



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

Jessica Beebe – soprano
Katelyn Grace Jackson – soprano
Robin Bier – alto
Daniel Taylor – tenor
Graham Bier – baritone
Luke DiGiacinto – organ
Nicholas Halbert – organ

Christopher Jackson
Artistic Director & Conductor

AUGUST 12, 2025 – PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548,
“The Wedge”

– Nicholas Halbert, organ

Henry Purcell (unknown–1695)
Funeral Sentences for Queen Mary, Z27

1. March
2. Man that is born of a woman
3. In the midst of life we are in death
4. Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts
5. Canzona

– Nicholas Halbert, organ

Johann Sebastian Bach
Chorale Prelude, Komm, Gott, Schöpfer,
heiliger Geist, BWV 667

– Luke DiGiacinto, organ

Chorale, Komm, Gott, Schöpfer,
heiliger Geist, BWV 370

– Luke DiGiacinto, organ

William Boyce (1711–1779)
Verse Anthem, “O Where Shall Wisdom
Be Found?”

– Nicholas Halbert, organ

The August Bach at Noon is supported in part by a generous endowment gift from Ronald R. Miller in memory and celebration of the life and work of Maestro James A. Simms.

Second Tuesdays
* 12:10–1:00pm

Bach at Noon returns to
Central Moravian Church
in Bethlehem
Tuesday, September 9!



Henry Purcell | *Funeral Sentences for Queen Mary, Z27*

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and ne'er continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased? Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee.

– Book of Common Prayer, Order for the Burial of the Dead



Johann Sebastian Bach | Chorale, *Komm, Gott, Schöpfer, heiliger Geist*, BWV 370

Translated by Martin Luther, 1524; Setting: J.S. Bach

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The audience is invited to join in singing the chorale.

1. Come, God Cre - a - tor, Ho - ly Ghost, And vis - it Thou these souls of men;

Fill them with gra - ces, as Thou dost, Thy crea - tures make pure a - - gain.

William Boyce | *Verse Anthem, "O Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?"*

O where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?
Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.
The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me.
It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.
No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.
Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?
Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living.
God understandeth the way thereof, and He knoweth the place thereof.
For He looketh to the ends of the earth, And seeth under the whole heav'n;
To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.
When He made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:
Then did He see it, and declare it; He prepared it, yea, and searched it out.
And unto man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

– Job 28:12–15, 18, 20–21a, 23–28

Soloists

JESSICA BEEBE, *soprano* Lauded as having a “honey-colored tone” and “the most radiant solo singing” from *Opera News*, soprano Jessica Beebe is a highly sought-after concert soloist who has performed with several major orchestras and ensembles around the world. These include The New York Chamber Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, The English Concert at the Barbican Theatre and Carnegie Hall, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, The Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, The Folger Consort, Utah Symphony, Omaha Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, The Washington Bach Consort, Piffaro, Gamut Bach Ensemble, The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Philadelphia Bach Collegium, Lyric Fest, Curtis Symphony Orchestra, and more. Some of Beebe’s solo operatic highlights include premiering multiple operas by Jennifer Higdon, Lembit Beecher, and David Hertzberg with Opera Philadelphia, Bergen National Opera in Norway, and a Los Angeles Philharmonic debut in Meredith Monk’s opera *Atlas*. Beebe is a member of Variant 6, The Crossing, Seraphic Fire, Clarion, Lorelei, Trio Eos, and The Thirteen. She has been a voice faculty member at Franklin and Marshall College since 2015. More info at jessicabeebesoprano.com.

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.

ROBIN BIER, *alto* Praised for her “inimitable, resonant contralto” (*Phindie*), “particularly moving singing” (*Cleveland Classical*), and “mysterious, dark hue and sauntering presence” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), Robin Bier enjoys a varied career of solo and ensemble singing. She has appeared as a soloist with the Washington Bach Consort, American Bach Soloists, Sarasota Orchestra, Cantata Collective, Bourbon Baroque, Dartington Festival Orchestra, English Symphony Orchestra, and Yorkshire Baroque Soloists, among others. As an ensemble singer, Bier has performed and recorded with the Choir of Trinity Wall Street, Everlasting Voices, Clarion, Musica Secreta, I Fagiolini, Apollo’s Fire, Choral Arts Philadelphia, and Ensemble VIII. She is Co-Founder and alto of solo-voice early music ensemble Les Canards Chantants, with whom she has garnered praise for “elegant vocalism” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), “finely tuned vocals, robust singing, emotional flexibility, and sense of adventure” (*Broad Street Review*), “brilliant and moving programming” (*Early Music America*), and “liveliness and theatricality” (*Boston Musical Intelligencer*). Originally from Alaska, Bier holds degrees from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music and the University of York in England. She is based in Philadelphia, where she teaches studio voice at Swarthmore College, coaches the trebles at Bryn Athyn

Cathedral, and enjoys prowling the trails of the Pennypack Nature Preserve with husband, Graham, and son, Roland.

DANIEL TAYLOR, *tenor*, is a New York-based tenor specializing in early music, chamber music, and choral singing. He is on the permanent roster in the Schola Cantorum at The Church of Saint Vincent Ferrer in New York City and performs with ensembles across the nation. Past performances include appearances with Ensemble VIII in Austin, Texas; Skylark Vocal Ensemble in the Greater Boston area, and in Cleveland with Apollo’s Fire. A native of Dallas/Fort Worth, Hodgson studied at the University of North Texas where he was immediately drawn to Renaissance and Baroque music and sang in the Collegium Musicum program. After receiving a Bachelor of Music in music education, he sang regularly in the Dallas area with ensembles including the Orpheus Chamber Singers, Dallas Bach Society, and Denton Bach Society before moving to New York City in 2015.

