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

Katelyn Grace Jackson – soprano
Abigail Rochlin – alto
Matthew Newhouse – tenor
Johnathan McCullough – baritone
Elizabeth Field – violin
Loretta O'Sullivan – cello
Robert Skoniczin – trumpet

Second Tuesdays
12:10–1:00pm
Central Moravian Church
Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Next Bach at Noon
Tuesday,
February 11, 2025
the 140th Bach at Noon
in Bethlehem!

THE BACH CHOIR of Bethlehem

January 14, 2025 – PROGRAM

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681–1767)

Concerto for violin, cello, trumpet, and strings in D Major, TWV:53 D5

Vivace – Adagio – Allegro

– Elizabeth Field – violin • Loretta O'Sullivan – cello
• Robert Skoniczin – trumpet

Christoph Graupner (1683–1760)

Cantata *Pflüget ein Neues und säet nicht unter die Hecken* (GWV 1109/16)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Cantata *Gott, wie dein Name, so ist auch dein Ruhm,* BWV 171

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra
– Elizabeth Field, concertmaster, Stephani Bell, Mandy Wolman, Linda Kistler, Rebecca Brown & Mary Ogletree – violin
Nina Falk & Agnés Maurer – viola • Loretta O'Sullivan – cello
Jonathan Luik – bass • Nobuo Kitagawa & Lynne Cohen – oboe
Robert Skoniczin, Steve Heitzer & Andrew Moreschi – trumpet
Steve Mathiesen – timpani • Donald Meineke – harpsichord & organ

The January Bach at Noon concert is named in honor of J. Fred Wolle, founder and first conductor of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, and supported in part by generous endowment gifts from the Wolle family.

As a courtesy to others, kindly silence your cell phone.

Christoph Graupner | *Pflüget ein Neues und säet nicht unter die Hecken* (GWV 1109/16)

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

1. Recitative (Baritone)

Pflüget ein Neues und säet nicht unter die Hecken.
Beschneidet euch dem Herrn
und tut weg die Vorhaut eures Herzens.

Plow your fields anew and do not sow your seeds under the brush.
Be circumcised unto the Lord
and put behind you the foreskins of your hearts.

2. Chorus

Gedenk an uns mit deinem Geiste
und gib, dass dir die neue Zeit
ein solch Gehorsamsopfer leiste,
das dich vergnügt und uns erfreut.
Wir stellen uns heut' wieder dar
und wollen uns dir stets verschreiben.

Consider us with your Spirit
and grant that for you this new epoch
will accomplish such an offering of obedience,
that pleases you and fills us with joy.
We place ourselves once more before you
and wish to dedicate ourselves always unto you.

J.S. Bach | Cantata *Gott, wie dein Name, so ist auch dein Ruhm,* BWV 171

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

1. Chorus

Gott, wie dein Name, so ist auch dein Ruhm
bis an der Welt Ende.
(Psalm 48:11)

God, as is your name, so also is your renown
to the ends of the Earth.

2. Aria (Tenor)

Herr, so weit die Wolken gehen,
gehet deines Namens Ruhm.
Alles, was die Lippen rührt,
alles, was noch Odem führt,
wird dich in der Macht erhöhen.

Lord, as wide as the clouds do stretch,
thus extends the renown of your name.
All who move their lips,
all that live and breathe,
shall exalt you in strength.

3. Recitative (Alto)

Du süsser Jesus-Name du,
in dir ist meine Ruh,
du bist mein Trost auf Erden,
wie kann denn mir
im Kreuze bange werden?
Du bist mein festes Schloss und mein Panier,
da lauf ich hin,
wenn ich verfolget bin.
Du bist mein Leben und mein Licht,
mein Ehre, meine Zuversicht,
mein Beistand in Gefahr
und mein Geschenk zum neuen Jahr.

You with the sweet name of Jesus,
within you does my peace reside,
you are my solace on Earth,
how then can I tremble
before the cross?
You are my mighty fortress and my heraldry,
the shelter I flee to
when I am pursued.
You are my life and my light,
my honor, my consolation,
my support in face of danger
and my gift for the New Year.

