

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

Iessica Beebe – soprano Daniel Taylor - tenor Steven Eddy – bass

with the Westminster Choir. Donald Nally, conductor



Second Tuesdays *** 12:10−1:00pm**

Next Bach at Noon Tuesday, November 11, 2025 Central Moravian Church **Downtown Bethlehem**



October 14, 2025 - PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Der Herr denket an uns, BWV 196

- Westminster Choir, Christopher Jackson, Conductor

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

– Elizabeth Field, concertmaster & Linda Kistler – violin Agnés Maurer – viola | Noelle Casella Grand – cello Daniel McDougall – bass | Michael Diorio – keyboards

Judith Weir (b. 1954)

I love all beauteous things

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Magnificat: Collegium Regale

Nicholas Cline (b. 1985)

she took his hands

Herbert Howells

Nunc dimittis: Collegium Regale

Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

O lux beatissima

Westminster Choir, Donald Nally, Conductor

The October Bach at Noon is supported in part by a generous endowment gift from Mrs. Cornelius Ayer Wood Jr. in memory of The Rev. Cornelius Ayer Wood Jr., a member of the choir's Board of Managers 1960-1977.

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



1. Sinfonia

2. Chorus

Der Herr denket an uns und segnet uns. Er segnet das Haus Israel, er segnet das Haus Aaron.

3. Aria (Soprano)

Er segnet, die den Herrn fürchten, beide, Kleine und Grosse.

4. Aria (Duet: Tenor, Bass)

Der Herr segne euch je mehr und mehr, euch und eure Kinder.

5. Chorus

Ihr seid die Gesegneten des Herrn, der Himmel und Erde gemacht hat. Amen. The Lord is mindful of us and grants us his blessing.

He blesses the house of Israel,

he blesses the house of Aaron.

He blesses those fearful of the Lord, the weak as well as the mighty.

May the Lord bless you abidingly, both you and your children.

You are those blessed by the Lord, who created heaven and earth. Amen.

J. Weir | I love all beauteous things

I love all beauteous things, I seek and adore them; God hath no better praise, And man in his hasty days Is honoured for them.

I too will something make
And joy in the making;
Altho' to-morrow it seem
Like the empty words of a dream
Remembered on waking.
- text by Robert Bridges (1844–1930)

H. Howells | Magnificat: Collegium Regale

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat,

and back and the late to sale

and hath exalted the humble.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.

– Luke 1:46–55, Book of Common Prayer, 1662

N. Cline | she took his hands

she took his hands she said to him

"have faith I will be fine and with you soon."

she took his hands, he took her hands, she took her hands, I take her hands, I take his hands

excerpted from Emma Lozano, quoted in Washington Post article,
 August 21, 2007, on the arrest of Chicago activist Elvira Arellano

H. Howells | Nunc dimittis: Collegium Regale

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

- Luke 2:29-32, Book of Common Prayer, 1662

H. Helvey | O lux beatissima

O lux beatissima, reple cordis intima tuorum fidelium.
Sine tuo numine, nihil est in homine, nihil est innoxium.
– attr. Stephen Langton (d. 1228),
from the Pentecost sequence, Veni Sancte Spiritus.

O Light most blessed, fill the hearts' depths of all your faithful. Without your grace, nothing is in us, nothing that is not harmful.

BACH at NOON Tuesday, November 11



We are thrilled to welcome special guests Conductor Emeritus Greg Funfgeld and Professor Eugene Albulescu as they perform Schubert's remarkable work for Piano Four-Hands, his Fantasy in F Minor! Additionally, the Bach Choir, orchestra, and our amazing soloists set the stage for Advent and Christmas with a performance of BWV 10 - "My Soul Hath Magnified the Lord" – last performed by the Bach Choir in 1979!







Guest Artists



DONALD NALLY is conductor of The Crossing and Director of Choral Studies at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. He has commissioned nearly 200 works, often addressing social and environmental issues, and produced 36 recordings, winning three GRAMMY Awards for Best Choral Performance, while being nominated 10 times. The Crossing was Musical America's 2024 Ensemble of the Year. Nally has held distinguished

tenures as chorus master for Lyric Opera of Chicago, Welsh National Opera, Opera Philadelphia, and for many seasons at II festival dei due mondi in Spoleto, Italy. He has prepared choruses for many internationally recognized conductors at the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, and Chicago Symphony. Nally works closely with the artists Allora & Calzadilla and composer David Lang on museum projects in London, Porto, Cordoba, Edmonton, Houston, Osaka, and Philadelphia. His 72-chapter series Rising w/ The Crossing, a response to the 2020 pandemic, has been preserved by the National Archives of The Library of Congress as a cultural artifact. Recent projects include the Swedish Radio Choir, the Finnish National Opera, the Baltic Sea Festival in Stockholm, the Haarlem KoorBiënnale, and various projects at Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Nally is a frequent guest artist/teacher at universities, including Yale, Harvard, the University of Chicago, Indiana University, Notre Dame, Westminster Choir College, and Boston Conservatory. He is the John W. Beattie Chair of Music and Professor Emeritus at Northwestern University.

WESTMINSTER CHOIR Since 1920, the Westminster Choir has set the benchmark for choral excellence. Composed of undergraduate and graduate students at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, the ensemble has thrilled audiences worldwide with its distinctive sound and artistry. Legendary conductor Joseph Flummerfelt led the ensemble from 1971-2004 and elevated the choir to international acclaim, building on the vision of founder John Finley Williamson. The choir has toured extensively in the U.S. and abroad, serving as resident choir at the II Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy, and Spoleto USA, performing at France's Festival International de Colmar, and traveling globally as ambassadors for the U.S. State Department. Heard on recordings of folk songs, hymns, and masterworks spanning five centuries – as well as Disney's Fantasia under Leopold Stokowski - the choir continues bold collaborations with ensembles such as the International Contemporary Ensemble and The Sebastians. Praised by The New York Times for its "full-bodied, incisive singing," the Westminster Choir remains one of America's finest collegiate choirs, central to shaping generations of influential conductors. This season, the choir is led by Donald Nally, Westminster's Director of Choral Studies.



