



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

Jessica Beebe – soprano
Elizabeth Field – violin
Linda Kistler – violin
Loretta O'Sullivan – cello
Susan Charlton – flute
Kerry Heimann – harpsichord

April 14, 2026 – PROGRAM

Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach (1732–1795)

Trio Sonata in F Major, W. VII:3, B. 12:

Movt. 1: *Allegro* Movt. 3: *Tempo di minuetto*

– Elizabeth Field & Linda Kistler, violin • Loretta O'Sullivan, cello
Kerry Heimann, harpsichord

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

“Sonata sopr'il soggetto Reale a Traversa, Violino e Continuo” from *Musikalisches Opfer*, BWV 1079

Movt. 2: *Allegro*

– Elizabeth Field, violin • Susan Charlton, flute
Loretta O'Sullivan, cello • Kerry Heimann, harpsichord

Johann Sebastian Bach

Motet *O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens Licht*, BWV 118

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Exsultate, jubilate, K. 165

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

– Elizabeth Field, concertmaster, Rebecca Brown, Mary Ogletree
Linda Kistler, Inna Ezyerovich & Julie Bougher – violin
Nina Falk & Agnés Maurer – viola • Loretta O'Sullivan – cello
Daniel McDougall – bass • Nobuo Kitagawa & Lynn Cohen – oboe
Susan Charlton – flute • Kerry Heimann – keyboards

The April Bach at Noon concert was named in honor of the singers of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem during the 100th Bach Festival Season, 2006–2007, and all Bach Choir alumni. The concert is supported in part by generous endowment gifts from these choir members and choir alumni who have given of their treasure as well as their time and talent so that future generations of musicians and listeners can enjoy Bach at Noon.

Second Tuesdays

* 12:10–1:00pm

Bach at Noon returns
to Allentown in June!

Next Bach at Noon
Tuesday,
June 9, 2026
St. John's Lutheran Church
Downtown Allentown



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



J.S. Bach | Motet *O Jesu Christ, meus Lebens Licht*, BWV 118

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger
– Martin Behm (1557–1622)

O Jesu Christ, mein's Lebens Licht
mein Hort, mein Trost, mein Zuversicht,
auf Erden bin ich nur ein Gast
und drückt mich sehr der Sünden Last.

*Of Jesus Christ, light of my life,
my refuge, my consolation, my trust;
in this world I am but a guest
and the burden of sin weighs heavily upon me.*

W.A. Mozart | *Exsultate, jubilate*, K. 165

– Translation by Grant Hicks, ©2025

1. Allegro

Exsultate, jubilate,
o vos animae beatae!
Dulcia cantica canendo,
cantui vestro respondendo,
psallant aethera cum me.

*Rejoice and be glad
O blessed souls!
Intoning sweet songs,
Responding to your music,
The heavens sing with me.*

2. Secco recitativo

Fulget amica dies,
iam fugere et nubila et procellae;
exortus est justis inexpectata quies.
Undique obscura regnabat nox;
surgite tandem laeti,
qui timuistis adhuc,
et iucundi aurorae fortunatae
frondes dextera plena et lilia date.

*Benevolent day shines forth,
Clouds and storms now flee away;
An unexpected quiet has arisen for the just.
Dark night reigned all around;
Rise up at last, joyful,
You who until now were afraid,
And, rejoicing, offer to the blessed dawn,
With a full hand, lilies and garlands of leaves.*

3. Andante

Tu, virginum corona,
tu nobis pacem dona.
Tu consolare affectus,
unde suspirat cor.

*O crown of virgins,
Grant us peace.
Soothe the passions
That make the heart sigh.*

4. Allegro

Alleluja.

Alleluia.



This month marks our final Bethlehem Bach at Noon program of the 2025–2026, with concerts returning to Bethlehem in September.

This summer, join us in Allentown beginning June 9 at St. John's Lutheran Church. We're pleased to welcome internationally renowned classical guitarist Eliot Fisk, who will present a program pairing Bach with works by 20th-century Italian composer Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco.

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.

