



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

Andrew Schucker – soprano

Leah Kun – alto

Stephen Sands – tenor

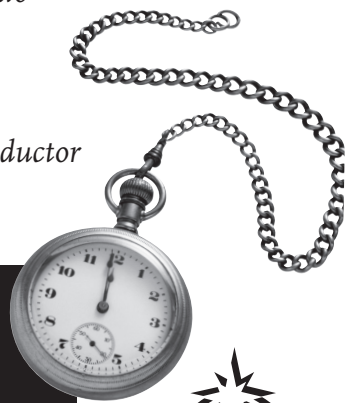
Stephen Rivera – bass-baritone

Loretta O'Sullivan – cello

Mark Laubach – organ

Christopher Jackson

Artistic Director & Conductor



Second Tuesdays

* 12:10–1:00pm

St. John Lutheran Church
Downtown Allentown

Next Bach at Noon

Tuesday, August 13, 2024!



July 9, 2024 – PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578 “Little Fugue”

– Mark Laubach, organ

J.S. Bach

“Quia Respexit” from Magnificat, BWV 243

– Mark Laubach, organ

J.S. Bach & Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Unaccompanied cello suites

Lamento – Mvt. 3 of Britten Cello Suite No. 1, Op. 72

Sarabande – Mvt. 4 of Bach Cello Suite No. 5 in C Minor, BWV 1011

Prelude – Mvt. 1 of Bach Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007

Barcarolla – Mvt. 4 of Britten Cello Suite No. 3, Op. 87

Dialogo – Mvt. 5 of Britten Cello Suite No. 3, Op. 87

Sarabande – Mvt. 4 of Bach Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007

Canto Primo – Mvt. 1 of Britten Cello Suite No. 1, Op. 72

Gavotte No. 2 – Mvt. 5 of Bach Cello Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012

– Loretta O'Sullivan, cello

J.S. Bach

Fugue in C Minor, BWV 537b

– Mark Laubach, organ

Benjamin Britten

Rejoice in the Lamb, Op. 30

– Mark Laubach, organ

The July Bach at Noon is named in honor and loving memory of Alice Anne Miller. The concert is made possible in part by a generous legacy gift from the Century Fund and from Alice's sister, Joan Miller Moran.



J.S. Bach | “Quia Respexit” from *Magnificat*, BWV 243

– Translation by Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall, Th.D., retired Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem

3. Aria (Soprano)

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae;
ecce enim ex
hoc beatam me dicent –

*For he has looked with favor on the lowliness
of his maidservant; from now on [all generations]
will call me blessed –*

Benjamin Britten | *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Op. 30

Chorus

Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb.
Nations, and languages, and every Creature in which is the breath of Life.
Let man and beast appear before him, and magnify his name together.

Chorus

Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a leopard to the altar and consecrate his spear to the Lord.
Let Ishmail dedicate a tyger, and give praise for the liberty in which the Lord has let him at large.
Let Balaam appear with an ass, and bless the Lord his people and his creatures for a reward eternal.
Let Daniel come forth with a lion, and praise God with all his might through faith in Christ Jesus.
Let Ithamar minister with a chamois, and bless the name of Him that cloatheth the naked.
Let Jakim with the satyr bless God in the dance.
Let David bless with the bear the beginning of victory to the Lord—to the Lord the perfection of excellence.

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable,
and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

Soprano Solo

For I will consider my cat Jeffry.
For he is the servant of the living God, duly and daily serving him.
For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.
For he knows that God is his saviour. For God has bless'd him in the variety of his movements.
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.
For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty, From whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.

Alto Solo

For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For this is a true case—cat takes female mouse,
male mouse will not depart, but stands threat'ning and daring. . . .
If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a creature as you are.
For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For the Mouse is of an hospitable disposition.

Tenor Solo

For the flowers are great blessings.
For the flowers have their angels, even the words of God's creation.
For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For the flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.

Britten | *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Op. 30 | continued

Chorus

For I am under the same accusation with my Savior,
For they said, he is besides himself.
For the officers of the peace are at variance with me,
and the watchman smites me with his staff.
For silly fellow, silly fellow, is against me, and belongeth neither to me nor to my family.
For I am in twelve hardships,
but he that was born of a virgin shall deliver me out of all.

Bass Solo

For H is a spirit, and therefore he is God.
For K is king, and therefore he is God.
For L is love, and therefore he is God.
For M is musick, and therefore he is God.

Chorus

For the instruments are by their rhimes,
For the shawm rhimes are lawn fawn and the like.
For the harp rhimes are sing ring and the like.
For the cymbal rhimes are bell well and the like.
For the flute rhimes are tooth youth and the like.
For the bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like.
For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place and the like.
For the clarinet rhimes are clean seen and the like.
For the trumpet rhimes are sound bound and the like.
For the trumpet of God is a blessed intelligence and so are all the instruments in Heav'n.
For God the Father Almighty plays upon the harp of stupendous magnitude and melody.
For at that time malignity ceases and the devils themselves are at peace.
For this time is perceptible to man by a remarkable stillness and serenity of soul.