Westminster Choir

Donald Nally, Conductor

Michael Diorio - Associate Conductor & Accompanist

Claire Fritz & Lucas Heredia, Graduate Assistant Conductors

Nidhi Advani, Columbus, NJ Joshua D. Bacomo, West Babylon, NY Emilie Beals, Carlisle, PA Connor Bowden, Washington Crossing, PA Kevin Catalon, Fords, NJ Casey E. Decker, Edison, NJ Jonah DeVinney, Boca Raton, FL Alexa Farah, Northvale, NJ Claire Fritz, Elizabethtown, PA Ben Glick, Lancaster, PA Lucas Heredia, East Brunswick, NJ Grisha P. Ivanov, Brooklyn, NY Kole Lawrence, Lancaster, PA Alyssa M. Lester, Monroe Township, NJ Duomi Liu, Beijing, China Aaron M. Lynch, Rochester, NY Samantha Murphy, Washington Township, NJ Juliana Rappaport, Frederick, MD Tyler Miller, Frederick, MD Kianna Mitchner, Groton, CT James T. Moyer, Yardley, PA Briseis R. Muñoz, Laveen, AZ Daniel J. Piver, East Hampton, NY Ricky Sazon Salazar, Queens, NY Bailey Shay, Matamoras, PA Alastair Stewart, Ouebec, Canada Sarah Vawdrey. Teaneck, NJ Julia Wilder, Carmel, NY

Soloists

JESSICA BEEBE, *soprano* Lauded as having a "honey-colored tone" and "the most radiant solo singing" by 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.

DANIEL TAYLOR, tenor, is noted for his "solid, ringing tenor that is rich and intense" and as a "mellifluous talent you should watch for" by Opera Today. Taylor is establishing himself with a voice of power, sensitivity, and musicianship, garnered from a wealth of experience across a wide variety of disciplines. A member of the chorus at Opera Philadelphia since 2012, he has also sung roles for the company, including being a part of the process of workshopping and premiering a number of new operas, such as Missy Mazzoli's Breaking the Waves, Kevin Puts' Elizabeth Cree, and Lembit Beecher's riveting Sky on Swings, where he sang alongside the legendary Frederica von Stade. He has been a part of works and workshops by other composers, including Rene Orth, David Hertzberg, Jennifer Higdon, and more. Aside from Opera Philadelphia, he has performed operatic works with a number of organizations, including the New York Philharmonic, Curtis Opera Theater, Beth Morrison Projects, Three Oaks Opera,

Poor Richard's Opera, Opera Libera, Children's Opera Box, and Temple University Opera Theater. Outside of opera, Taylor is a member of the GRAMMY-award winning new music chamber choir The Crossing, having also sung a number of solos with the group in works by composers such as David T. Little, Benjamin C. S. Boyle, Gavin Bryars, and Thomas Lloyd. With a M.M. in vocal performance from Temple University and a B.M. in cello performance from the Peabody Conservatory, he also performed extensively as a cellist and early musician on Baroque cello and viola da gamba. He currently lives in Warrington, Pennsylvania, and otherwise enjoys fantasy novels, birding, video games, and board games.

STEVEN EDDY, baritone, is an accomplished concert artist and Baroque music specialist, and he has garnered praise as a soloist and professional choral singer with such ensembles as The New York Philharmonic, The Oratorio Society of New York, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Seraphic Fire, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, Spire Chamber Ensemble, The Thirteen, Variant Six, Clarion Music Society, American Classical Orchestra, Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, Choral Arts Philadelphia, Handel Choir of Baltimore, New York Virtuoso Singers, and Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity. Eddy was the First Prize winner of the 2019 Oratorio Society of New York's Lyndon Woodside Competition, which led to his debut with The Oratorio Society of New York in the world premiere of Paul Moravec and Mark Campbell's A Nation of Others. He was also the winner of the 2015 Joy in Singing Music Sessions, which led to his New York solo recital debut at Merkin Hall. He was a Regional Finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Upcoming projects include a return to The Oratorio Society of New York and Carnegie Hall in the world premiere of Paul Moravec and Mark Campbell's All Shall Rise, a debut with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Handel's Messiah and David Lang's the little match girl passion with The Thirteen, Bach's Mass in B Minor with Choral Arts Philadelphia, and concert projects with Seraphic Fire and Variant Six. For more information, steveneddybaritone.com.





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

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, per-



forming 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.**







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 FundraiserDAN 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
- 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



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

CONCERT SEASON

WINTER CONCERT

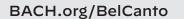
Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 2 and 4:30pm Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem

BEL CANTO SCHOLARSHIP RECITAL

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

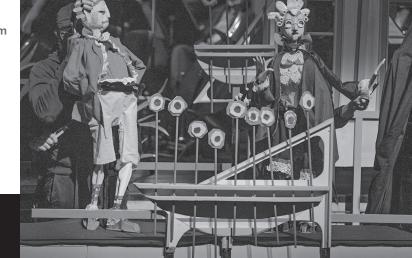
SPRING CONCERT

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









610.866.4382 = 440 Heckewelder Place
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018 BACH.org

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







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 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 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**

2026 2025 September 9 January 13 October 14 February 10 November 11 March 10 April 14

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 2026 Allentown Schedule:

June 9 July 14 August 11 610-866-4382 | BACH.org