Members of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem
& Bach Festival Orchestra
Dr. Christopher Jackson, Artistic Director & Conductor
present Bach at Noon in Bethlehem



BACH at NOON

A Gift of Music & Spiritual Refreshment

NOVEMBER 10, 2026 – PROGRAM | 12:10–1:00pm

Central Moravian Church, Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Translations by H. Ellis Finger

The November Bach at Noon concert was named in honor of Greg Funfgeld in celebration of his 25th season as the sixth conductor of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, his extraordinary vision, including the initiation of Bach at Noon, and the phenomenal growth and development of the Choir's program and artistry under his leadership. The concert is named and supported in part by a generous endowment gift from Donald and Christine Wertman.

Arcangelo Corelli (1653–1713) | *Concerto Grosso in G Minor*, Op. 6, No. 8 (Christmas Concerto)

– Elizabeth Field & Linda Kistler – violin | Loretta O'Sullivan – cello | Nobuo Kitagawa – oboe
Tricia van Oers & Rainer Beckmann – recorder

1. *Vivace – Grave* 2. *Allegro* 3. *Adagio – Allegro – Adagio* 4. *Vivace* 5. *Allegro* 6. *Largo Pastorale (ad libitum)*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) | *Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot*, BWV 39

First Part

1. Chorus

Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot	*Share your bread with the hungry,*
und die, so im Elend sind, führe ins Haus!	*and those who are suffering invite into your house!*
So du einen nacket siehest, so kleide ihn	*When you see a naked one, clothe him*
und entzeuch dich nicht von deinem Fleisch.	*and do not shy away from your own body.*
Alsdenn wird dein Licht herfür brechen	*And then your light*
wie die Morgenröte,	*will break forth like the dawn,*
und deine Besserung wird schnell wachsen,	*and your healing will speedily grow,*
und deine Gerechtigkeit wird für dir hergehen,	*and your righteousness will go before you,*
und die Herrlichkeit des Herrn wird dich zu sich nehmen.	*and the glory of the Lord will enfold you.*
(Isaiah 58:7-8)	

2. Recitative (Bass)

Der reiche Gott wirft seinen Überfluss	*The God of riches pours out his abundance*
auf uns, die wir ohn ihn	*upon us, who without him*
auch nicht den Odem haben.	*would have no living breath.*
Sein ist es, was wir sind;	*It is his being by which we exist;*
er gibt nur den Genuss	*he gives only the pleasure ,*
doch nicht, dass uns allein	*but not such that we alone*
nur seine Schätze laben.	*should savor his treasures.*
Sie sind der Probestein,	*They are the touchstone*
wodurch er macht bekannt,	*by which he makes known*
dass er der Armut	*that he has provided,*

auch die Notdurft ausgespendet,
als er mit milder Hand,
was jener nötig ist,
uns reichlich zugewendet.
Wir sollen Ihm für sein gelehntes Gut
die Zinse nicht in seine Scheuren bringen;
Barmherzigkeit, die auf dem Nächsten ruht,
kann mehr als alle Gab ihn
an das Herze dringen.

for poverty's dire threat
as he with his gentle hand
generously provides
for each one's needs,
we should not repay his loaned gifts
with interest returned to his storehouse;
compassion resting with one's neighbor
can surpass all gifts
in gaining entry to his heart.

3. Aria (Alto)

Seinem Schöpfer noch auf Erden
nur im Schatten ähnlich werden,
ist im Vorschmack selig sein.
Sein Erbarmen nachzuahmen,
streuet hier des Segens Samen,
den wir dorten bringen ein.

To be like one's creator
while still on Earth, though in shadows,
is a foretaste of blessedness.
In taking his mercy as your example
is to scatter seeds of blessing here,
that we may harvest when there.

Second Part

4. Aria (Bass)

Wohlzutun und mitzuteilen vergesset nicht;
denn solche Opfer gefallen Gott wohl.
(Hebrews 13:16)

Do not neglect doing good and sharing;
for such are offerings pleasing to God.

5. Aria (Soprano)

Höchster, was ich habe,
ist nur deine Gabe.
Wenn vor deinem Angesicht
ich schon mit dem meinen
dankbar wollt erscheinen,
willt du doch kein Opfer nicht.

Most high, all that I have
is but a gift from you.
If before your countenance
I should wish to be thankful
with what is yours,
you would expect nothing in return.