GRAHAM BIER, *baritone*, is based in the Philadelphia area, where he stays busy as Director of Music at Bryn Athyn Cathedral, Music Director of the Reading Choral Society, lecturer at Bryn Athyn College, and Co-Director of the solo-voice ensemble Les Canards Chantants. He is an avid ensemble singer, including appearances with I Fagiolini, Stile Antico, and The Crossing, and also performs as a soloist, most recently in BWV 27 with Choral Arts Philadelphia, BWV 106 with members of Tempesta di Mare, and Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9* with Berks Sinfonietta. Bier can be heard (and briefly glimpsed) with the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir in the Netflix film *Maestro*; other recordings include Stile Antico’s *The Phoenix Rising* (Harmonia Mundi) and Stef Conner’s *Riddle Songs* (Delphian). Since the pandemic he has served as a chorusmaster with the award-winning Stay At Home Choir. Bier holds a B.A. in music from Oberlin College and an M.A. in Vocal Studies and Ph.D. in Musicology, both from the University of York (United Kingdom).

LUKE DIGIACINTO, *organ* is a church musician, balancing scholarship, and authenticity in his performances. As an organist with an interest in early music, he grapples with making musical decisions that constitute an awareness of historical performance practice. DiGiacinto served as Director of Music and Organist at Advent Moravian Church in Bethlehem, where he directed the Chancel Choir and Advent Bell Choir and worked closely with the Advent Brass Ensemble. He also ministered to Morning Star Moravian Church and West Side Moravian Church and is doing an internship at Central Moravian Church this summer. He participated in master classes led by David Baskeyfield, Frederic Blanc, and Katelyn Emerson. DiGiacinto is an active recitalist. He performed two of the Tuesday Noon concerts provided by the Philadelphia AGO at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale, a recital at The Cathedral Church of the Nativity in South Bethlehem, a joint recital with a colleague at St. Bartholomew’s church in Baltimore, Maryland, and at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church in Emmaus. DiGiacinto is currently pursuing an M.M. degree in Organ Performance at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins where he studies with Dr. Daniel Aune. He received a B.M. in sacred music from Moravian University, graduating *magna cum laude*.

NICHOLAS HALBERT, DMA, *organ*, is the Canon Precentor, organist, and music director at the Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he oversees the Cathedral’s choirs and concert programming and supervises music in diverse liturgical genres. He is in demand as a recitalist, performing frequently across the United States. Halbert grew up in San Diego, California, and was a Head Chorister in the Boy Choir of St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral, where he

Soloists

was appointed Organ Scholar at 16. He has served in churches across the country, including the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration and Christ the King RC in Dallas, Christ Church of the Ascension Episcopal in Phoenix, and St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, Buffalo. He has performed at conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society and appeared twice on *Pipedreams*. As a

collaborative organist, he has performed with the All-Star Orchestra of the Mainly Mozart Festival and with the ASU University Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and University Choir. He holds a BM from the Eastman School of Music, MM and PD from Southern Methodist University, and a DMA from Arizona State University, where his research focused on the music of Dresden composer Hans Fährmann.

Artistic Director & Conductor

DR. CHRISTOPHER JACKSON, now in his fourth 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; 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**.



SEASON

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

- **BACH AT NOON** ■ Second Tuesdays 12:10–1pm
St. John's Lutheran Church ■ Downtown Allentown
2025 ■ June 10 July 8 August 12
Central Moravian Church ■ Historic Downtown Bethlehem
2025 ■ September 9 October 14 November 11
2026 ■ January 13 February 10 March 10 April 14
- **Fall Fundraiser** ■ **DAN TEPFER** – Inventions / Reinventions
■ Saturday, October 4, 2025
Musikfest Café, ArtsQuest Center, Bethlehem
- **Christmas Concerts** ■ **CHRISTMASTIME IN LEIPZIG**
Christmas Cantata Concerts
■ Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 4pm
Muhlenberg College Egner Memorial Chapel, Allentown
■ Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 4pm (Livestreamed)
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
- **Greg Funfgeld Family Concert**
■ **THE NIGHTINGALE** in collaboration
with Mock Turtle Marionette Theater
■ Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 3pm
Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University, Bethlehem
- **Spring Concert** ■ **ST. JOHN PASSION**
■ Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 4pm
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
- **118TH BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVAL**
■ May 7–10, 2026 ■ Lehigh University & sites
in Historic & South Side Bethlehem

2025–2026



The **Bel Canto** YOUTH CHORUS of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem

Kelly Rocchi, Director
Alaina Swartz, Youth Chorale Conductor
Erica Silver, Da Capo Treble Choir Conductor

CONCERT SEASON

WINTER CONCERT

- Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 2 and 4:30pm
Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem

BEL CANTO SCHOLARSHIP RECITAL

- Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 4pm
Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

SPRING CONCERT

- Saturday, April 19, 2026 at 4pm
Cathedral Church of the Nativity

BACH.org/BelCanto

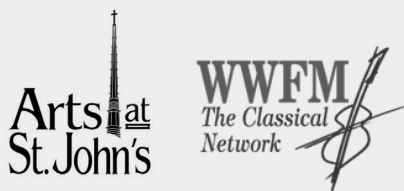


The Bach Choir of Bethlehem gratefully acknowledges our Bach at Noon corporate & foundation sponsors.



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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 34th year, is pleased to host as part of its series the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. **SJAT.org**

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 and 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. Bach at Noon concerts are also livestreamed on the choir's YouTube channel in partnership with St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Please see BACH.org for more information. Please donate to support our Bach at Noon live broadcast.

Bach at Noon 2025-2026 Bethlehem Schedule

2025
September 9
October 14
November 11

2026
January 13
February 10
March 10
April 14



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 2025 Allentown Schedule: June 10 July 8 August 12

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