



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

Katelyn Grace Jackson – soprano
Shauna Kreidler Michels – mezzo-soprano
Joshua Bornfield – tenor
Daryl Yoder – bass-baritone
Jasmine Arielle Barnes – composer

Christopher Jackson
Artistic Director & Conductor

February 13, 2024 – PROGRAM

Jasmine Barnes (b. 1991)
Songs for the People

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Cantata Nach dir, Herr, verlanget mich, BWV 150

with members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

– Elizabeth Field, concertmaster

Rebecca Brown, Elizabeth Wright & Mary Ogletree – violin

Noelle Cassella Grand – cello

Heather Miller Lardin – bass

Chuck Holdeman – bassoon

Kerry Heimann & Eric Plutz – organ & harpsichord



Second Tuesdays

* 12:10–1:00pm

Central Moravian Church
Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Next Bach at Noon
Tuesday,
March 12, 2024!



125 YEARS
1898–2023

The February Bach at Noon concert is named “The Daniel Family Memorial Concert” and is made possible in part by a generous endowment gift from John L. and the late Carol H. Daniel.

Barnes | *Songs for the People*

– Text by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

1. Chorus

Let me make the songs for the people,
Songs for the old and young;
Songs to stir like a battle-cry
Wherever they are sung.

2. Aria (Mezzo-soprano)

Not for the clashing of sabres,
For carnage nor for strife;
But songs to thrill the hearts of men
With more abundant life.

3. Aria (Tenor)

Let me make the songs for the weary,
Amid life's fever and fret,
Till hearts shall relax their tension,
And careworn brows forget.

4: Aria (Soprano)

Let me sing for little children,
Before their footsteps stray;

5: Chorus (with Soprano Solo)

Sweet anthems of love and duty,
To float o'er life's highway.

6: Aria (Bass)

I would sing for the poor and aged,
When shadows dim their sight;
Of the bright and restful mansions,
Where there will be no night.

7: Trio (Mezzo-soprano, Tenor, Bass)

Our world, so worn and weary,
Needs music, pure and strong,
To hush the jangle and discords
Of sorrow, pain, and wrong.

8: Chorus

Music to soothe all its sorrow,
Till war and crime shall cease;
And the hearts of men grown tender
Girdle the world with peace.

Cantata *Nach dir, Herr, verlangst mich*, BWV 150 continued

5. Aria (Trio for Alto, Tenor, Bass)

Zedern müssen von den Winden
oft viel Ungemach empfinden,
oftmals werden sie verkehrt.
Rat und Tat auf Gott gestellet,
achtet nicht, was widerbellet,
denn sein Wort ganz anders lehrt.

6. Chorus

Meine Augen sehen stets zu dem Herrn;
denn er wird meinen Fuss aus dem Netze ziehen.
Psalm 25:15

7. Chorus

Meine Tage in dem Leiden
endet Gott dennoch zur Freude;
Christen auf den Dornenwegen
führen Himmels Kraft und Segen.
Bleibet Gott mein treuer Schutz,
achte ich nicht Menschentrutz,
Christus, der uns steht zur Seiten,
hilft mir täglich sieghaft streiten.

*Cedars must often endure
great hardship from the winds,
often they become twisted.
With guidance and conduct fixed on God
ignore those things that snarl at you,
for his word teaches quite different ways.*

*My eyes look constantly to the Lord;
for he will free my foot from the snare.*

*My days spent in anguish
God will finally close in joy;
Christians on paths of thorns
are guided by Heaven's power and blessing.
If God remains my loyal protector
I pay no heed to the malice of men,
Christ, ever at our side,
helps me struggle each day triumphant.*



Bach | *Cantata Nach dir, Herr, verlangst mich*, BWV 150

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

1. Sinfonia

2. Chorus

Nach dir, Herr, verlangst mich. Mein Gott,
ich hoffe auf dich;
lass mich nicht zu Schanden werden,
dass sich meine Feinde nicht freuen über mich.
Psalm 25:1–2

*For you, o Lord, do I yearn. My God,
my hope rests with you;
let me not come to ruin,
that my enemies might delight over me.*

3. Aria (Soprano)

Doch bin und bleibe ich vergnügt,
obgleich hier zeitlich toben
Kreuz, Sturm und andre Proben,
Tod, Höll und was sich fügt.
Ob Unfall schlägt den treuen Knecht,
recht ist und bleibet ewig Recht.