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable,
and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

— adapted from *Jubilate Agno* by Christopher Smart (1758-1763)

BACH at NOON Tuesday, AUGUST 13

Join us for the final 2024 summer concert in Allentown!

Soloists

ANDREW SCHUCKER, *soprano*, is making his mark as a “pure and clear” male soprano voice. A Berks County native, Schucker has enjoyed various vocal performance roles, such as a soloist and chorister with the Berks Youth Chorus in Reading, and recently as a member of the Bel Canto Youth Chorus, where he serves as the soprano sectional leader. Past title solo roles include The Youth in Mendelsohn’s *Elijah* with the Reading Choral Society and Amahl in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* in collaboration with Albright College and Berks Opera Company. Schucker also proudly ranked first as a soprano 1 for the Junior County Chorus Festival. He has been working on advanced treble arias positioned in the Baroque era. Schucker also plays the trumpet for his middle school jazz band, where he earned Superior Jazz Soloist through a county-wide jazz clinic and competition. He is very proud to be singing with the Bach Choir and is thankful for this opportunity to share his passion for choral music with others.

LEAH KUN, *contralto*, is a graduate of Westminster Choir College’s class of 2020, B.A. in music education. Leah specializes in early music and Baroque era singing, and she has been praised for her deep, rich coloratura. Kun has performed in operas across Europe; her most notable roles include Bradamante in Handel’s *Alcina* and Arnalta in Monteverdi’s *L’incoronazione di Poppea*. She has received scholarships for European young artist opera programs such as the Saluzzo Opera Academy and the Handel Opera Academy. Through these programs, she studied under singers such as Sonia Prina and Stefania Dovhan. As a choir singer, Kun has sung with the Westminster Symphonic Choir, conducted by Dr. Joe Miller and the GRAMMY-nominated Westminster Williamson Voices, conducted by Dr. James Jordan. She was recorded in albums, *Ola Gjello: The Sunrise Mass*, *Aurora*, and *A Scattered Light into Winter*. She is currently a member of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem and sings under the direction of Dr. Christopher Jackson. With the Bach Choir, she has performed solos in Bach’s Cantata 40 and most recently in Caroline Shaw’s *To the Hands* on the Bach Choir’s 2024 European Tour. Kun currently teaches private voice instruction to young singers in classical, musical theater, and jazz singing.

STEPHEN SANDS, *tenor*, a GRAMMY-nominated “crystalline tenor” (*Backstage*) is a highly sought-after tenor soloist, conductor, and music educator. Sands conducts Downtown Voices at Trinity Wall Street, which has been hailed for its “incisive, agile strength” (*New York Times*). He is the Executive Director of the Antioch Chamber Ensemble, overseeing international tours and recordings and managing director of Ensemble Veritas, Harvard University’s professional chorus. Sands is the music director of Re:Soundings, a choral music project in New York City that utilizes the vast array of acoustical treasures to bring new ways of hearing vocal music to life. He is founder of Music in the Somerset Hills, where he directs The Somerset Hills Chorus and curates a full concert series and educational programs in Central New Jersey.

STEPHEN RIVERA, *bass-baritone*, is a native of Northern California, and a 1976 graduate of Westminster Choir College. While at Westminster, Rivera was a soloist with the Westminster Choir on tour. Subsequent to graduation, he was a featured soloist with the Spoleto Festival Orchestra and chorus, performing the role of Sportin’ Life in a concert version of Gershwin’s opera, *Porgy and Bess*, in a live broadcast from Spoleto, Italy, on America’s Bicentennial. Solo performance took a backseat for many years during his career as a music educator in Quakertown, PA, and a church choir director at churches in

Bethlehem and Quakertown. Rivera also directed a semi-professional ensemble, The Bethlehem A Capella Singers, in performances at Bethlehem’s Musikfest from 1984–1989. In recent years, he has resumed vocal pursuits, joining the Bach Choir of Bethlehem in 2019. He sang the Judas solos in the 2022 Bach Festival production of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*. He has also been a featured soloist with the Pocono Concert Chorale. He and his wife, Jane, reside in Center Valley, PA.

LORETTA O’SULLIVAN, *cello*, has been acclaimed for her “scrupulous musicianship..gorgeous sound and stylistic acuity” (*Washington Post*) and is known for her incandescent presence. A longtime member of the Bach Festival Orchestra, O’Sullivan is also engaged in an international career of broad scope, including performances at Carnegie Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Gewandhaus, La Fenice, the Kennedy Center, and Strathmore. Highlights include performances of Handel’s *Messiah* with the Rogue Symphony Orchestra; Rameau opera with Opera Lafayette in Washington, DC, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York; Bach’s *St. John Passion* at Strathmore; French baroque cantatas in Philadelphia with Tempesta di Mare; live film scores for Hollywood’s silent movies for Early Music Columbus; and with her newest venture, OpenPage Ensemble, commissioning and performing works of 20th- and 21st-century composers. Her orchestral credits include the Atlanta, Dallas, and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestras, the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra, and The National Philharmonic.