4. Aria (Soprano)

Jesus soll mein erstes Wort
in dem neuen Jahre heissen.
Fort und fort
lacht sein Nam in meinem Munde,
und in meiner letzten Stunde
ist Jesus auch mein letztes Wort.

Jesus shall be named as
my first word in the new year.
Again and again
his name is joyous in my speech,
and in my final hour
Jesus also shall be my parting word.

• Elizabeth Field, violin •

Bach | *Gott, wie dein Name, so ist auch dein Ruhm* | continued

5. Recitative (Bass)

Und da du, Herr, gesagt:
Bittet nur in meinem Namen,
so ist alles Ja! und Amen!
So flehen wir,
du Heiland aller Welt, zu dir:
Verstoss uns ferner nicht,
behüt uns dieses Jahr
für Feuer, Pest und Kriegsgefahr!
Lass uns dein Wort, das helle Licht,
noch rein und lauter brennen;
gib unsrer Obrigkeit
und dem gesamten Lande
dein Heil des Segens zu erkennen;
gib allezeit
Glück und Heil zu allem Stande!
Wir bitten, Herr, in deinem Namen,
sprich: ja! darzu, sprich: Amen, amen!

And as you, Lord, have said:
Ask only in my name,
thus all will be yes! and amen!
Thus we plead with you,
O Savior of all the world:
Cast us away no longer,
shield us in the year ahead
from fire, disease and the peril of war!
Let your word, your light so brilliant,
burn for us in clear purity;
grant that our government
and the entire land
acknowledge the strength of your blessings;
extend at every moment
fortune and well-being to all our ranks!
We ask, Lord, in your name,
say: yes! And again, say: amen, amen!

• Nobuo Kitagawa & Lynne Cohen, oboe •

6. Chorale

Lass uns das Jahr vollbringen
zu Lob dem Namen dein,
dass wir demselben singen
in der Christen Gemein.
Wollst uns das Leben fristen
durch dein allmächtig Hand,
erhalt dein liebe Christen
und unser Vaterland!
Dein Segen zu uns wende,
gib Fried an allem Ende,
gib unverfäscht im Lande
dein seligmachend Wort,
die Teufel mach zuschanden
hier und an allem Ort!

Let us make the year complete
in full praise to your name,
so that we shall also sing unto you
as part of the congregation of Christians.
Should you measure out our lives
by your all-powerful hand,
preserve your dear flock of Christians
and our homeland as well!
Turn your blessings towards us
bestow peace upon every region,
offer incorrupt in our country
your sanctifying words,
bring ruin upon the demons
both here and everywhere!

Soloists

KATELYN GRACE JACKSON (née Aungst) ***soprano,*** grew up in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and has spent a good portion of her singing career in Washington, D.C. Despite being surrounded by music, her first loves were reading and writing, and she dreamt of becoming a novelist and poet. Her early exposure to music ranging from the art music canon to John Philip Sousa Americana, a deep love for the written word, and a knack for choral singing led to a professional career as a soloist and chamber musician propelled by a desire to connect and communicate with other musicians and audience members alike. Hailed by the *Washington Post* for her "supple, haunting soprano," Jackson performs as a featured soloist and chorister with intelligence and "particular purity of tone" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*). She has soloed with the American Bach Soloists, Washington Bach Consort, the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, City Choir of Washington, Cathedral Choral Society, the Washington Master Chorale, and the Handel Choir of Baltimore. Her choral and chamber experiences include recording Dame Ethel Smyth's *The Prison* with the Experiential Orchestra & Chorus (2021 GRAMMY Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album) and performances with Ensemble Altera, The Thirteen, and Clarion Music Society.