*Yet I am at peace and will remain so,
even though around me rage
anguish, storm, and other trials,
death, hell and whatever may come.
Should misfortune strike the faithful servant,
it is just and justice shall endure forever.*

4. Chorus

Leite mich in deiner Wahrheit und lehre mich;
denn du bist der Gott, der mir hilft;
täglich harre ich dein.
Psalm 25: 5

*Lead me in your truth and instruct me;
for you are the God who aids me;
each day I await you.*

BACH at NOON Tuesday, March 12

The liturgical season of Lent is home to a stunning variety of unique and powerful musical traditions. Join us as we enter into this reflective time of year with works by Bach's early idol, Buxtehude; Johann Ludwig Bach (his remarkably talented third cousin); and a passionate and virtuosic sonata for solo violin by Franz Biber, *The Crucifixion*, featuring our concert master, Elizabeth Field.

Soloists

KATELYN GRACE JACKSON (née Aungst) *soprano*, grew up in Berks County, Pennsylvania and has spent a good portion of her singing career in Washington, D.C. Despite being surrounded by music, her first loves were reading and writing, and she dreamt of becoming a novelist and poet. Her early exposure to music ranging from the art music canon to John Philip Sousa Americana, a deep love for the written word and a knack for choral singing led to a professional career as a soloist and chamber musician propelled by a desire to connect and communicate with other musicians and audience members alike. Hailed by the *Washington Post* for her “supple, haunting soprano,” Jackson performs as a featured soloist and chorister with intelligence and “particular purity of tone” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*). She has soloed with the American Bach Soloists, Washington Bach Consort, the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, City Choir of Washington, Cathedral Choral Society, the Washington Master Chorale, and the Handel Choir of Baltimore. Her choral and chamber experiences boast recording Dame Ethel Smyth’s *The Prison* with the Experiential Orchestra & Chorus (2021 GRAMMY Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album), and performances with Ensemble Altera, The Thirteen, and Clarion Music Society.

SHAUNA KREIDER MICHELS, *mezzo-soprano*, is a Washington, D.C.-area native, is recognized for her versatility, expressive vocal storytelling, and her warm, rich tone. A seasoned performer of new music, she has collaborated with composers to premiere chamber and solo works since her undergraduate studies at Shenandoah Conservatory, where she also received her master’s degree. Kreidler Michels has appeared as a soloist with the City Choir of Washington, Washington Master Chorale, Arts Chorale of Winchester, Westmoreland Festival Chorus, Trinity Chamber Orchestra, Frederick Symphony Orchestra Camerata, baroque ensemble Three Notch’d Road, and as a guest soloist at many regional establishments. Regional and world premiere performances include Louis Andriessen’s *La Commedia*; Tawnie Olson’s *No Capacity to Consent, Incantation, and I Saw a Stable*; Salvatore Sciarrino’s *12 Madrigali*; Joshua Bornfield’s *Reconstruction and Beatis Videamus*; and most recently Nathaniel Parks’ *but sometimes I worry*. An active consort singer, Kreidler Michels is a founding member of chamber vocal ensemble Third Practice as well as Annapolis-based Church Circle Singers. She is a student of Tracy Cox, and resides in Bethesda, MD, with her husband and their two cats. shaunakreidlermichels.com

JOSHUA BORNFIELD, *tenor*, is a composer, performer, educator, and arts advocate based in Baltimore, Maryland. He has had works commissioned by organizations as varied as Washington National Opera and wildUp. His award-winning works for voices, orchestra, and chamber ensemble are regularly performed throughout the United States and abroad. Bornfield regularly performs with multiple choral and vocal ensembles such as critically acclaimed chamber ensemble Third Practice, Handel Choir of Baltimore, The Choir of St. David’s Church (Baltimore), and Peabody Renaissance Ensemble. His upcoming

performance engagements include solo work in Bach’s *Saint Matthew Passion* and headlining a reimagining of Jeff Buckley’s landmark *Grace*, both in Baltimore. He is currently writing new music for violinist Peter Sheppard Skaerved and vocalists Daryl Yoder, Katelyn Jackman, and Michael Manganiello. When not making music in some capacity, he directs the War Memorial Arts Initiative, an arts equity & advocacy program supported by Baltimore City’s Department of General Services.

