



2026 BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVAL HANDBOOK



Take the shuttle, Leave the driving to us!

Shuttle Bus Services includes two school buses and
one van with door-to-door service!

SouthSide Parking

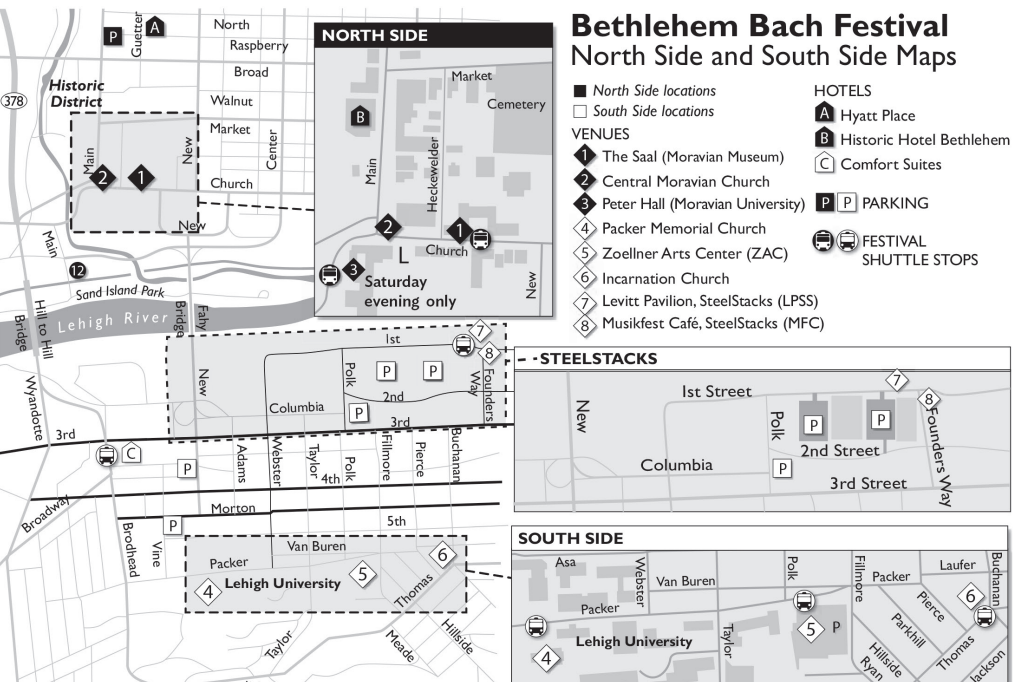
- **Zoellner Arts Center Parking Garage:** \$10 per day / see map
- **New Street Garage:** \$2/hr or up to \$10 per day. *324 N. New Street.*
- **Alumni Pavilion, Lehigh:** \$1/hr. *615 Brodhead Ave..*
- **Polk Street Garage:** metered at \$1 per hour, payment options include credit/debit cards.
- **On-Street:** metered at \$1 per hour, payment options include credit/debit cards.

North Side Parking

- **North Street Parking Garage:** \$2/hr or up to \$10/day. *85 W. North Street.*
- **Walnut Street Parking Garage:** \$1/hr or up to \$10/day. *33 W. Walnut Street.*
- **Lehigh Street Lot:** adjacent to The Wooden Match. *61 W. Lehigh Street.*
- **Old York Road Lot:** (Municipal Lot 1). \$1/hr

PARKING IS VERY LIMITED!

Please allow extra time and make your plans accordingly using the parking options listed above.



Shuttle Services

Please refer to the above map and to the routes on the following pages to use the shuttles available throughout the Bethlehem Bach Festival.

Shuttles travel between performance venues and to hotels on the North and South sides of Bethlehem, specifically Comfort Suites University and Historic Hotel Bethlehem.

Shuttle Services to and from all events at the following locations:

- The Saal of the Moravian Museum • Central Moravian Church
- Peter Hall • Packer Memorial Church • Zoellner Arts Center
- Incarnation Church • Levitt Pavilion, SteelStacks
- Musikfest Cafe, SteelStacks

Shuttle Schedule

**tickets required*

Thursday, MAY 7

Historic District shuttle pick up/drop off will be in front of the Saal/Moravian Museum on Church Street.