ABIGAIL ROCHLIN, ***alto,*** is currently a Junior Music Education major at Moravian University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where she studies classical voice with Artist-in-Residence Suzanne Kompass. Rochlin is an active member of Moravian's chapter of PCMEA (Pennsylvania Collegiate Music Educators Association) and has served as a representative on its executive board. She is involved in many ensembles at Moravian, including University Choir, Chorale, Women's Chorus, Vocalis, Wind Ensemble, and the Mostly Monteverdi Ensemble. She has been a member of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem for two years and is excited to have a solo performance opportunity with the choir.

MATTHEW NEWHOUSE, ***tenor*** In short time, tenor Matthew Newhouse has established himself as a powerful storyteller in concert and historical performance. Under the direction of Masaaki Suzuki, Grete Pederson, Jeanette Sorrell, and Nic McGegan, Newhouse has performed across North America, the United Kingdom, and Germany. This season, he debuts with the Tucson Symphony in Handel's *Messiah* and the Utah Symphony in Mozart's *Requiem*. Additional soloist high-

Soloists

lights include Evangelist in Schütz's *Weihnachtshistorie* with Harmonia Stellarum, Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* with Bach Akademie Charlotte, Evangelist in Bach's *Weihnnachtsoratorium* with Yale Schola Cantorum, and Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang* for the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. An equally skilled ensemble singer, Newhouse is a core member of Fourth Wall Ensemble and The Leonids. Additional professional collaborations include TENET Vocal Artists, Apollo's Fire, Clarion Music Society, and more. In 2023, he attended the Carmel Bach Festival for its prestigious Virginia Best Adams Masterclass series. He champions Icelandic vocal repertoire and strives for its inclusion in the classical canon. Newhouse holds a M.M.degree in Early Music Voice from Yale University. matthewnewhousetenor.com

JOHNATHAN MCCULLOUGH, ***baritone*** GRAMMY- nominated baritone and director Johnathan McCullough has gained acclaim for his innovative approach to opera and multimedia storytelling. As a producer, he released two albums this past year, *AD MANUS* and *Awake*, along with a world-premiere music video featuring Time for Three performing "Painful Joy" by House of Cards composer Jeff Beal. His film of David T. Little's *Soldier Songs* with Opera Philadelphia earned nominations from the Recording Academy and International Opera Awards and won Opera America's Artistic Creation Prize. He has sung leading roles with Opera Philadelphia, Komische Oper Berlin, English National Opera, Opéra de Lausanne, Portland Opera, and Wolf Trap Opera. McCullough was selected by Renée Fleming to participate in the Weill Institute Song Studio at Carnegie Hall, where he has also performed in concert. Recent and upcoming engagements include *The Anonymous Lover* at Opera Philadelphia, *L'elisir d'amore* at New Orleans Opera, *Die Fledermaus* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Pittsburgh Opera and Lyric Opera of Kansas City. He holds a B.M., M.M., and Artist Diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music and serves as Program Director for the National Youth Opera Academy. The *New York Times* noted his directing as "a pacesetter for cinematic opera." For more information, visit mcculloughbaritone.com.

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. 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. Field collaborated on a DVD with fortepianist 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 to 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.

LORETTA O'SULLIVAN, ***cello***, praised by the *New York Times* as "an agile, eloquent player," has played with many of this country's leading ensembles and orchestras. On period instruments, these include the Four Nations Ensemble, Opera Lafayette, Aston Magna, Artek, the New York Collegium, the Haydn Baryton Trio, the Classical Quartet, the American Classical Orchestra, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. In concerts and recordings, she has given memorable performances of Bach, Biber, and Britten for solo cello, concertos of Vivaldi and Porpora and Fiorenza, obbligato cello arias of Caldara and Handel, and a wide range of chamber music. She recorded the complete Op. 5 sonatas of Francesco Geminiani with the Four Nations Ensemble for Orchid Classics. As principal cellist of Opera Lafayette, she has performed at Versailles, the Kennedy Center, and the Rose Theater and has recorded for Naxos. As principal cellist with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, and featured artist in 2023, O'Sullivan performed the C.P.E Bach *Cello Concerto in A Minor*, the Vivaldi concerto for two cellos, and Sarah Quartel's *Snow Angel* for solo cello and children's choir. In collaboration with Francine Ringold, former Poet Laureate of Oklahoma, O'Sullivan set several poems for solo cello entitled "Bird Songs." She has played numerous concerts and recordings with the Orchestra of St. Luke's.

