



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

BACH at NOON

A Gift of Music & Spiritual Refreshment



Soloists

Hannah Baslee – alto

Mollie Glazer – viola da gamba

Christopher Jackson

Artistic Director & Conductor

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 programming and artistry under his leadership. The concert is named and supported in part by a generous endowment gift from Donald and Christine Wertman.

November 14, 2023 – PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Sonata No. 2 in D Major, BWV 1028

Adagio – Allegro

– Mollie Glazer, viola da gamba & Kerry Heimann, harpsichord

Carl Friedrich Abel (1723–1787)

Pieces for Viola da Gamba/Bass Viol

– *Allegro in d minor (Arpeggiata)*

– *Adagio in d minor*

– *Allegro in d minor*

– Mollie Glazer, viola da gamba

Johann Christian Bach (1735–1782)

Quartet in C Major, from Op.8

Allegro con Spirito – Minuetto

– Elizabeth Field & Linda Kister, violin

Nina Falk, viola | Noelle Casella Grand, cello

Johann Sebastian Bach

“Es ist vollbracht” from Saint John Passion, BWV 245

Johann Sebastian Bach

Widerstehe doch der Sünde, BWV 54

with members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

– Inna Eyzerovich, Mary Ogletree,

Stephani Bell & Rebecca Brown – violin

Agnès Maurer – viola

Heather Miller Lardin – bass



Second Tuesdays

* 12:10–1:00pm

Central Moravian Church
Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Next Bach at Noon
Tuesday,
January 9, 2024!



125 YEARS
1898–2023



Bach | Aria “Es ist vollbracht!” from *Saint John Passion*, BWV 245

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

No. 30 Aria (Alto)

Es ist vollbracht!
O Trost vor die gekränkten Seelen!
Die Trauernacht
lässt nun die letzte Stunde zählen.
Der Held aus Juda siegt mit Macht,
und schliesst den Kampf.
Es ist vollbracht!

*It is fulfilled!
O hope for all anguished spirits!
The night of sorrow
tolls its final hour.
Judah's hero triumphs with might
and ends the fight.
It is fulfilled.*

• Mollie Glazer, viola da gamba •



Bach | Cantata *Widerstehe doch der Sünde*, BWV 54

– Translation © Pamela Dellal, used with permission

1. Arie A

Widerstehe doch der Sünde,
Sonst ergreift dich ihr Gift.
Lass dich nicht den Satan blenden;
Denn die Gottes Ehre schänden,
Trifft ein Fluch, der tödlich ist.

*Just resist sin,
lest its poison seize you.
Don't let Satan blind you;
for those who defile God's honor
will incur a curse that is deadly.*

2. Rezitativ A

Die Art verruchter Sünden
Ist zwar von aussen wunderschön;
Allein man muss
Hernach mit Kummer und Verdruss
Viel Ungemach empfinden.
Von aussen ist sie Gold;
Doch, will man weiter gehn,
So zeigt sich nur ein leerer Schatten
Und übertünchtes Grab.
Sie ist den Sodomsäpfeln gleich,
Und die sich mit derselben gatten,
Gelangten nicht in Gottes Reich.
Sie ist als wie ein scharfes Schwert,
Das uns durch Leib und Seele fährt.

*The appearance of vile sin
is indeed outwardly very beautiful;
however one must
afterwards with trouble and frustration
experience much hardship.
On the outside it is gold;
yet, going further in,
it shows itself as only an empty shadow
and a whitewashed grave.
It is like the apples of Sodom,
and those who engage themselves with it
will not achieve God's kingdom.
It is like a sharp sword,
that pierces through body and soul.*

3. Arie A

Wer Sünde tut, der ist vom Teufel,
Denn dieser hat sie aufgebracht.
Doch wenn man ihren schnöden Banden
Mit rechter Andacht widerstanden,
Hat sie sich gleich davongemacht.

– Georg Christian Lehms, 1711

*Whoever sins is of the devil,
since he has brought it forth.
Yet if one is able, with virtuous devotion,
to withstand its contemptible bonds,
it is already done away with.*

Soloists

HANNAH BASLEE, *alto*, has been an active consort singer and music educator in the Washington, D.C., area since 2015. With a genuine passion for collaborative singing, she has found deep fulfillment in her career as a choral freelancer with many of D.C.'s top ensembles, including Washington Bach Consort, The Thirteen, Cathedra, 21st Century Consort, and with the schola at the National Shrine. Baslee's work outside of D.C. includes regular appearances with The Clarion Choir in New York City and The Bethlehem Bach Choir under Christopher Jackson. Internationally, Baslee most recently toured along the Camino de Santiago in Spain with Washington National Cathedral choir. Earlier this year, she performed Handel's *Solomon* in Europe, California, and at Carnegie Hall with Harry Bickett and the English Concert. And last year she had the great privilege to tour South Korea with the newly formed American Soloists Ensemble. In addition to live performances, she can be heard on several albums, including Rachmaninoff's *All Night Vigil* with The Clarion Choir, *Monteverdi Vespers of 1610* with The Thirteen, and the upcoming album *Liturgy of St John Chrysostom* with Clarion Choir.

MOLLIE GLAZER, *viola da gamba*, is the Artistic Director Emerita of the Nantucket Community Music Center. She has been a frequent soloist at the Bach Festival in Bethlehem and has also performed and recorded with many of this country's early music ensembles. Also a composer, Glazer has written scores for the Pennsylvania Ballet, National Dance Company of Wales, and the Emmy-award-winning PBS film *If the Walls Could Talk*. Her most current project is a score for the original musical *Half-Share Man*, about the life of Peter Folger. She teaches and performs often on the island of Nantucket, which has been her home for more than 30 years, although she was born and raised in Delaware County, PA.



Embrace the joy of Christmas through the universal language of music!

J.S. BACH's *Magnificat* & *Christen ätztet diesen Tag*, BWV 63

Sat., Dec. 9, 2023 at 4pm

First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

Sun., Dec. 10, 2023 at 4pm

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

The infectious joy of *Magnificat* and the delightfully festive Cantata 63 – packed with brass fanfare – are the ultimate combination for Christmas-time celebration! The concert concludes with the beloved tradition of singing carols together as a community.

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

Christmas Concert Tickets:

BACH.org/tickets | 610-866-4382 x. 115/110



BACH at NOON

Tuesday, January 9

See you in the New Year!

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 Herkulessaal 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.

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.

Thank you to these businesses and organizations that help bring Bach at Noon to you each month!



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- Bach at Noon
- Christmas Concert
- Spring Concert

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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 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 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

Bach at Noon concerts are broadcast live on WWFM, a long-time media sponsor. This year's broadcasts are made possible by the generous support of John L. and the late Carol H. Daniel and Arthur Mead Martin. Listen Live at wwfm.org or tune in to a station in your area. Please donate to support our Bach at Noon live broadcast.

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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