TO Time for Three • 7pm, Musikfest Café • ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks (MFC)

6pm Historic District → Comfort Suites → (MFC) (2 trips)

FROM Time for Three • Musikfest Café • ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks (MFC)

8:30pm MFC → Comfort Suites → Historic District (2 trips)

Friday, MAY 8

Historic District shuttle pick up/drop off will be in front of the Saal/Moravian Museum on Church Street.

TO Video Viewing • 11am, Zoellner Arts Center (ZAC)

10:15am Bus 1 & 2 Historic District → Comfort Suites → (ZAC) (2 trips)

TO Distinguished Scholar Lecture • 2pm, Zoellner Arts Center

1pm Bus 1 Historic District → Comfort Suites → ZAC

1:20pm Bus 2 Historic District → Comfort Suites → ZAC

TO Bach at 4 • Incarnation Church

2:45pm Bus 1 Historic District → Comfort Suites → ZAC
→ Incarnation Church → Hotels *Note: Use this bus to return to hotels following the lecture at Zoellner*

3pm Bus 2 ZAC → Incarnation Church (Continuous loop)

TO Festival Dinner* • 5:45pm, ZAC

5:10pm Bus 1 Historic District → Comfort Suites → ZAC

5:15pm Bus 2 Incarnation Church → ZAC → Comfort Suites

TO Bach at 8 • Packer Memorial Church

7pm Bus 1 Historic District → Comfort Suites
→ Packer Church (2 trips)

7pm Bus 2 ZAC → Packer Church (continuous loop)

FROM Festival Dinner* TO Hotels/Historic District (for guests not attending Bach at 8)

7:30pm Bus 1 ZAC → Comfort Suites → Historic District

FROM Bach at 8 • Packer Memorial Church

Continuous loop will run until 10:30pm

9:30pm Bus 1 Packer Church → Historic District (Continuous loop)

9:30pm Bus 2 Packer Church → ZAC → Comfort Suites (Continuous loop)

Saturday, MAY 9

Historic District shuttle pick up/drop off will be in front of Saal/Moravian Museum on Church Street.

TO Guarantor Breakfast • 8:30am, Zoellner Arts Center (ZAC)

8am Bus 1 Historic District → Comfort Suites → ZAC

8:30am Bus 2 Historic District → Comfort Suites → ZAC

TO Ifor Jones Saturday Morning Concert • 10:30am, ZAC

9:30am Bus 1 Historic District → Comfort Suites → ZAC

9:45am Bus 2 Historic District → Comfort Suites → ZAC

FROM Ifor Jones TO Hotels/Historic District

11:45am Bus 1 ZAC → Comfort Suites → Historic District

TO Festival Luncheon* • 12:30pm, Zoellner Arts Center (ZAC)

11:30am Bus 2 Historic District → Comfort Suites → ZAC (2 tr

TO Mass in B Minor • 2:30pm, Packer Memorial Church

1:15pm Bus 1 Historic District → Comfort Suites
→ Packer Church (2 trips)

1:15pm Bus 2 ZAC → Packer Church (Continuous loop)

FROM Mass in B Minor • Packer Memorial Church

5:30pm Bus 1 Packer Church → Comfort Suites
→ Historic District (2 trips)

5:30pm Bus 2 Packer Church → ZAC (Continuous loop)

TO Zimmermann's Coffee House* • 7pm, Peter Hall

6pm Bus 1 Comfort Suites → Peter Hall (2 trips)

FROM Zimmermann's Coffee House*

9:30pm Bus 1 Peter Hall → Comfort Suites (2 trips)

Sunday, MAY 10

Historic District shuttle pick up/drop off will be in front of Saal/Moravian Museum on Church Street.

TO Chamber Music in the Saal • 11am, Moravian Museum

10am Bus 2 Comfort Suites → Historic District

FROM Chamber Music in the Saal

12:15pm Bus 1 Historic District → Comfort Suites

TO The Testament of Freedom • 2:30pm, Levitt Pavilion at SteelStacks (LPSS)

1:30pm Historic District → Comfort Suites → LPSS (2 trips)

FROM The Testament of Freedom, Levitt Pavilion at SteelStac (LPSS)

3:30pm LPSS → Comfort Suites → Historic District (2 trips)

Join us for these free, non-ticketed events!

Bach Choir Films from the Archives | Friday, May 8th at 11am

Room 145, Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University

Take a cinematic journey through the history of the Bach Choir with Archivist Cory Dieterly as he presents a curated selection of rare and treasured films from the Choir's archives - featuring behind-the-scenes moments, landmark performances, and glimpses into the people and passion that have shaped our story for over 125 years.