ROBERT SKONICZIN, ***trumpet***, has combined a love for teaching music at all levels and performing in a variety of settings, including classical, commercial, jazz, and touring Broadway shows. He has backed various star attractions such as Aretha Franklin, Martina McBride, Anne Murray, Pete Fountain, Marvin Hamlisch, Mannheim Steamroller, and The Who. He can be heard on several recordings including Manhattan Transfer's DVD *The Christmas Concert, Reanimations and Shadowcatcher* with the West Chester University Wind Ensemble, *The Quest for Adventure* with Tromba Mundi, *American Anthems* with the Gramercy Brass Orchestra, and numerous spots for NFL Films. In 2019, Skoniczin made his debut as principal trumpet with the Bach Festival Orchestra, showcasing his piccolo trumpet virtuosity on arguably some of the most famous and challenging trumpet works in the repertoire. He is on staff at the Wells School of Music at West Chester University (WCU) and performs with Kryos Brass, the WCU faculty brass quintet. He is Associate Conductor with Bravo Brass, the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's Brass Ensemble program, designed to further the musicianship of advanced middle and high school brass players in the region. In 2015, he made his Carnegie Hall debut performing with Tromba Mundi, unveiling three new works for trumpet ensemble: *Birds of Paradise* by Erik Morales, *Swashbuckler* by Andrés Soto and *The Quest for Adventure* by Bertrand Moren. He has worked closely with the International Trumpet Guild since co-hosting the Conference in 2014 and now serves as the Conference Volunteer Coordinator. His principal teachers have included Vince Penzarella of the New York Philharmonic and Christopher Tranchitella of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Robert is a member of the National Band Association, the International Trumpet Guild, Phi Beta Kappa and is a performing artist for S.E. Shires trumpets.

Special 140th Bach at Noon performance on February 11, featuring cantata *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 140, in honor of the occasion. It is one of Bach's most famous and loved later cantatas and a choir favorite. Join us!

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, Pennsylvania, 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 115 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, Nikolaikirche in Potsdam, and the Thomaskirche, Bach's church in Leipzig, as part of the 2024 European tour; Herkulessaal 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.**

from the archives

To My Bach Choir

– J Fred. Wolle, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, July 3, 1916

A spider, omen of good luck,
Has built her web upon my wall.
Unthinking eyes see but a horrid spider;
That is all.

But he who looks beneath, beyond
The spider, in her geometric orb
Can almost see the God of nature and of man
Display in miniature a corner of His universal plan.

Good friends have placed within my room a chair.
To most, 'tis but upholstery, spring and frame.
This chair's a chair, as many other
Just the same:

Since he who can see but the chair as a chair,
Has little knowledge of all that is there:
For behind that thing of wood and hair
My whole Bach Choir is standing.

Now, sitting there, within that chair
(And it and I will often have been sat upon)
I see a picture of familiar faces
Whose song ascends to heavenly places.

There are some duties you and I must do from day to day
For which good money pays, the people say:
There are some debts which you and I contract
Which only love can pay.

You owe me naught: I owe you much
For all I am and have.
You gave me both your lungs and throat;
This swelled my little head.

Ah! Dear Bach Choir, you are my child;
And though at times you drive me wild
Disdaining up-beats, bars and notes,
Your father fondly on you dotes.

Nor notes nor bars alone did e'er great music make:
Who thinketh thus, hath made a grave mistake.
Unless the lines are sung with heart and soul
All music fails to play its most important role.

Real singing takes more heart than voice,
More soul, by far, than lung;
And if our singing ever has been good
It is because this fact is understood.