6. Recitative (Alto)

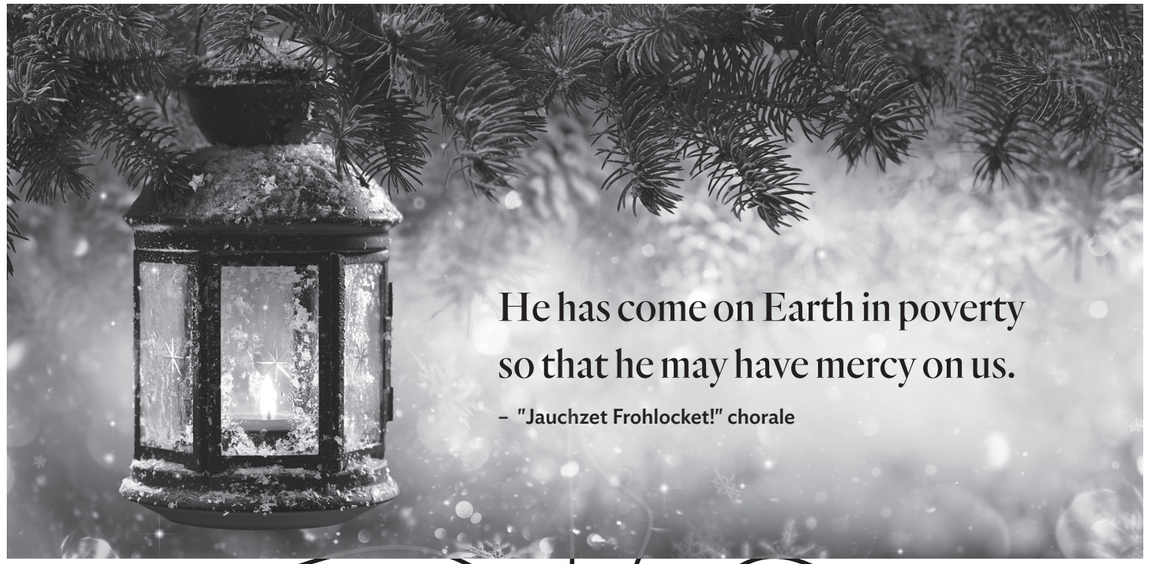
Wie soll ich dir, o Herr,
denn sattsamlich vergelten,
was du an Leib und Seel
mir hast zugutgetan?
Ja, was ich noch empfang,
und solches gar nicht selten,
weil ich mich jede Stund
noch deiner rühmen kann?
Ich hab nichts als den Geist,
dir eigen zu ergeben,
dem Nächsten die Begierd,
dass ich ihm dienstbar werd,
der Armut, was du mir gegönnt
in diesem Leben,
und, wenn es dir gefällt,
den schwachen Leib der Erd.
ich bringe, was ich kann, Herr,
lass es dir behagen,
dass ich, was du versprichst,
auch einst davon mög tragen.

How shall I, O Lord,
fairly repay you
for what you have entrusted
to me in body and soul?
Indeed what I now receive,
and not in meager ways,
is such that I should
ever praise you?
I have nothing but my spiritual life
to offer you;
to my neighbor the desire
to be of service to him;
to poverty, all that you have
entrusted to me in this life;
and if it pleases you,
my frail body to the earth.
I bring to you what I can,
as it gives you comfort,
so that I some day may gain from it
what you have promised.

7. Chorale

Selig sind, die aus Erbarmen
sich annehmen fremder Not,
sind mitleidig mit den Armen,
bitten treulich für sie Gott.
Die behülflich sind mit Rat,
auch, womöglich, mit der Tat,
werden wieder Hülf empfangen
und Barmherzigkeit erlangen.

Blessed are they who, through compassion,
take on the needs of others,
are caring with the poor,
praying faithfully to God on their behalf.
Those who are helpful with counsel,
also, where possible, in deed,
shall in turn receive help
and attain blessedness.



He has come on Earth in poverty
so that he may have mercy on us.

– "Jauchzet Frohlocket!" chorale



SOLOISTS

Nola Richardson *soprano*
Aryssa Leigh Burrs *mezzo-soprano*
Isaiah Bell *tenor*
Steven Eddy *bass*

NARRATOR

Jason King Jones



PA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A Christmas Carol

Celebrate the Christmas season with music of joy and wonder. Our program opens with J.S. Bach's uplifting "Jauchzet, frohlocket!," the first cantata of his *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 248, filled with festive celebrations and tender reverence. The concert continues with a new musical setting of *A Christmas Carol* by GRAMMY-nominated composer and Lehigh Valley resident Benedict Sheehan, a vivid choral retelling of Dickens' timeless holiday classic. Narrated by Jason King Jones of the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, this performance brings together a Baroque masterpiece and a contemporary work by one of today's outstanding choral voices.

Once again we will be livestreaming the concert from First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem. If you are unable to join us in person, join our worldwide audience as we stream the concert live from the Christmas City!

SATURDAY • 4pm
DECEMBER 12, 2026
Muhlenberg College,
Egner Memorial Chapel, Allentown

SUNDAY • 4pm
DECEMBER 13, 2026
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
Livestreamed!

Tickets: $50 Livestream: $20

Tickets & Information:
BACH.org • 610-866-4382 x. 115/110

@BethlehemBach

Soloists

Sophia Santiago, soprano
Lauren Kelly, alto
Christopher Hodson, tenor
Jonathan Woody, bass

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

Elizabeth Field – concertmaster, Linda Kistler, Rebecca Brown, Mary Ogletree, Stephani Bell & Inna Eyzerovich – violin
Agnès Maurer & Simon Maurer – viola
Loretta O'Sullivan & Noelle Casella – cello
Daniel McDougall – bass
Nobuo Kitagawa & Lynne Cohen – oboe
Tricia van Oers & Rainer Beckmann – recorder
Kerry Heimann – harpsichord & organ



Use the QR code to read the soloists' biographies.

Next Bach at Noon Concert!
Tuesday, January 12, 2027

ONE WEEKEND. FOUR DAYS.

119th Bethlehem BACH Festival

THURSDAY–SUNDAY • May 13–16, 2027

SouthSide & Historic Downtown Bethlehem

The 119th Bethlehem Bach Festival is the culminating celebration of our season, welcoming audiences back to historic Bethlehem for four days of music, discovery, and shared tradition. This year's Festival traces a journey through Bach's enduring influence, from intimate chamber performances and conversations with leading scholars to Mendelssohn's historic 1841 adaptation of the *St. Matthew Passion* and the Bach Choir's crown jewel performance of the *Mass in B Minor*. With acclaimed guest artists, beloved Festival traditions, and programs that look ahead to the Choir's return to Leipzig, the Festival invites us to experience how great music travels across generations, places, and time.



Sherezade Panthaki *soprano*
Meg Bragle *mezzo-soprano*
James Reese *tenor*
Edmund Milly *bass-baritone*
Eliot Fisk *Festival Artist-in-Residence*

SAVE THE DATE

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.

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