



Members of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem  
& Bach Festival Orchestra  
Dr. Christopher Jackson, Artistic Director & Conductor  
present



# 130th BACH at NOON

A Gift of Music & Spiritual Refreshment



## Soloists

Kim Leeds – mezzo-soprano

Lawrence Jones – tenor

David Newman – baritone

Christopher Jackson

Artistic Director & Conductor



## October 10, 2023 – PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048

[Allegro] – Adagio – Allegro

Johann Sebastian Bach

Aria “Ach, mein Sinn” from

Saint John Passion, BWV 245

Johann Sebastian Bach

Aria “Gerne will ich mich bequemen”

from Saint Matthew Passion, BWV 244

Johann Sebastian Bach

Aria “Erbarme Dich” from

Saint Matthew Passion, BWV 244

Johann Sebastian Bach

Cantata Cantata *Jesus nahm zu sich*

*die Zwölfe*, BWV 22

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

– Elizabeth Field, concertmaster, Linda Kistler, Inna Ezyerovich  
& Daphne Benichou – violin

Nina Falk, Agnès Maurer & Daphne Benichou – viola

Loretta O’Sullivan, Noelle Casella Grand &

Elizabeth Thompson – cello

Daniel McDougall – bass | Lynne Cohen – oboe

Kerry Heimann – organ & harpsichord

The October Bach at Noon is supported in part by a generous endowment gift from Mrs. Cornelius Ayer Wood, Jr. in memory of The Rev. Cornelius Ayer Wood, Jr., a member of The Choir’s Board of Managers 1960–1977.

Second Tuesdays

\* 12:10–1:00pm

Central Moravian Church  
Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Next Bach at Noon  
Tuesday,  
November 14, 2023!



125 YEARS  
1898–2023



## Bach | Aria “Ach, mein Sinn” from *Saint John Passion*, BWV 245

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

### Aria (Tenor)

Ach, mein Sinn,  
wo willst du endlich hin,  
wo soll ich mich erquicken?  
Bleib ich hier,  
oder wünsch ich mir  
Berg und Hügel auf den Rücken?  
Bei der Welt ist gar kein Rat,  
und im Herzen  
stehn die Schmerzen  
meiner Missetat,  
weil der Knecht den Herrn verleugnet hat.

*Ah, my soul,  
where would you go at last,  
where shall I quicken my spirits?  
Shall I stay,  
or shall I take  
hills and mountains upon my shoulders?  
With the world there is no solace;  
in my heart  
are pain and anguish  
for my evil deeds,  
for the servant has denied his Lord.*



## Bach | Aria “Gerne will ich mich bequemen” from *Saint Matthew Passion*, BWV 244

– Translation by the Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall, Th.D., retired Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem

### 23. Aria (Bass)

Gerne will ich mich bequemen,  
Kreuz und Becher anzunehmen,  
trink ich doch dem Heiland nach.  
Denn sein Mund,  
der mit Milch und Honig fließet,  
hat den Grund  
und des Leidens herbe Schmach  
durch den ersten Trunk versüßet.

*Gladly will I submit myself  
to bear the cross and the cup,  
yet I drink after the Savior.  
For his mouth,  
which flows with milk and honey,  
has sweetened the ground  
and the bitter taste of sorrow,  
through his first sip.*



## Bach | Aria “Erbarme Dich” from *Saint Matthew Passion*, BWV 244

– Translation by the Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall, Th.D., retired Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem

### Aria (Alto)

Erbarme dich, mein Gott,  
um meiner Zähren Willen!  
Schau hier, Herz und Auge  
weint vor dir bitterlich.  
Erbarme dich, erbarme dich!

*Have mercy, my God,  
for my tears' sake!  
See here, heart and eyes  
weep bitterly before you.  
Have mercy, have mercy!*

• Elizabeth Field, violin •



## Bach | Cantata *Jesus nahm zu sich die Zwölfe*, BWV 22

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

### 1. Arioso (tenor, bass, and chorus)

Jesus nahm zu sich die Zwölfe und sprach:  
Sehet, wir gehn hinauf gen Jerusalem, und es wird alles  
vollendet werden, das geschrieben ist von des Menschen Sohn.  
Sie aber vernahmen der keines und wussten nicht, was das gesaget war.

*Jesus gathered around him the twelve and said to them:  
Behold, we shall proceed to Jerusalem, and it will all be fulfilled,  
as it is written of the Son of Man.  
Yet they grasped nothing of this and knew not what had been said.*

### 2. Aria (alto)

Mein Jesu, ziehe mich nach dir,  
Ich bin bereit, ich will von hier  
und nach Jerusalem zu deinen Leiden gehn.  
Wohl mir, wenn ich die Wichtigkeit  
von dieser Leid- und Sterbenszeit  
zu meinem Troste kann durchgehends wohl verstehn!

