inclusion:** Ensuring that diversity is not just respected but celebrated.
6. **Skillful Execution:** Striving for the highest standards in both artistry and organization.
7. **Responsible Stewardship:** Safeguarding the resources and trust bestowed upon us.

FOCUS AREAS AND GOALS

After careful deliberation and a series of Board and staff planning sessions, three core areas and goals emerged as pillars of our plan:

- **Artistic Programming and Performance:** Taking our artistry to new heights and enhancing excellence.
- **Education and Community Outreach:** Enriching the wider community and expanding our reach through our musical offerings and knowledge.
- **Organizational Development:** Strengthening the backbone of our esteemed Choir to ensure sustainability.

As part of the process, we renewed and expanded our guiding principles to include an updated mission statement, a vision statement, and an equity statement. Though more succinct and contemporary in its language, the heart of The Choir's mission remains untouched and true to its original essence.

As we look forward to the future, The Bach Choir is committed to bringing the transformative power of music to every ear, heart, and soul. We remain excited and optimistic about our direction and energy over the next five years and the promise of all the ways that we will have a meaningful impact on our community.

OUR MISSION: "The Bach Choir of Bethlehem inspires and enriches people through the transformative power of the music of J.S. Bach and composers who influenced or were influenced by Bach, by pursuing excellence in performance and education to build, strengthen, and sustain diverse communities, and to foster a life-long passion for the choral arts."

115th FESTIVAL WRAP-UP – Conductor Jackson's Inaugural Festival by Ebony Stevens

THE 115TH BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVAL, held on May 12-13 and 19-20, was a remarkable conclusion to our 2022-2023 season and marked the inaugural festival of The Bach Choir's Artistic Director and Conductor, Dr. Christopher Jackson. With a return to a full Festival format, the first time all events and concerts were held in person since Festival 2019, and the atmosphere was vibrant and full of gratitude. Festival audiences were visibly moved as they were able to finally experience the return of much-loved programming.

One of the many highlights of the festival was the Barnette Distinguished Scholar Lecture, which focused on the 2005 discovery of the J.S. Bach Aria *Alles mit Gott*, BWV 1127 by Dr. Michael Maul, researcher at the Bach Archive in Leipzig and Artistic Director of the annual Leipzig Bachfest. A recording of Dr. Maul's lecture was sent to all Guarantors via email in June with our gratitude for their continued support.

Bach at 4 included Bach's early-career cantata *Aus der Tiefen ruf ich, Herr, zu dir*, BWV 131. Artist-in-Residence, Loretta O'Sullivan, delivered a powerful performance of C.P.E. Bach's *Cello Concerto in A Minor*, Wq 170, at Bach at 8. The concert concluded with J.S. Bach's poignant cantata *Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis in meinem Herzen*, BWV 21.

Listeners at the Ifor Jones Memorial Chamber Music concert were treated to a special world premiere performance of



Remember, composed by Bel Canto Youth Chorus member Julia Sobrinski. Uniting the worlds of music and poetry, this beautiful piece of music was crafted around a poem by Joy Harjo. Cellists Loretta O'Sullivan and Deborah Davis masterfully performed Vivaldi's *Concerto for Two Cellos in G Major*, RV 531.

The 115th Festival concluded with a grand finale performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor*. The passionate delivery of this monumental work earned an overwhelming roar of approval from the audience and Choir alike. Choir member Anthony Villani lauded Dr. Jackson's leadership: "I just wanted you to know that the roar of approval from the audience and Choir for your stellar performance and leadership was richly deserved! Your hard work and energetic leadership helped to push us to perform at an extremely high level!" The palpable emotion in the air was captured by the livestream performance for audiences at home to experience extending our Bach Choir community.

GERMAN-AMERICAN TIES by Leela Breithaupt

AS WE CONTINUE our 125th Anniversary season, the many ties that bind The Bach Choir to Germany are strong. From the rich musical traditions of the Moravian Church in Herrnhut and Bachfest in Leipzig, to the revitalization of the Sister City relationship with Schwäbisch-Gmünd, The Choir continues to create a bridge between Bethlehem and Germany through music.

