

Members of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem
& Bach Festival Orchestra
Greg Funfgeld, Artistic Director & Conductor
present



BACH at NOON

A Gift of Music & Spiritual Refreshment

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 – PROGRAM

Concerto for Two Violins in D ~~Major~~ *Minor*
BWV 1043

Vivace
Largo ma non tanto
Allegro

Elizabeth Field & Clair *Bright*, violins



Soloists

Suzanne Edwards, soprano
Leslie Johnson, mezzo-soprano
Gregory S. Oaten, tenor
Christòpheren Nomura, bass



Second Tuesdays
* 12:10–1:00pm
Central Moravian Church
Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Next Bach at Noon
Tuesday, October 13, 2009!



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.



Cantata BWV 149 | *Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg*

Translation by Ellis Finger, Director of the Williams Center for the Arts, Lafayette College

Rev. 17 Picander

1. Chorus

Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg in den Hütten der Gerechten: Die Rechte des Herrn behält den Sieg, die Rechte des Herrn ist erhöht.

One sings with joy of victory in the homes of the just. The right hand of the Lord claims victory, the right hand of the Lord is exalted. Psalm 118, vs. 15-16

2. Aria Bass

Kraft und Stärke sei gesungen
Gott, dem Lamme, das bezwungen
und den Satanas verjagt,
der uns Tag und Nacht verklagt.
Ehr und Sieg ist auf die Frommen
durch des Lammes Blut gekommen.

*Strength and power be sung unto
God, the Lamb that was slain and
which then banished Satan
who assaults us day and night.
Honor and triumph have come to the pious
through the blood of the Lamb.*

Loretta O'Sullivan, cello

3. Recitative Alto

Ich fürchte mich
vor tausend Feinden nicht,
denn Gottes Engel lagern sich
um meine Seiten her;
Wenn alles fällt, wenn alles bricht,
so bin ich doch in Ruhe.
Wie wär es möglich zu verzagen?
Gott schickt mir ferner Ross und Wagen
und ganze Herden Engel zu.

*I have no fear in face of
a thousand foes,
for God's angels gather around me
on all sides.
When all collapses, when everything ruptures
I am nonetheless at peace.
How could I possibly despair?
God provides me with steed and chariot
and a whole host of angels.*

4. Aria Soprano

Gottes Engel weichen nie,
sie sind bei mir allerenden.
Wenn ich schlafe, wachen sie,
wenn ich gehe,
wenn ich stehe,
tragen sie mich auf den Händen.

*God's angels never waver,
they are with me at all times.
When I sleep they stand vigil,
when I go out,
when I stay in,
they carry me in their hands.*

5. Recitative tenor

Ich danke dir,
mein lieber Gott, dafür;
dabei verleihe mir,
dass ich mein sündlich Tun bereue,
dass sich mein Engel drüber freue,
damit er mich an meinem Sterbetage
in deinen Schoss zum Himmel trage.

*I give thanks to you,
my dear God, for this:
In return grant that I may
repent my sinful acts
and that my angel will find pleasure
in conveying me, on the day of my death,
into your heavenly fold.*



continued | Cantata BWV 149 | *Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg*

6. Aria Alto and Tenor

Seid wachsam, ihr heiligen Wächter,
die Nacht ist schier dahin.

Ich sehne mich und ruhe nicht,
bis ich vor dem Angesicht
meines lieben Vaters bin.

*Be watchful, you holy guardians,
the night is nearly over.*

*I yearn without tiring
for the moment when I am
face to face with my dear father.*

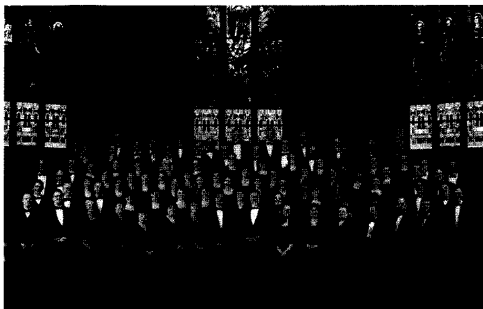
Charles Holdeman, bassoon

7. Chorale

Ach Herr, lass dein lieb Engelein
am letzten End die Seele mein
in Abrahams Schoss tragen,
den Leib in seim Schlafkämmerlein
gar sanft ohn einge Qual und Pein
ruhn bis am jüngsten Tage!
Alsdenn vom Tod erwecke mich,
dass meine Augen sehen dich
in aller Freud, o Gottes Sohn,
mein Heiland und Genadenthron!
Herr Jesu Christ, erhöre mich, erhöre mich,
ich will dich preisen ewiglich!