ELIZABETH FIELD, violin, distinguished for her passionate and stylistic playing on both period and modern instruments, is the founder of The Vivaldi Project whose highly acclaimed recordings of unknown 18th-century string trios titled *Discovering the Classical String Trio* are currently available on MSR Classics records. Field has been concertmaster of Bach Festival Orchestra for over 20 years and has performed as guest concertmaster with a wide variety of ensembles throughout the U.S., from Washington D.C.'s acclaimed Washington Bach Consort to Opera Lafayette. She also performed and recorded extensively with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Field holds a Doctorate in Historical Performance Practice from Cornell University and has held professorships at Sacramento State University and the University of California at Davis. She is currently on faculty at George Washington University. Her DVD with fortepianist Malcolm Bilson, *Performing the Score*, has been hailed by Emanuel Ax as both “truly inspiring” and “authoritative.” Seen and Heard International proclaimed that Field “played so thrillingly that if Mendelssohn had heard Field play he would have written her a concerto too.” For more information, please visit thevivaldiproject.org

LINDA KISTLER, violin, maintains a busy concert schedule playing both modern and Baroque violin. She has appeared as soloist and concertmaster with the Bach Festival Orchestra and the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra. In addition, she is a member of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, and the Vox Amadeus Ensemble of Philadelphia. Kistler has performed solo recitals at Moravian University and at the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Musikfest. Her chamber music engagements have included the Moravian String Quartet and guest appearances with the Gabriel Ensemble of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania; Mélomanie of Wilmington, Delaware; and La Fiocco of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. As a teacher, she has served on the faculty of Lehigh University, Cedar Crest College, Kutztown University, and the Lehigh Valley Charter School for the Performing Arts. She currently maintains a private studio, is an artist-lecturer at Moravian University, and teaches violin and viola at Lafayette College and Allentown's Community Music School. Kistler was trained at the Oberlin College Conservatory (BM), and at the Juilliard School (MM).

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 CPE Bach cello concerto in A minor, the Vivaldi concerto for two cellos, and Sarah Quartet's *Snow Angel* for solo cello and children's choir. In collaboration with Francine Ringold, former Poet Laureate of Oklahoma, she set several poems for solo cello entitled “Bird Songs.”

SUSAN CHARLTON, flute, is originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with degrees in Flute Performance, and Chamber Music Studies and Performance and has studied and coached with flutists and other instrumental and vocal performing artists throughout the United States. She has received performance awards from the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association and National Flute Association, has appeared as featured concerto soloist with a variety of orchestras throughout the Upper Midwest, and has performed with orchestras and chamber ensembles on the East Coast. In the Lehigh Valley she performs with the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra and Bach Festival Orchestra. She serves as Instructor of Flute at Lafayette College and maintains an active private teaching studio.

KERRY HEIMANN, keyboards, has been president of the American Boychoir School and accompanied the choir's almost 100 annual concerts, coordinating an extensive international touring and recording schedule. With degrees in organ performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Heimann earned his doctoral degree in harpsichord and early music from Illinois, with a minor in choral conducting. His principal teachers have included Charlotte Mattax, Michael Farris, and Chet Alwes, and he received several awards, including the prestigious Theodore Presser Award and the Pi Kappa Lambda National Honor Society in Music. A widely sought-after accompanist, conductor, and collaborator, Heimann has played at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Kennedy Center and performed at festivals throughout Europe and North America, such as the Spoleto Festival and the Festival de Lanaudière. He helped found the Baroque Artists of Champaign-Urbana and served as producer for Charlotte Mattax's six CDs of harpsichord works. He has performed at national and regional conferences for the American Choral Directors Association, the Society for Seventeenth Century Music, and the Organization of American Kodaly Educators. In addition, Heimann serves as Operations Manager for Princeton University Concerts, Director of Music for Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton, and Rehearsal Accompanist/Assistant Conductor of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem.

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**.



Bethlehem Bach Festival

Celebrating Bach's genius, legacy, and living influence at our Outside the Bachs concert series on the opening day of the Festival.

Experience the energy of **GRAMMY Award-winning TIME FOR THREE**, where Bach meets Americana in unexpected and exhilarating ways.

MAY 7 at 7pm

Musikfest Café

- ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks
- Tickets: \$40
- 610-866-4382 x 110/115 Bach.org/tickets



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Central Moravian Church Tours

Following each of our monthly Bethlehem Bach at Noon concerts at Central Moravian Church, guests are invited to stay for a free guided tour of this historic sanctuary. Built between 1803–1806, this remarkable space is the third place of worship for Bethlehem's Moravian community. Meet in the West Room following the concert.

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 concerts are also broadcast twice per month on WDIY, the Bach Choir's community partner in the Lehigh Valley. Concerts air on an episode of WDIY Classics, weekdays at 10am, and Hearing Voices, Sundays at 7pm. Check WDIY's website and social media pages for air dates. Listen on 88.1 FM, wdiy.org, or the WDIY app.

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:
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

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