Barnette Distinguished Scholar Lecture | Friday, May 9th at 2pm

Room 145, Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University

Building on her groundbreaking book *Moravian Soundscapes: A Sonic History of the Moravian Missions in Early Pennsylvania*, Dr. Eyerly explores how sound shaped colonial encounters and spiritual life in the 18th Century. Eyerly delves into the rich interplay between J.S. Bach's musical legacy and the early Moravian traditions transplanted to Pennsylvania. You'll discover how Bach's compositions resonated with the Moravian communal singing practices, and her lecture highlights how Bach's influence traveled not only through text but also in the act of listening and living within complex acoustic environments.

Chorale Sing | Friday, May 9th at 3:30pm

Incarnation of Our Lord Church

Join Conductor Christopher Jackson and members of the choir to sing Bach chorales prior to the Bach at 4 concert. Singers of all levels welcome, sheet music provided!

The Bel Canto Youth Chorus | Saturday, May 10th at 11:45am

Zoellner Arts Center Lobby

Talented Bel Canto Youth Chorus singers showcase season accomplishments for Festival audiences directly following the conclusion of the Ifor Jones concert.

Chorale Sing | Saturday, May 10th at 2pm

Mainstreet Brass Tent near Packer Church

Friends and chorale enthusiasts gather outdoors near Packer Memorial Church to sing Bach chorales for 20 minutes with Conductor Christopher Jackson and members of the Bach Choir, accompanied by the Festival Brass Choir.

Christian Family Lovefeast | Sunday, May 10th

9am - Old Chapel / 11am - Central Moravian Church

We are excited to share an additional offering this Festival, a special partnership with Central Moravian Church for the Christian Family Lovefeast, a cherished tradition in the Moravian Church. Join us for a celebration that draws from the Christian practice of the “agape meal,” a shared community meal. This inclusive event features a song service and the serving of Lovefeast buns and coffee or juice. Enjoy musical meditations from Central’s choir as we celebrate God’s diverse creation and inclusive welcome of all families.

The Testament to Freedom | Sunday, May 10th

2:30pm - Levitt Pavilion at SteelStacks

In a landmark collaboration for America’s Semiquincentennial, two of the Lehigh Valley’s most storied musical institutions – the Allentown Band, under the direction of Ron Demkee, and the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, under the direction of Conductor Christopher Jackson, join forces for a powerful musical tribute to freedom, heritage, and service.

FAQs

Where are the restrooms on the campus of Lehigh University?

Zoellner Arts Center offers restrooms on level. There are no restrooms in Packer Church, but Packard Lab, adjacent to Packer Church, has restrooms. There are also restrooms in the STEPS Building (across Packer Ave.)

Where can I drop off my handicapped companions around Packer Church?

University Walk - in front of Packer Memorial Church - will be open to vehicles for drop-offs. No parking is allowed. Please use this for handicapped patrons and those who cannot walk long distances. Drivers must move vehicles to legal parking spaces. A wheelchair will be available at the drop-off point.

I’ve forgotten, lost, or misplaced my tickets. Can I get a replacement set?

Yes! Please visit the ticket table in the lobby of the concert venue, or the tent outside of Packer Church. Tickets will also be for sale at these locations prior to each concert.

How do I get onto Route 22/Route 78?

Visit bach.org/directions-parking for basic directions to all concert venue, or call the Bach Choir Office at 610.866.4382. Information will also be available under the tent outside Packer Church during Festival

Hotel Partners

Best Western

300 Gateway Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017
610.866.5800

Comfort Suites

120 W. Third Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015
610.882.9700

Historic Hotel Bethlehem

437 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018
610.625.5000

Hyatt Place Bethlehem

45 W. North Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018
610.625.0500

Candlewood Suites

1630 Spillman Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015
610.849.4100

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites

3375 High Point Blvd., Bethlehem, PA 18017
610.882.2255

Homewood Suites by Hilton

3350 Center Valley Parkway, Center Valley, PA 18034
610.351.6400

Springhill Suites

3800 West Drive, Center Valley, PA 18034
610.709.9797

Thank you to our sponsors!

The Bach Choir gratefully acknowledges all of our sponsors, including these generous companies and organizations for their support as the principal sponsors of our concerts, programs, and special projects this season.



