



Members of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem
& Bach Festival Orchestra

Dr. Christopher Jackson, Artistic Director & Conductor
present *Bach at Noon in Bethlehem*

150th BACH at NOON

A Gift of Music & Spiritual Refreshment



SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 – PROGRAM | 12:10–1:00pm

Central Moravian Church, Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Translations by H. Ellis Finger

The September Bach at Noon is supported in part by a generous endowment gift from Katherine S. Merle-Smith Thomas and is named in her honor.

Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741) | Concerto for violin and orchestra, RV 208 “Grosso Mogul”

– Danqi Zeng – violin

Allegro Grave – Recitativo Allegro

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) | Sonata No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1005

– Danqi Zeng – violin

Largo Allegro assai

J.S. Bach | Wer sich selbst erhöhet, der soll erniedriget werden, BWV 47

– Elizabeth Field – violin

1. Chorus

Wer sich selbst erhöhet, der soll erniedriget werden,
und wer sich selbst erniedriget, der soll erhöht werden.
(Luke 14:11)

*Whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and whoever embraces humility will be exalted.*

2. Aria (Soprano)

Wer ein wahrer Christ will heissen,
muss der Demut sich befeissen;
Demut stammt aus Jesu Reich.
Hoffart ist dem Teufel gleich;
Gott pflegt alle die zu hassen,
so den Stolz nicht fahrenlassen.

*Whoever longs to be called a true Christian
must strive to practice humility;
Humility comes from Jesus' kingdom,
arrogance is of the Devil;
God is practiced in hating all those
who do not cast away pride.*

3. Recitative (Bass)

Der Mensch ist Kot, Staub, Asch und Erde;
ist's möglich, dass vom Übermut,
als einer Teufelsbrut,
er noch bezaubert werde?
Ach Jesus, Gottes Sohn,
der Schöpfer aller Dinge,

*Mankind is dung, dust, ash, and dirt;
is it possible that through overbearing thought,
as if by a brood of devils,
he might yet be beguiled?
Ah Jesus, Son of God,
Creator of all things,*

ward unsretwegen niedrig und geringe,
 er duldte Schmach und Hohn;
 und du, du armer Wurm, suchst dich zu brüsten?
 Gehört sich das vor einen Christen?
 Geh, schäme dich, du stolze Kreatur,
 tu Buss und folge Christi Spur;
 wirf dich vor Gott im Geiste gläubig nieder!
 Zu seiner Zeit erhöht er dich auch wieder.

was made humble and petty for our sake,
 enduring shame and scorn;
 and you, you meager worm, presume to be boastful?
 Is this fitting conduct for a Christian?
 Go, in shame, you proud creature.
 Do penance and follow Christ's path;
 cast yourself at God's feet in faithful belief!
 In his own time he will raise you up again.

4. Aria (Bass)

Jesu, beuge doch mein Herze
 unter deine starke Hand,
 dass ich nicht mein Heil verscherze
 wie der erste Höllenbrand.
 Lass mich deine Demut suchen
 und den Hochmut ganz verfluchen;
 gib mir einen niedern Sinn,
 dass ich dir gefällig bin!

Jesus, incline my heart
 beneath your mighty hand,
 that I not toss away my salvation
 as with the original damnation.
 Grant that I embrace your humility
 and fully denounce arrogance;
 bestow on me a lowly heart,
 that I might be pleasing to you.

5. Chorale

Der zeitlichen Ehrn will ich gern entbehren,
 du wollst mir nur das Ewge gewähren,
 das du erworben hast
 durch deinen herben, bitteren Tod.
 Das bitt ich dich, mein Herr und Gott.
 ("Warum betrübst du dich, mein Herz?" verse 11)

Worldly honor I shall gladly forsake,
 if only you might grant me eternal gain,
 which you attained
 through your grievous, painful death.
 This I pray of you, my Lord and God.

J.S. Bach | No. 7 Chorale from *Sie werden aus Saba alle kommen*, BWV 65

Soprano

Ei nun, mein Gott, so fall' ich dir ge-trost in dei-ne Hän-de,
 nimm mich, und mach' es so mit mir bis an mein letz-tes En-de:
 If now, O Lord, it pleas-es Thee to take me in Thy keep-ing,
 pro- tect Thou me and let this be 'til I in death am sleep-ing;

Alto

Ei nun, mein Gott, so fall' ich dir ge-trost in dei-ne Hän-de,
 nimm mich, und mach' es so mit mir bis an mein letz-tes En-de:
 If now, O Lord, it pleas-es Thee to take me in Thy keep-ing,
 pro- tect Thou me and let this be 'til I in death am sleep-ing;

Tenor

Ei nun, mein Gott, so fall' ich dir ge-trost in dei-ne Hän-de,
 nimm mich, und mach' es so mit mir bis an mein letz-tes En-de:
 If now, O Lord, it pleas-es Thee to take me in Thy keep-ing,
 pro- tect Thou me and let this be 'til I in death am sleep-ing;