This past summer, Christopher, Phil Turton, and I visited each of the five cities that The Bach Choir will sing in during our 2024 European Tour. During our visit to Herrnhut, Christopher was welcomed into the community and ended up being invited to sing side by side with the Herrnhuters in an impromptu performance for the community on the green in front of the Moravian Church.

Our talks with the church leaders were fruitful – from inviting the school for special needs students to our Singstunde to walking through God’s Acre and seeing the Moravians buried along side non-Moravians just as in Bethlehem, the power of human connection was ever-present.

The connection continued with our visit to Schwäbisch-Gmünd, Bethlehem’s Sister City. There, Mayor Arnold warmly welcomed us for a champagne reception on a 100-degree day in the city hall and spoke eloquently of the importance and meaning of building strong ties with Bethlehem. The next day, the headline in the newspaper read, “Music as a Rejuvenation for the Partnership with Bethlehem.” This partnership has fostered a profound bond, nurturing cultural exchange and understanding. The Bach Choir was equally delighted to host a delegation from Schwäbisch-Gmünd, including the Mayor and City Council members in August for a Bach at Noon-style performance as a part of Musikfest.

On this side of the Atlantic, The Choir has been fortunate to be invited to several

meaningful events. From our meeting with Consulate General of Germany David Gill in New York City to attending the official opening ceremony of the Moravian exhibition at the German House in NYC, and our strong connections with German American companies such as HYDAC and B Braun, The Choir is a part of the fabric of the larger German-American community.

In April, The Bach Choir had the privilege of participating in the delegation visit of the Minister President of Saxony. We were honored to perform a special mini *cappella* performance in the sanctuary of Central Moravian Church. Bishop Hopeton Clennon’s gracious invitation allowed us to come together through singing and build bridges between cultures. During this visit, the Minister President conveyed to us the anticipation and excitement surrounding The Bach Choir’s upcoming performance at the Leipzig Bachfest in 2024.

Among the many memorable moments of our recent Bethlehem Bach Festival, the Barnette Distinguished Scholar Lecturer Dr. Michael Maul kept listeners on the seat of their chairs with his tale of the discovery of an original Bach aria in a dusty old German church near Weimar as a 26-year-old. Dr. Maul has plenty of experience with Bach Festivals as the Artistic Director of the Leipzig Bachfest, yet he was very impressed with our Bethlehem Bach Festival performances and events. Overwhelmed with emotion, Dr. Maul praised the unity and community spirit of The Bach Choir. He expressed his awe at the audience’s ability to sing the chorales in four-part harmony, highlighting how this shared experience transcended language, religion, culture, politics, and geography. Dr. Maul’s words reminded us of the profound impact choral music can have on our lives and its ability to bring people together.

The ties that connect us through music are



Discussing site details for next year’s tour in Germany.



Visit with Schwäbisch-Gmünd’s Mayor Arnold

not merely symbolic; they are tangible and transformative. They transcend barriers, allowing us to embrace our shared experience. The Bach Choir of Bethlehem takes great pride in being part of something much larger than ourselves. We cherish the opportunity to bridge cultures, foster understanding, and unite people through the power of choral music.

As we continue our musical journey, it can be humbling to think that every note we sing carries the echoes of history, the warmth of camaraderie, and the hope for a brighter future. Together, we build a harmonious bridge that connects Bethlehem and Germany, reminding the world of the enduring power of music and the beauty of cultural exchange.

Support the Tour: Become a Sponsor! With your generous support, we can make The Bach Choir’s 2024 European Tour a success! Sponsors of our tour are essential to helping to offset the expenses associated with this coveted performance opportunity for The Bach Choir. The total cost of the European Tour is \$270,000, and gifts can be designated to support specific performance expenses or general Choir costs. The Bach Choir counts on your support to launch this important endeavor, and we are truly grateful for your donations of any amount. With our deepest thanks, your sponsorship gift will be acknowledged prominently in our European Tour concert program and other Bach Choir programs stateside. To discuss the possibilities for becoming a tour sponsor, please call 610.866.4382 and speak with Executive Director Leela Breithaupt, or Development Director Cheryl Dungan. And don’t forget to ask about becoming a “Tagalong!”