The Bach Choir is supported in part by



County of Lehigh



County of Northampton
Hotel Tax Grant Program



Thank you to our Guarantors

We want to specifically acknowledge our Guarantors for their steadfast and enthusiastic annual support, which provides for the basic needs of the Bach Choir each season. Thank you for helping us make and share great music with the world for more than a century!



2026-2027 SEASON

Adventure On!

- **BACH AT NOON** ■ Second Tuesdays 12:10-1pm
St. John's Lutheran Church ■ Downtown Allentown
2026 ■ June 9 July 14 August 11
Central Moravian Church ■ Historic Downtown Bethlehem
2026 ■ September 8 October 13 November 10
2027 ■ January 12 February 9 March 9 April 13

- **13TH BIENNIAL BACH VOCAL COMPETITION FOR AMERICAN SINGERS**

- October 24, 2026 Peter Hall, Moravian University

- **Christmas Concerts** ■ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

J.S. Bach – *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 248/1 –
“Jauchzet, frohlocket!”

Benedict Sheehan – *A Christmas Carol*
– narrated by Jason King Jones

- Saturday, December 12, 2026 at 4pm
Muhlenberg College Egnor Memorial Chapel, Allentown
- Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 4pm
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

- **Greg Funfgeld Family Concert**
MUSIC AND SCIENCE
in collaboration with the Da Vinci Science Center

- Saturday, February 20, 2027 at 5:30 and 7pm
Da Vinci Science Center, Allentown

- **Spring Concert** ■ **PATH OF MIRACLES**
Joby Talbott – *Path of Miracles*

- Sunday, March 21, 2027 at 4pm ■ TBD

- **119TH BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVAL**

- May 13-16, 2027 ■ Lehigh University & sites
in Historic & South Side Bethlehem

- **BACHFEST Leipzig 2027 Tour**

- June 8-15, 2027 ■ BACHFEST Leipzig
- June 6-15, 2027 Patron Tour



Kelly Rocchi, Director
Alaina Swartz, Youth Chorale Conductor
Erica Silver, Da Capo Treble Choir Conductor
Margaret Surdovel, Bach Buddies Conductor

CONCERT SEASON

WINTER CONCERT

- Sunday, November 22, 2026 at 2 and 4:30pm
Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem

BEL CANTO SCHOLARSHIP RECITAL

- Sunday, January 24, 2027 at 4pm
Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

SPRING CONCERT

- Sunday, April 11, 2027 at 4pm
Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

BACH.org/BelCanto



Bel Canto Youth Chorus Ensembles

- Concert Choir (Grade 9–12+) Advanced SATB ensemble
- Youth Chorale (Grade 5+) Intermediate mixed voice ensemble
- Da Capo Treble Choir (Grade 3+) Introductory treble ensemble
- Bach Buddies (Grade K–2) Play-based singing experience for beginners
- + Spring Music Workshop Series For students ages 13–18

Contact belcanto@bach.org to register, or scan the QR code.

Financial Assistance applications available for all programs!



A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE. WARM & WELCOMING ENSEMBLES. COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMMING.

Let Freedom Sing ☆ May 27, 2026

7pm ☆ Coca-Cola Park

An awe-inspiring choral celebration uniting thousands of voices from across the Lehigh Valley in celebration of America250, co-hosted by the Bach Choir of Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley IronPigs!

This festive musical event includes performances from over 30 choirs, intermissions featuring the IronPigs' dynamic on-field entertainment and a special performance by the Bach Choir. The grand finale brings all participants together in a powerful sing-along, culminating in an in-stadium fireworks display. All attendees will receive a commemorative baseball hat!

Interested in singing in the event? Join our one-night-only "We the People" Come All Choir! As a member of the "We the People" Come All Choir, you will have access to digital practice materials, sheet music, and resources to prepare for the event. **Contact Alaina Swartz** at aswartz@bach.org or (610) 866-4382 ext. 116.



Tickets: Scan the code!





THE 119TH BETHLEHEM BACH FESTIVAL AWAITS!

Make your plans to share this glorious music once again with your friends and family. We're extremely grateful for your loyal support and are proud to share our passion for Johann Sebastian Bach's music with so many of you for many years. Reserve your hotel rooms today and join us for this remarkable and joyous annual Festival.

May 13-16, 2027

Join us next season as we perform Bach's St. Matthew Passion in celebration of the 300th anniversary of this monumental masterwork!