*Oh Lord, have your dear angel,
at the final hour bear my soul unto
the bosom of Abraham.
May my body rest in peace,
without all pain and torment
until the day of judgment.
And at that moment awaken me
so that my eyes may behold you
in full joy, o son of God,
my savior and throne of mercy!
Jesus Christ, hear my cry, hear my cry,
I long to praise you in eternity!*

THE BACH CHOIR OF BETHLEHEM



FOUNDED IN 1898, The Bach Choir of Bethlehem gave the first complete performances in the United States of Bach's *Mass in B Minor* in 1900 and *Christmas Oratorio* in 1901, both in Central Moravian Church. Since its founding, The Choir has been attracting thousands of national and international visitors every May to its annual Bethlehem Bach Festival, now held on the beautiful campus of Lehigh University. Today's performances feature the finely-honed vocal ensemble of 100 volunteer singers, the professional Bach Festival Orchestra, and world renowned soloists. The Bethlehem Bach Festival is the heart of a vibrant season that includes 31 concerts, including *Bach to School*, an outstanding educational program that has introduced more than 75,000 children to the genius of Bach. Under Greg Funfgeld's direction since 1983, The

Choir has received critical acclaim for performances at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, the Herkulessaal at Munich's Royal Residence, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and in July 2003, an eight-concert United Kingdom tour including the BBC Proms in London's Royal Albert Hall. The Choir's recordings are also heard world-wide and live recordings of The Choir's performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio, Deutsche Radio, the BBC World Service, CBS Sunday Morning, and as part of the Emmy award winning PBS documentary on The Choir, *Make A Joyful Noise*. In December 2007, a radio audience of more than four million heard The Bach Choir featured on *Prairie Home Companion*. *Mr. Bach Comes To Call*, a film based on the Classical Kids CD, and produced by The Bach Choir of Bethlehem in collaboration with Touchstone Theatre and GreenTrek's Network, premiered at the 100th Festival in May 2007. It was broadcast nationally on PBS and is distributed internationally by The Children's Group.

SOLOISTS

Suzanne Edwards, soprano, is delighted to be a member of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. An active choral singer, she has sung in Washington, D.C. with the Cathedral Choral Society and Chamber Choir, and in Chicago with the Rockefeller Chapel Choir. As a soloist, Ms. Edwards has performed Cantata BWV 149 for *Bach at Noon*, works by Dexter Morrill and Martin Volker as part of Colgate University's Contemporary Music Series, the Bach *Magnificat* with the Rockefeller Bach Soloists, Carissimi's *Jephthe* with the University of Chicago Motet Choir, and Hayden's *Missa Brevis Sti. Joannes de Deo* with the choral ensemble of Chicago.

Leslie Johnson, mezzo soprano, a native of Macungie, has appeared with many of America's major opera companies. She performed leading roles with the Houston Grand Opera, the Washington Opera Company, Portland Opera, the Wolf Trap Opera Company, the Lake George Opera Festival, Glimmerglass Opera, Central City Opera, and Liederkrantz Opera Theater. As a recitalist and concert soloist she has appeared at the Beijing Music Festival, the Octobre en Normandie Festival in Rouen, France, the New York Festival of Song, Philadelphia's Lyric Fest, and the Newport and Ravinia music festivals. The winner of many awards, she gave her Carnegie Hall recital debut at Weill Recital Hall as the winner of the Center for Contemporary Opera Competition. Ms. Johnson holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster College (PA), a Master of Music degree from the Hartt School, and an Artist Diploma from the Yale School of Music.

Gregory S. Oaten, tenor, is well-known to area audiences as a versatile musician, dividing his time between performing, coaching individuals and groups of singers, choral conducting and composing/arranging. He has performed as both an ensemble and solo singer with The Bach Choir of Bethlehem since 1979. A graduate of Westminster Choir College, he performed, recorded, and toured with the world-renowned Westminster Choir as part of the Chorus-in-residence for the Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds in Charleston, South Carolina and Spoleto, Italy. Mr. Oaten has participated in numerous professional recordings including the Grammy Award-winning live recording of Samuel Barber's opera *Antony and Cleopatra*. Mr. Oaten has served on the Music Faculty of Moravian College since 1991, and was awarded the T. Edgar Shields Prize for Studio Teaching in 2003. He has also served on the Music faculties of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Christòpheren Nomura, bass, has emerged at the forefront of the new generation of American singers and earned a prominent place on the operatic, concert, and recital stages. He was recently hailed as one of classical music's "rising stars" by the *Wall Street Journal*. Known for his deep commitment to the art of the recital, he has given more than 250 recitals throughout North America, Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa. His collaborations have included

Chamber Music Festivals in Santa Fe, Marlboro, Tanglewood, and Spoleto. In 2004 he made his debut on Carnegie Hall's "Making Music" series and in February 2005 he spent a week in residence at the Cleveland Museum of Art. A noted Bach specialist, he has been a frequent performer with The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, the Carmel Bach Festival, Handel & Haydn Society, and the Boston Early Music Festival. Last season he made his debut with Cleveland's Apollo's Fire, performing and recording Handel's *Messiah*, joined the Boromeo Quartet at the Cape and Islands Festival, and made his debut at the Baldwin-Wallace Bach Festival in Ohio. Among his many recordings, *Monteverdi Vespers of 1610* on Telarc was nominated for a Grammy (Best Classical Ensemble Recording).