MARK LAUBACH, *organ*, is Organist and Choirmaster of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre and Canon Precentor of the Diocese of Bethlehem. He received degrees from Westminster Choir College and the Eastman School of Music, as well as a Fellowship in Church Music from Washington Cathedral. His organ studies were with Clinton Miller, Donald McDonald, and David Craighead. Since winning First Prize in the 1984 AGO National Competition, Laubach has performed throughout the USA, UK, and Germany. Recital venues have included the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York, Trinity Church Boston, and Grace Cathedral San Francisco. He was invited to perform at Westminster Abbey and St. Paul’s Cathedral in London and King’s College Chapel in Cambridge, and has served as organist for American choral residencies at various cathedrals including Chichester, Ely, Exeter, Lincoln, Wells, and Winchester. He often presents hymn festivals and recitals for gatherings of the AGO and the Association of Anglican Musicians. In 2022 he marked César Franck’s 200th birthday by presenting recitals of his complete organ works. He has recorded three acclaimed CDs on the Pro Organo label. Laubach has been affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music in America (RSCMA) since 1993. He was instrumental in moving the Valley Forge Course to Wilkes-Barre in 1995, where it became the King’s College Course. The King’s Course flourished for 25 years, with Laubach serving as Course Manager, host, and organist. This October, he will travel to England to be made an Honorary Associate of the RSCM. According to the citation, “It is through his dedication that King’s College was the flagship course of RSCMA for so long.”

Artistic Director & Conductor



DR. CHRISTOPHER JACKSON, now in his third season, is the seventh Artistic Director and Conductor of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. He has worked for 18 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 he 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. 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. 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.

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 Salzburger Dom, Nikolaiirche in Potsdam, and the Thomaskirche, Bach’s church in Leipzig, as part of the 2024 European tour; Herkulesaal at Munich’s Royal Residence 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 Bach 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 *St. 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**.





Sing with us for the 2024-2025 Season!

We are thrilled to announce that auditions for the upcoming season are now being held throughout the year. Whether you're a seasoned singer or new to choral music, we welcome you to join us!

For more information on how to audition,

- visit: [BACH.org/auditions](https://bach.org/auditions)
- email Christopher Jackson: cjackson@bach.org



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.



2024-2025 SEASON

As we close an extraordinary 125th anniversary season, we look ahead. . . *to exciting programming that will transport you to a universe of possibilities – without ever leaving your seat.*

- **BACH AT NOON** ▪ Second Tuesdays 12:10-1pm
St. John's Lutheran Church ▪ Downtown Allentown, PA 2024 ▪ June 4 (first Tuesday) July 9 August 13
Central Moravian Church ▪ Historic Downtown Bethlehem, PA 2024 ▪ September 10 October 8 November 12 2025 ▪ January 14 February 11 March 11 April 8
- **Christmas Concerts** ▪ **HEAVENLY CHRISTMAS**
J.S. Bach, BWV 1, *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* & Kile Smith, *The Consolation of Apollo*
▪ **Saturday, December 7 at 4pm**
First Presbyterian Church of Allentown
▪ **Sunday, December 8 at 4pm** (Livestreamed from Bethlehem)
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
- **Greg Funfgeld Family Concert** ▪ **YOUTH CHOIRS FESTIVAL**
▪ **Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 3pm**
Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University
- **GALA CONCERT: THE THOMANERCHOR**
▪ **Saturday, March 8, 2025** ▪ Central Moravian Church
- **Spring Concert** ▪ **RACHMANINOFF VESPERS**
in collaboration with Westminster Choir College
▪ **Sunday, March 30, 2025, at 4pm**
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
- **117TH BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVAL**
▪ **May 8-11, 2025** ▪ Lehigh University & sites in Historic & South Side Bethlehem



Growth & Harmony – A Passion for Choral Music

We offer three ensembles this season to provide choral opportunities to singers of all ages:

- Da Capo Treble Choir (grades 3-6)
- Youth Chorale (grades 5-8)
- Concert Choir (grades 9-college freshman)

CONCERT SEASON

WINTER CONCERT

- **Sunday, November 24, 2024, at 5pm**
Wesley Church of Bethlehem

BEL CANTO SCHOLARSHIP RECITAL

- **Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 7pm**
Snow Date: **Saturday, February 1, 2025**
Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

SPRING CONCERT

- **Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 4pm**
Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

610.866.4382 ▪ 440 Heckewelder Place
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018
[BACH.org](https://bach.org)



[BACH.org/BelCanto](https://bach.org/BelCanto)



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



Jephson Educational Trusts

Keystone Savings 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 33rd 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, 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 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. Please donate to support our Bach at Noon live broadcast.

Bach at Noon 2024-2025 Bethlehem Schedule

2024

September 10
October 8
November 12

2025

January 14
February 11
March 11
April 8



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 2024 Allentown Schedule:

June 4 (first Tuesday due to European Tour)

July 9

August 13

610-866-4382 | BACH.org