

BLOOMINGTON
BACH
CANTATA PROJECT

SEASON 16

“CHRISTEN, ÄTZET DIESEN TAG!”

BWV 63

97



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026 | BLOOMINGTON, IN

“CHRISTEN, ÄTZET DIESEN TAG!” BWV 63

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

1. Aria tutti

2. Recitative

3. Aria duetto

4. Recitative

5. Aria duetto

6. Recitative

7. Aria tutti

Gina Lincoln, Anna Borges, soprano
Shannon Beckemeyer, Bryce Zimmerman, alto
Blake Beckemeyer, Benjamin Wegner, tenor
Evan Tiapula, Samuel Wetzell, bass
Kris Kwapis, Ian Kiyokawa, Nash Pearson,
Luis Maciel, trumpet
Brian McNulty, timpani
Margaret Owens, Jennifer Kirby,
Alice Frisch, oboe

Keith Collins, bassoon
Brian Ford, Ingrid Matthews, violin
Pablo Ronderos, viola
Joanna Blendulf, cello
Phillip Spray, violone
Hengyuan Zhang, organ

Daniel R. Melamed,
music director and lecturer

UPCOMING PERFORMANCE

March 15: BWV 188
Anastasia Chin, director

TEXT & TRANSLATION

1. Christen, ätzt diesen Tag

In Metall und Marmorsteine!

Kommt und eilt mit mir zur Krippe

Und erweist mit frohen Lippen

Euren Dank und eure Pflicht;

Denn der Strahl, so da einbricht,

Zeigt sich euch zum Gnadenscheine.

1. Christians, engrave [for eternal remembrance] this day
[Of Christ's birth] in metal and marble.

Come and hurry with me to the manger

And demonstrate your thanks and your duty

With joyous lips;

For the stream [of wisdom's glory] that breaks forth there

Reveals itself to you as the light of grace.

2. O selger Tag! o ungemeines Heute,

An dem das Heil der Welt,

Der Schilo, den Gott schon im Paradies

Dem menschlichen Geschlecht verhieß,

Nunmehr sich vollkommen dargestellt

Und suchet Israel von der Gefangenschaft und

Sklavenketten

Des Satans zu erretten.

Du liebster Gott, was sind wir arme doch?

Ein abgefallnes Volk, so dich verlassen;

Und dennoch willst du uns nicht hassen;

2. Oh blessed day! Oh rare, this day,

On which the salvation of the world,

The “Shiloh” [messiah], whom God promised to the
human race

Already in paradise,

Now has presented himself [as] perfect

And seeks to rescue Israel

From the captivity and the slave's chains of Satan.

You dear God, what are we wretched [ones], though?

A backsliding people who abandon you;

And nonetheless you do not want to hate us.

Denn eh wir sollen noch nach dem Verdienst zu
Boden liegen,
Eh muss die Gottheit sich bequemen,
Die menschliche Natur an sich zu nehmen
Und auf der Erden
Im Hirtenstall zu einem Kinde werden.
O unbegreifliches, doch seliges Verfüg'n!

3. Gott, du hast es wohl gefüget,
Was uns itzo widerfährt.
Drum lasst uns auf ihn stets trauen
Und auf seine Gnade bauen,
Denn er hat uns dies beschert,
Was uns ewig nun vergnüget.

4. So kehret sich nun heut
Das bange Leid,
Mit welchem Israel geängstet und beladen,
In lauter Heil und Gnaden!
Der Löw aus Davids Stamme ist erschienen,
Sein Bogen ist gespannt, das Schwert ist schon
gewetzt,
Womit er uns in vor'ge Freiheit setzt.

5. Ruft und fleht den Himmel an,
Kommt, ihr Christen, kommt zum Reih'n,
Ihr sollt euch ob dem erfreuen,
Was Gott hat anheut getan!
Da uns seine Huld verpfleget
Und mit so viel Heil beleet,
Dass man nicht g'ug danken kann.

6. Verdoppelt euch demnach, ihr heissen Andachts-
flammen,
Und schlagt in Demut brünstiglich zusammen!
Steigt fröhlich himmelnan
Und danket Gott vor dies, was er getan!

7. Höchster, schau in Gnaden an
Diese Glut gebückter Seelen!
Lass den Dank, den wir dir bringen,
Angenehme vor dir klingen,
Lass uns stets in Segen gehn,
Aber niemals nicht geschehn,
Dass uns der Satan möge quälen.

For before we should else, by merit, lie [defeated]
on the ground,
The deity must, before [that], condescend
To take human nature upon himself,
And on earth,
In the shepherd's stall, become a child.
Oh incomprehensible yet blessed ordinance [of God's]!

3. God, you have well ordained this
That now befalls us.
Thus let us always trust in him
And rely on his grace,
For he has bestowed on us
This that now delights us eternally.

4. So let the anxious sorrow
With which Israel [has been] made afraid and burdened
Now today turn itself
Into none other than [salvational] well-being and grace.
The Lion [of Judah, Jesus], from David's lineage, has appeared;
His [i.e., Jesus's] bow is drawn, his sword is already sharpened
[to conquer death,]
Whereby he restores us to our former freedom [from sin, as
before the Fall].

5. Call to and entreat heaven;
Come, you Christians, come to the ring-dancing;
You shall rejoice on account
Of what God has done today.
For his favor sustains us
And supports [us] with so much [salvational] well-being
That one cannot sufficiently thank [him].

6. So redouble yourselves, you ardent flames of devotion,
And in humility fervently light up [your ardor].
Climb joyfully heavenward
And thank God for this that he has done.

7. Most High [God], look in grace upon
This fervor of the souls bowed down [before you].
Let the thanks that we bring you
Sound acceptably before you;
Let us always walk in blessing,
But [let it] never, no never come to pass
That Satan might torment us.

(transl. Michael Marissen and Daniel R. Melamed)



BLOOMINGTON BACH CANTATA PROJECT

Daniel R. Melamed, director

Anastasia Chin, concert manager Elizabeth Hile, operations manager

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