DARYL YODER, *bass-baritone*, was born in Virginia, raised in southern Africa and received his musical training at the Oberlin Conservatory and Boston University. He has performed in concert and opera across the eastern U.S. as well as in Europe and Botswana. Recent seasons have ranged from the role of Adonis in John Blow’s *Venus & Adonis* with Opera Henriette, to Frank Spearman in Frances Pollock’s *Stinney* at the PROTOTYPE Festival for new opera in New York, to solo appearances with the Handel Choir of Baltimore, the Reston Chorale, the Maryland Choral Society and as a chorus member with Opera Lafayette in their new DVD of Beethoven’s *Leonore*. His 2016–17 season was spent in the Czech Republic where he had the opportunity to give modern premieres of music by 18th-century Bohemian composers Šimon Brixí, Cajetanus Vogel, and Leonardo Leo with the Consortium musicum Plzeň and the Kolegium pro duchovní hudbu. Yoder’s recital repertoire of more than 300 songs includes the complete song cycles of Schubert and Schumann, as well as works from Beethoven to Imogen Holst to Robert Owens. As an in-demand ensemble singer, he has sung with the professional choirs of the Handel & Haydn Society, Emmanuel Music (Boston), Apollo’s Fire, Chantry, and The District 8.

JASMINE ARIELLE BARNES, *Emmy award-winning composer*, is a Baltimore native, Dallas-based composer. Barnes is managed by UIA talent, is a new resident artist for Opera Theater of Saint Louis (2023/24), and has held residencies at American Lyric Theater (2021–23), Chautauqua Opera (2021), and All Classical Portland (2021). She has held the privilege of being commissioned by numerous organizations such as NY Philharmonic and Juilliard Pre College, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Opera Theater of Saint Louis, The Washington National Opera and The Kennedy Center, Aspen Music Festival and School, Baltimore Choral Arts, CityMusic Cleveland, LyricFest Philadelphia, amongst others. Works in progress include an opera titled *She Who Dared* with libretto written by Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton, commissioned by American Lyric Theater, which centers focus on the women of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

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**.



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.

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GREG FUNFGELD FAMILY CONCERT Dancing with BACH

3pm Sunday, February 18, 2024 | Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University

Join us for the interactive Greg Funfgeld Family Concert. It's a fun way to learn about classical music and singing in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. This hour-long program is filled with beautiful music, expressive dance, and plenty of cool things to find out about music and music making.

Artistic Director and Conductor Christopher Jackson, The Bach Choir, and Bach Festival Orchestra have invited dancers from Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts and the Muhlenberg College dance departments to choreograph new work to music written by Bach & Brahms. They will also welcome two special guests: Artistic Director and Conductor Emeritus Greg Funfgeld and Steinway Artist Eugene Abulescu for an exciting performance on piano four hands. *Don't miss it: Bring your family and friends to this exciting, interactive concert!*

Connect with us at the Family & Spring Concerts!



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SPRING CONCERT BACH Inspired

4pm Sunday, March 17, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Be part of our musical expedition as we explore the connections between the rich past and dynamic present of choral music. Embark on a melodious adventure that connects generations and cultures through the power of sound. On the program is Bach's timeless and brilliant cantata *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, BWV 80, which we believe was first heard in the U.S. at Central Moravian Church in 1823. In a revelatory juxtaposition, we'll perform the powerful *To the Hands* by Pulitzer Prize-winning contemporary composer Caroline Shaw. Rounding out the concert will be a sampling of repertoire from The Choir's upcoming European Tour of Germany and Austria in June 2024. *Soloists:* soprano Nola Richardson; alto Janna Critz; tenor Lawrence Jones; and bass Edmund Milly.



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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.

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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,
Sister Janelle Rice
Rebecca Lepore, Minister 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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