Bass

Ei nun, mein Gott, so fall' ich dir ge-trost in dei-ne Hän-de,
 nimm mich, und mach' es so mit mir bis an mein letztes En-de:
 If now, O Lord, it pleas-es Thee to take me in Thy keep-ing,
 pro- tect Thou me and let this be 'til I in death am sleep-ing;

wie du wohl weisst, — dass mei_nem Geist da_durch sein Weg ent - ste -
 my heart and soul — do Thou con - trol; they are of Thy cre - a -

wie du wohl weisst, — dass mei_nem Geist da_durch sein Weg ent - ste -
 my heart and soul — do Thou con - trol; they are of Thy cre - a -

wie du wohl weisst, — dass mei_nem Geist da_durch sein Weg ent - ste -
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wie du wohl weisst, — dass mei_nem Geist da_durch sein Weg ent - ste -
 my heart and soul — do Thou con - trol; they are of Thy cre - a -

he, und dei_ne Ehr' je mehr und mehr sich in mir selbst — er - hö - he.
 tion, so all my days I sing Thy praise in heart - felt a - do - ra - tion.

he, und dei_ne Ehr' je mehr und mehr sich in mir selbst — er - hö - he.
 tion, so all my days I sing Thy praise in heart - felt a - do - ra - tion.

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he, und dei_ne Ehr' je mehr und mehr sich in mir selbst er - hö - he.
 tion, so all my days I sing Thy praise in heart - felt a - do - ra - tion.

Soloists

- Anika Kildegaard, soprano | Steven Eddy, bass
- Danqi Zeng – violin (2025 Grand Prize winner of the Lillian & Maurice Barbash International J.S. Bach Competition)

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

Elizabeth Field, Linda Kistler, Stephani Bell,
Inna Ezyerovich, Rebecca Brown & Julie Bougher – violin
Agnès Maurer & Nina Falk – viola
Rebecca Humphrey – cello
Daniel McDougall – bass
Nobuo Kitagawa & Lynne Cohen – oboe
Kerry Heimann – harpsichord & organ

Lillian & Maurice Barbash International J.S. Bach Competition

Established in 2019 to honor Long Island arts advocates Lillian and Maurice “Murray” Barbash, the annual Lillian and Maurice Barbash J.S. Bach Competition welcomes string players ages 16 to 30 from around the world to perform Bach’s unaccompanied sonatas, partitas, and suites on modern or Baroque instruments. The Grand Prize winner receives \$10,000 and paid engagements with several distinguished musical organizations, including the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. The competition gives exceptional young musicians both international recognition and valuable opportunities to share their artistry with new audiences.



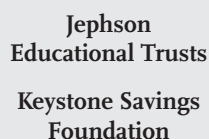
Use the QR code to read
the soloists' biographies.

Next Bach at Noon Concert! Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Central Moravian Church, Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Next month, Daniel McCarthy joins us for October’s Bach at Noon, bringing several historical instruments from the viola family to the program. He will perform Bach’s *Sonata for Viola da Gamba in G Major*, BWV 1027, on tenor viola, followed by *Tritt auf die Glaubensbahn*, BWV 152, one of Bach’s few cantatas featuring the viola d’amore and part of the Bach Choir’s spotlight concert at the 2027 Bachfest Leipzig.

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem gratefully acknowledges our Bach at Noon corporate and foundation sponsors.
Thank you to our Bach Choir Guarantors for their ongoing support.



The Bach Choir is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts



Bach at Noon – A Musical Gift to Our Community since 2005

“Hearing Bach’s music interpreted by the Choir and Orchestra is a little piece of heaven on Earth.”

– Dean Bartholomew, Bach at Noon, 2011

In honor of the 150th Bethlehem Bach at Noon, we invite you to make an additional contribution today to support Bach at Noon as part of our Heart of the Bach Choir three-year campaign.

Our community has warmly embraced our Bach at Noon freewill concert series since it was first introduced in January of 2005 by former Artistic Director & Conductor Greg Funfgeld.

Since then, this priceless musical gift to the community has been attracting thousands of people who have made it a tradition to attend Bach at Noon concerts to enjoy a moment of exceptional musical enrichment, fellowship, and joy.

As we celebrate the **150th Bethlehem Bach at Noon** this month, we invite you to help carry this extraordinary tradition into the future by making an additional gift to our Bach at Noon Funds.

You may designate your gift to the **Bach at Noon Operations Fund** to provide for the ongoing costs of these concerts and to cover costs for additional musicians and vocalists required for some performances.

Your gifts to our **Bach at Noon Endowment Fund** will provide lasting support for this series over time and will allow us to plan for future enhancements and expenses.

As part of our **Heart of the Bach Choir** three-year campaign, your Bach at Noon donations will ensure that these exceptional, enriching concerts remain free and accessible to our community for generations to come.

Together, we can make sure that the Bach at Noon tradition continues to bring people together through the extraordinary power of music. *Please give generously!*



Contributions are accepted by mail, phone, online at Bach.org/donate, or contribute through the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. We accept donations by check, by mail, by credit card, or donations through your DAF or IRA distribution.



I am glad to support the HEART of the CHOIR campaign with a total pledge of

\$ _____

☐ **General Operating Support:** Provides for our annual financial needs

☐ *Designated for _____

☐ **Endowment Fund Support:** Provides for our long-term needs and goals

☐ *Designated for _____

☐ Please contact me to discuss my interest in supporting the Heart of the Choir campaign.

For more information, visit BACH.org/donate or contact the Development Director at 610-866-4382, ext. 113

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
Bach Choir Tax ID: 24-0795385

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Please return this form to: The Bach Choir of Bethlehem
440 Heckewelder Place | Bethlehem, PA 18018