

EMMANUEL MUSE



~ CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF CRAIG SMITH ~

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FALL'S IN THE AIR AS BACH CANTATA SEASON OPENS

Fall Sunday mornings bring sparkle and excitement to Boston's Back Bay. The leaves are turning crimson and gold in Boston Public Gardens. The air is brisk and refreshing. And music lovers are making their way to Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, for Sunday performances in the 2008-09 Emmanuel Music Bach Cantata Series.

OPEN HOUSE

People from all over the world, not only from Greater Boston, anticipate this singular season, which opens this coming weekend, Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5. For starters, there's a first-ever Open House hosted by Emmanuel Church and Emmanuel Music on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Doors open at 10 o'clock for tours, displays and refreshments. The music begins with an Emmanuel Music motet rehearsal, *Die Himmel erzählen* by Heinrich Schütz at 11:45 a.m. in the sanctuary, under the baton of Michael Beattie, Associate Conductor. At 12 noon, the Emmanuel Music Orchestra and Chorus will rehearse Bach's cantata BWV 21, *Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis*, previewing its formal performance at Emmanuel the next morning at 10.

The Open House includes guided tours of Emmanuel Church, featuring informative displays about the church's 148-year history and current activities. Attendees will be able to view the recently restored "Pilgrim's Progress" window by Frederic Crowninshield, and learn the poignant story of Lindsey Chapel, a memorial to Leslie Lindsey and her husband, who were lost on the *Lusitania*.

The Open House including the cantata performance is free of charge.

Emmanuel Church is located just around the corner from the Arlington Street MBTA stop and just across the Public Gardens from the Boston Common Garage.



Photo by Julian Bullitt

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CANTATA SERIES

In describing this week's Bach Cantata, Michael Beattie characterizes *Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis* as "a big trumpet and drum piece. Bach wrote it early in his career, in 1713, when he was working in Weimar. Over the years, he added to and adapted this cantata. In its extravagant response to the text, it has the feeling of an early piece. It is the largest sacred cantata Bach ever wrote."

Among the memorable features in Cantata 21 are two sets of soloists, one for the arias, the other a vocal quartet for the fugues within the choruses. A dialogue between Jesus and the Soul is sung by baritone Donald Wilkinson and soprano Susan Consoli. In the final Chorus, Bach employs the same text in Revelations that Handel did for the conclusion of *Messiah*.



Photo by Julian Bullitt

Beattie recalls that Craig Smith, legendary Emmanuel Music founder (1947-2007), had a strong relationship with this cantata. "He always said that it was a work that both Mozart and Brahms knew. In the case of Mozart, it inspired 'La ci darem' from *Don Giovanni* and the third-act Susanna-Count duet from *Le Nozze di Figaro*."

On Sunday, October 12, Beattie will return to the podium to conduct Cantata BWV 109, *Ich glaube, lieber Herr, hilf meinem Unglauben*. The soloists will be Pamela Dellal, alto, and Frank Kelley, tenor. On Sunday, October 19, John Harbison, Acting Artistic Director of Emmanuel Music, will conduct Cantata BWV 55 *Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht*,

with Matthew Anderson as tenor soloist.

October rounds out with a special Sunday morning Emmanuel Music appearance by Benjamin Bagby on the 26th. Described as one of the foremost medievalists in the world, Bagby will conduct the men of the Emmanuel Choir in a piece by Hildegard von Bingen: *O Ignee Spiritus*. Later in the service, Beattie conducts the first in a survey of the complete Bach motets: *Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit*, BWV 226.

Emmanuel Music's Bach Cantata Series will continue on through the winter and spring, concluding the 2008-09 season on Sunday, April 26, 2009. Further program details for all Emmanuel Music events are available on the organization's web site, emmanuelmusic.org.

-Ann Carlson

*Emmanuel Music is the Ensemble-in-Residence at Emmanuel Church.
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