So, like the lowly spider which weaves from day to day
Her well-nigh perfect pattern, but how, she cannot say,
May you go on, unconscious of the wondrous work you do
In unfolding all the patterns St. Sebastian wove for you.

And some day, when my right arm fails, my eyes grow dim,
my ears grow dull,
And you, too, are quite out of joint, your voices cracked,
your breath comes hard,
Perhaps the melting melodies of the music of the Mass
Will be accepted by St. Peter as a genuine heavenward pass.

And then, indeed, she'll sing without an earthly leader
When she has aeroplaned to live beyond the stars, —
My old Bach Choir—with nothing to impede her,
Her troubles o'er with up-beats, notes and bars.

Postscript.—
Do not be disappointed if you find that it is so
That they sing a little better than you ever did below.
N.B.—
I wonder if they sometimes have rehearsals in the fall
And how high is the percentage that resists the Halliwell call.
.

January Matching Gift Challenge from Don and Chris Wertman

Bach Choir board member Donald Wertman and his wife, Christine, are long time Guarantors and challenge you to join them in honoring Ifor Jones by making a Bach at Noon donation this month. They will match the first $1000 of donations we receive this month, in honor of former Artistic Director and Conductor Dr. Ifor Jones.
Dr. Jones was born in Wales in January 1900 and led the Bach Choir from 1939 to 1969. Don and Chris cite the Bach Choir's many significant accomplishments under Dr. Jones' leadership. Don also shared that "Dr. Jones admitted me to the Choir in 1964. Subsequently, he introduced me to Chris Hubbert. We married in 1971."

Support the January Donation Challenge with a freewill donation at today's concert using the enclosed envelope, donate online at bach.org/SupportBachAtNoon, or text BNOON to 44-321. Contributions can also be mailed to the Bach Choir of Bethlehem at 440 Heckewelder Place, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

GREG FUNFGELD

Family Concert

YOUTH CHOIRS FESTIVAL

Music From Around The World

MUSIC IS THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF MANKIND.

– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Photography: Hub Willson

SUN | February 23, 2025 | 3pm

Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University

Our interactive Family Concert is designed to engage, delight, and educate audiences of all ages. It embodies the community spirit of the Bach Choir by offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our youngest audience members to experience classical music.

This year's concert features youth and high school choirs from Parkland High School, Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts, Nazareth High School, our own Bel Canto Youth Chorus, and special guests from Westminster Choir College. Together, they will take you on a tour of choral music from around the world, performing selections from various cultures and traditions.

The choirs will join the Bach Choir and members of the Bach Festival Orchestra to perform selections from Mozart's *Requiem in D Minor* and Bach's *Mass in B Minor*. Christopher Jackson will lead this performance in what is sure to be a thrilling afternoon of music for all!

The Bel Canto YOUTH CHORUS of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem

THE LEHIGH VALLEY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

NAZ CHORUS — BE HEARD. SPREAD JOY. BE EXCELLENT.

PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE

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Moravian Church Settlements BETHLEHEM A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Central Moravian Church

As an active and vibrant Moravian faith community in Bethlehem for over 282 years, Central Moravian Church is situated in the newly inscribed UNESCO World Heritage site, recognizing the Moravian Church Settlements of Gracehill (Northern Ireland), Christiansfeld (Denmark), and Herrnhut (Germany), as well as Bethlehem.

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 Minister 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 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 & now LIVESTREAMED!

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.

NEW! Beginning with September's Bach at Noon, concerts will also be livestreamed on the choir's YouTube channel in partnership with Central Moravian Church. Please see BACH.org for more information. **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:
Central Moravian Church,
Senior Pastor Janel Rice
Rebecca Lepore, Minister of Music

John C. Baker Recordings, LLC,
for generosity and expertise in support of livestreaming

The Guarantors of The Bach Choir for their continuing support.

Bach at Noon 2025 Allentown Schedule:
June 10 **July 8** **August 12**

610-866-4382 | BACH.org