GUARANTOR SPOTLIGHT – Meet Robert & Judy Umlas by Cheryl Dungan

WE CONSIDER OURSELVES BLESSED to have our Guarantors, a special group of enthusiastic generous people who provide for the essential needs of The Bach Choir each year. Guarantors are among our most ardent ambassadors, helping us build our family by sharing their passion for Bach’s music with others in their lives.

This season, we welcomed many new people to our Guarantor family, bringing our membership to over 510 families, representing more than 26 states and two countries.

Meet new Guarantors Robert and Judith Umlas: Bob and Judy have been married for 55 years and have two wonderful children and two amazing grandchildren. Bob has played eight different instruments. Early in their marriage, they began hosting annual Baroque quartets in their living room, inviting friends to share the joy of the music. These wonderfully successful events inspired Bob and Judy to support classical music throughout their



lives. Bob’s family had a summer home near Tanglewood Music Center, where they entertained people like Yo-Yo Ma.

The couple has written ten books on a wide variety of topics! Bob has written four books on Excel and a book on the Tao. Judy’s books including *The Power of Acknowledgement* have taken her around the world training leaders for her division, GratefulLeadership.com. Her latest book, *Soulmates & Strangers*, is a personal memoir

about her mother and her French pen pal, who began corresponding as teenagers and continued writing for the rest of their lives.

Last December, Bob and Judy were inspired to join our Guarantor family and established their membership in memory of Michael Lichtenstein, their close friend for nearly 50 years.

Bob and Judy are honored to officially support The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, “the wonderful group we have been going to see at the annual festivals and the Bach at Noon performances for about a dozen years.” We love hearing your Bach Choir stories! Please send them to us at cheryl@bach.org.

Guarantors sustain our commitment to musical excellence and inspire our vision for the future. Please consider sending in your annual donation as soon as possible, which will help The Choir and ensure that you can take full advantage of your membership Guarantor benefits.

In Gratitude . . .

AS WE HEAD INTO THE SEASON OF THANKSGIVING and count our blessings, we count you among the many people who contribute their time, talent, and treasure to sustain The Bach Choir. Because you care, we can continue to share Bach’s music with a world so in need of hearing it.

We extend our deep appreciation to you and your family for your generosity and dedication to our mission. You have made The Bach Choir an important part of your philanthropy considerations and, we are grateful.

Thank you for considering The Bach Choir as you plan your end-of-year contributions. Donations received and dated for December will be acknowledged for the 2023 tax year.

NEW STAFF – Welcome!



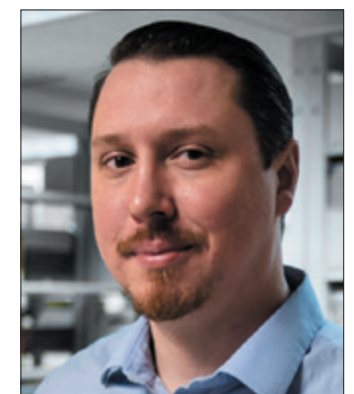
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The Bel Canto Youth Chorus



Alaina Swartz, Director
Bel Canto Youth Chorale



Lindsay Liiro
Administrative Assistant



Cory Dieterly
Archivist



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Christmas Concerts

Bach's *Magnificat* +
Christen ätztet diesen Tag, BWV 63 + Carols

▪ 4pm Saturday, December 9, 2023
First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

▪ 4pm Sunday, December 10, 2023
🔊 **LIVESTREAM option**

First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem

*Dive deep into the holiday spirit with us,
and embrace the joy of Christmas through
the universal language of music.*

The infectiously joyful, vivid *Magnificat* combined with Bach's delightful Cantata 63 packed with Brass fanfare, creates the ultimate combination for Christmas-time celebration! The concert concludes with the beloved tradition of singing carols together as a community – familiar favorites plus a new carol commissioned for this occasion.

Consider sharing Christmas in Bethlehem with friends and family with our livestream option. A wonderful gift or option for those not able to join us in person.

Tickets: [BACH.org/tickets](https://bach.org/tickets) • 610-866-4382 x. 115/110



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