Elizabeth Field, violin, joined the Bach Festival Orchestra as concertmaster in 2002. She enjoys an active career as both a chamber musician and soloist on both period and modern instruments throughout the United States and Europe. Ms. Field holds a Doctorate from Cornell University in Historical Performance Practice. She teaches at George Washington University and is a member of the Washington String Quartet in residence there. Ms. Field performs with Brandywine Baroque, The Violins of Lafayette, ArcoVoce, and Pro Musica Rara and is first violinist of The Van Swieten Quartet. She also serves as concertmaster for the Bach Sinfonia. Ms. Field has performed and recorded for Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, The Classical Band, Philharmonia Virtuosi, and The New York Chamber Orchestra.

Claire Bright, violin, regularly performs with the Bach Festival Orchestra and the Long Island Philharmonic. She is active as both a freelance musician and violin teacher in the New York area and has performed with Concordia Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of New England, and Chamber Orchestra of Connecticut. Ms. Bright has also participated in summer festivals, including the Vermont Mozart Festival, the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, and the Aspen Music Festival. Her performing career is complemented by a busy teaching schedule both from her private studio and through the Hoff-Barthelson Music School in Scarsdale. A graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, Ms. Bright received her B.M. and M.M. studying with the famous pedagogue, Joseph Fuchs. She furthered her studies with Hamao Fujiwara and Burton Kaplan. Ms. Bright is also a qualified Suzuki Violin Method teacher.

2009-2010
BACH at NOON



The Bach Choir of Bethlehem gratefully acknowledges our Bach at Noon corporate sponsors.



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THE CENTRAL MORAVIAN CHURCH

The Moravian Church had its origin in the pre-Reformation awakening under John H. The Unitas Fratrum (Unity of the Brethren) was organized in 1457. Because much of 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 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 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 Director of Music and Organist, Rebecca Kleintop Owens. Most recently the Central Moravian Choir released the long-awaited commemorative recording of the historic Christmas Eve Vigil. Please feel free to take a music brochure with a detailed listing of all musical events at Central, available in the pew racks.

For further information on The Bach Choir's 2009-10 Concert Season and recordings:

- Fill out the mailing list information on the enclosed envelope & drop it in the free-will offering basket or mail it to us. Or, you can leave us your business card!
- Come and see us just across the church green at The Bach Choir Office, 423 Heckewelder Place, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

Special thanks to:

Central Moravian Church,
especially
the Rev. Dr. Douglas Caldwell,
the Rev. Carol Reifinger,
Rebecca Kleintop Owens, Director of Music,
and Robin Butterfield, Sexton.

The Guarantors of The Bach Choir
for their continuing support.

Bach at Noon 2009-2010 Schedule

2009	2010
October 13	January 12
November 10	February 9
	March 9
	April 13

Free-will offerings to help support *Bach at Noon* will be accepted at all four doors as you leave the church or you can mail your offering in the envelope provided.



THE BACH CHOIR OF BETHLEHEM
presents

LOVE'S OLD SWEET SONG –
Orpheus in England

Emma Kirkby, soprano & Jakob Lindberg, lute

Saturday, October 31, 2009 ✧ 8pm

Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem

Pre-concert Benefactor Cocktails & Dinner

Hotel Bethlehem ✧ 5 pm

Emma Kirkby, a legend in the world of early music, offers us a charming program of love songs by English masters John Dowland and Henry Purcell, interspersed with joyful dances on the lute. In homage to The Bach Choir, Emma and Jakob will also perform one of the sacred songs Bach wrote for his wife Anna Magdalena. In 2007, Dame Emma Kirkby was featured in *BBC Music Magazine* as one of the 20 greatest sopranos of all time and included in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Jakob Lindberg is known as one of the finest lute players in the world today. We are delighted that this brilliant duo will come to Bethlehem as part of a rare United States tour.

This special event will also be a CD release party for The Bach Choir's first recording on Analekta, Canada's premiere classical recording company. Every Benefactor will receive a copy of the new recording at the dinner. General Admission ticket buyers may purchase the CD at the concert, or reserve copies at a reduced cost of \$15 (retail price after the initial release will be \$17). This CD offer is open to Gala ticket buyers only. Reserved CDs must be picked up at the concert venue.

General admission – \$36 | Students \$18

Benefactors – \$250 per person

(tax deductible portion \$125) Benefactor Tickets include reserved concert seating, pre-concert cocktail and dinner party, and an exclusive opportunity to bid on a selection of musical salons & other musical treats.

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