*My Jesus, take me to your side.  
I am prepared, I wish to leave this place  
and move toward Jerusalem and your Passion.  
Blessed am I if I can grasp the weightiness  
of this moment of suffering and death,  
to my profound consolation.*

### 3. Recitative (bass)

Mein Jesu, ziehe mich, so werd ich laufen,  
denn Fleisch und Blut verstehet ganz und gar,  
nebst deinen Jüngern nicht, was das gesaget war.  
Es sehnt sich nach der Welt und nach dem grössten Haufen;  
Sie wollen beiderseits, wenn du verkläret bist,  
zwar eine feste Burg auf Tabors Berge bauen;  
Hingegen Golgatha, so voller Leiden ist,  
in deiner Niedrigkeit mit keinem Auge schauen.  
Ach! kreuzige bei mir in der verderbten Brust  
zuvörderst diese Welt und die verbotne Lust,  
so werd ich, was du sagst, vollkommen wohl verstehen  
und nach Jerusalem mit tausend Freuden gehen.

*My Jesus, have me join you and I will hasten there,  
for flesh and blood grasp entirely,  
unlike for the disciples, what was proclaimed there.  
There is yearning for the world and for the greatest gain;  
they envision a solid fortress on Mount Tabor  
to mark your epiphany;  
by contrast, none will look upon Golgatha, so full of anguish,  
with any sense of your humiliation.  
Ah! If you might crucify me first in my corrupted breast  
the world and its forbidden pleasures,  
then I will fully grasp what you have said  
and make my way to Jerusalem filled with a thousand joys.*

### 4. Aria (tenor)

Mein alles in allem, mein ewiges Gut,  
verbessere das Herze, verändre den Mut;  
Schlag alles darnieder,  
was dieser Entsagung des Fleisches zuwider!  
Doch wenn ich nun geistlich ertötet da bin,  
so ziehe mich nach dir in Friede dahin!

*My all in all, my enduring good,  
transform my heart, alter my mind;  
Strike down all things  
that impede this renunciation of the flesh.  
Should I undergo a spiritual death,  
then I shall journey with you there in peace.*

### 5. Chorale

Ertöt uns durch dein Güte,  
erweck uns durch dein Gnad;  
Den alten Menschen kränke,  
dass der neu' leben mag  
wohl hie auf dieser Erden,  
den Sinn und all Begehren  
und G'danken hab'n zu dir.

*Slay us through your goodness  
awaken us by your Grace;  
sicken the one now so frail,  
so that the new person might be born  
among us here on this earth,  
with mind and all desiring,  
all thoughts focused on you.*

**BACH at NOON** Tuesday, November 14

Join us as we welcome special guest Molly Glazer  
for a concert featuring works for Viola da Gamba

## 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 95 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 Herkulesaal at Munich's Royal Residence and the Thomaskirche, Bach's church in Leipzig, 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 Choir has released 11 recordings on the Dorian and Analekta labels, including most recently Bach's Cantata 21 and Handel's *Ode for Saint Cecilia's Day* (2018), *A Child's Christmas in Bethlehem* (2013), and *Saint 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](http://BACH.org).

## Artistic Director & Conductor

**DR. CHRISTOPHER JACKSON**, now in his second season, is the seventh Artistic Director and Conductor of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. He has worked for 17 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, PA, 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. Dr. 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. Dr. 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.

## Soloists

**KIM LEEDS, mezzo-soprano** With her "rich, smooth mezzo-soprano," Kim Leeds engages audiences in her exploration of life's essence through music. As a soloist, she has appeared with GRAMMY® winning ensemble Apollo's Fire, GRAMMY® nominated True Concord Voices and Orchestra, Gramophone award-winning ensemble Blue Heron, Tafelmusik Baroque Chamber Orchestra and Choir, Les Délices, Cantata Collective, Bach Akademie Charlotte, Chicago Master Singers, Handel Society of Dartmouth, Bach Society of St. Louis, the Oregon Bach Festival. Over the years, Ms. Leeds has garnered multiple accolades including winning the Tafelmusik Vocal Competition in 2016, attending the Carmel Bach Festival as a Virginia Best Adams Fellow in 2017, worked with Philippe Herreweghe as a Britten-Pears Young Artist in 2019, and in 2022 was a semi-finalist in the Oratorio Society of New York Solo Competition. As a choral artist, Ms. Leeds has performed in Europe with the Weimar Bach Academy under the direction of Helmuth Rilling and the Junges Stuttgart Bach Ensemble under Hans Christoph Rademann. In the US, she has performed with the Oregon Bach Festival, Handel and Haydn Society, GRAMMY® nominated ensembles Seraphic Fire, True Concord, and Clarion choir, and GRAMMY® winning ensembles the Crossing and Apollo's Fire.

**LAWRENCE JONES, tenor**, praised by the *New York Times* as "an impressive tenor," and by *The Guardian* as "smooth voiced," has established an active presence on the concert and operatic stages. He has sung as a soloist with New York City Opera, Utah Symphony, Musica Sacra, Boston Baroque, Glimmerglass Opera, Tanglewood, Opera Saratoga, Charlotte Symphony, and Boston Modern Orchestra Project. He has received recognition for his portrayals of Tom Rakewell in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* at the Princeton and Aldeburgh Festivals. The *New York Times* wrote, "Tenor Lawrence Jones brought a light, sweet voice and lyricism to Tom," while *Opera News* praised him for his "clean, ringing tenor." Concert highlights from recent seasons include Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* with the Naples Philharmonic; Monteverdi's *Vespers* with Voices of Ascension and the Oratorio Chorale of Portland; Mozart's *Requiem* and Mendelssohn's *Christus*

with Back Bay Chorale; and performances of *Messiah* at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue with the Saint Thomas Choir, and at Carnegie Hall with the Oratorio Society of New York. A frequent performer of the cantatas and vocal works of J.S. Bach, Mr. Jones' credits include performances of the *Saint John Passion*, *Saint Matthew Passion*, *Christmas Oratorio*, and *Mass in B Minor* with the Oratorio Society of New York, American Classical Orchestra, New Mexico Philharmonic, Bach Society of St. Louis, Kalamazoo Bach Festival, and the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Mr. Jones joins The Bach Choir for the Christmas concert performances of the *Christmas Oratorio*, Parts 4,5 & 6.

**DAVID NEWMAN, baritone**, enjoys an active and varied concert career throughout North America. Noted by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* for his "eloquent, emotional singing," he is best known as a Baroque specialist. He has performed *Messiah* with Tafelmusik, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, and with Masterwork Chorus in Carnegie Hall; *Saint John Passion* with the American Bach Soloists, Carmel Bach Festival, and the Bach Chamber Orchestra of Honolulu; and *Saint Matthew Passion* with the Bach Society of St. Louis, San Francisco Bach Choir, and on tour with the combined forces of Santa Fe Pro Musica and the Smithsonian Chamber Players. European appearances have included the 2003 Berlioz Festival in Paris, *Le Tournoi de Chauvency* with Ensemble Aziman in Sarrebourg and Metz, and *Le Roi et le Fermier* with Opera Lafayette at the Opera Royale in Versailles. His long relationship with The Bach Choir of Bethlehem includes most of Bach's major vocal works and many cantatas. He has appeared regularly as a guest artist with the Four Nations Ensemble, including performances in Lincoln Center and Merkin Hall, and has also performed with the Spoleto Festival, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Metropolitan Opera Guild, Opera Birmingham, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Russian National Orchestra. He has recorded opera and oratorio for the Philips, Dorian, Analekta, K617, and Naxos labels. Mr. Newman teaches voice and music theory at James Madison University.



## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

### Bach's Magnificat + Christen ätzet diesen Tag, BWV 63 + Carols

• 4pm Sat., December 9, 2023  
First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

• 4pm Sun., December 10, 2023  
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Unite in joyous celebration at our enchanting Christmas Concert. The music resonates through centuries, bringing us together in shared history and vibrant musical traditions. This season we add a new dimension to our carol singing tradition. We're excited to feature a new carol composed just for our Christmas concerts. Get ready to join in singing new and beloved carols at the conclusion of the performance. Dive into the heart of holiday tradition with us and embrace the joy of the Christmas spirit through the universal language of music.

**Livestream Option on December 10** Can't make the concert in person? Join our global audience for a livestream broadcast of The Bach Choir's Christmas Concert – from The Christmas City!

# Gala



125 YEARS  
1898-2023

Anniversary Concert & Fundraiser

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 3pm

■ Packer Memorial Church, Lehigh University

## Global Premiere & Live CD Recording Saint Matthew Passion

Felix Mendelssohn's interpretation of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion*, based on the newly published scholarly edition of Mendelssohn's composition, will be performed for the first time by The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Bach Festival Orchestra, and national soloists, under the baton of Christopher Jackson. The groundbreaking performance of this musical masterpiece will be recorded live at the concert and released on the Analekta label next spring.

We hope you will join America's oldest Bach Choir in celebrating its 125th milestone anniversary with this extraordinary musical event, marking yet another "first" for The Bach Choir and for the world of classical music.



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Dann Coakwell, Evangelist  
William Sharp, Jesus



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Luthien Brackett, alto



Isaiah Bell, tenor  
Enrico Lagasca, bass

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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

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 Director 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](http://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](http://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

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### Bach at Noon 2023-2024 Bethlehem Schedule

**2023**  
September 12  
October 10  
November 14

**2024**  
January 9  
February 13  
March 12  
April 9



Special thanks to:  
Central Moravian Church,  
especially  
Rt. Rev. Hopeton Clennon  
Rebecca Lepore, Director of Music

The Guarantors of The Bach Choir  
for their continuing support.

### Bach at Noon 2024 Allentown Schedule:

June 4 (first Tuesday due to European Tour) July 9 August 13

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