



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

*Gabrielle Razafinjatovo* – mezzo-soprano  
Co-winner of 2024 Young American  
Singers' Competition

*Elizabeth Field* – violin  
*Nobuo Kitagawa* – oboe  
*Kerry Heimann* – keyboard

## March 11, 2025 – PROGRAM

### Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

*Sonata in G Major for Violin, BWV 1019*

*Allegro – Largo – Allegro – Adagio – Allegro*

– Elizabeth Field – violin; Kerry Heimann – harpsichord

### Johann Sebastian Bach

Aria “*Erbarme dich, mein Gott*” from  
*St. Matthew Passion, BWV 244*

### Johann Sebastian Bach

*Cantata Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte  
Seelenlust, BWV 170*

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

– Elizabeth Field, concertmaster, Linda Kistler – violin

Nina Falk – viola

Loretta O’Sullivan – cello

Daniel McDougall – bass

Nobuo Kitagawa – oboe d’amore

Kerry Heimann – keyboards



## Second Tuesdays

\* 12:10–1:00pm

Central Moravian Church  
Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Next Bach at Noon  
Tuesday,  
April 8, 2025  
in Bethlehem!



The March Bach at Noon concert is named in honor of the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach on 21 March by Dr. Albert & Ingrid May, long-time Guarantors of the choir, and residents of Marion, Ohio, and is supported in part by their generous endowment gift.

*As a courtesy to others, kindly silence your cell phone.*



## J.S. Bach | Aria “Erbarme dich, mein Gott” from *St. 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 •



## J.S. Bach | Cantata *Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust*, BWV 170

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

### 1. Aria

Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust,  
dich kann man nicht bei Höllensünden,  
wohl aber Himmelseintracht finden;  
du stärkst allein die schwache Brust.  
Drum sollen lauter Tugendgaben  
in meinem Herzen Wohnung haben.

*Blessed repose, my soul’s dear delight,  
you cannot be found among hell’s dark sins,  
but rather in the harmonious realm of heaven;  
you alone give strength to the feeble breast.  
Therefore the perfect blessings of virtue  
shall have their home within my heart.*

### 2. Recitative

Die Welt, das Sündenhaus,  
bricht nur in Höllenlieder aus  
und sucht durch Hass und Neid  
des Satans Bild an sich zu tragen.  
Ihr Mund ist voller Ottergift,  
der oft die Unschuld tödlich trifft,  
und will allein von Racha sagen!  
Gerechter Gott, wie weit  
ist doch der Mensch von dir entfernt;  
du liebst, jedoch sein Mund  
macht Fluch und Feindschaft kund  
und will den Nächsten nur mit Füßen treten.  
Ach! diese Schuld ist schwerlich zu verbeten.

*The world, this place of sins,  
breaks forth only in hellish songs,  
and seeks, through hatred and envy,  
to bear upon itself the image of Satan.  
Its mouth is filled with serpent’s venom,  
which often strikes innocence with death,  
and will only utter “Racha!”  
God of justice, how far  
has mankind displaced itself from you;  
You offer love, yet our mouths  
utter curses and hostility  
and wish only to stomp one’s neighbor underfoot.  
Alas! This guilt is difficult to absolve through prayer.*

### 3. Aria

Wie jammern mich doch die verkehrten Herzen,  
die dir, mein Gott, so sehr zuwider sein;  
ich zittre recht und fühle tausend Schmerzen,  
wenn sie sich nur an Rach und Hass erfreuen.  
Gerechter Gott, was magst du doch gedenken,  
wenn sie allein mit rechten Satansränken  
dein scharfes Strafgebot so frech verlacht.  
Ach! ohne Zweifel hast du so gedacht:  
Wie jammern mich doch die verkehrten Herzen!

*How tormented I am by twisted hearts  
which are, my God, so severely opposed to you;  
I tremble indeed and feel a thousandfold pain,  
when they take pleasure only in vengeance and hatred.  
Righteous God, what thoughts must come to you,  
when they, with the very trickery of Satan,  
only deride so boldly your strict laws of punishment.  
Alas! There is no doubt as to your thoughts:  
How tormented I am by twisted hearts!*

• Nobuo Kitagawa, oboe d’amore • Kerry Heimann, organ •

## Bach | Cantata *Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust* | continued

### 4. Recitative

Wer sollte sich demnach  
wohl hier zu leben wünschen,  
wenn man nur Hass und Ungemach  
vor seine Liebe sieht?  
Doch, weil ich auch den Feind  
wie meinen besten Freund  
nach Gottes Vorschrift lieben soll,  
so flieht mein Herze Zorn und Groll  
und wünscht allein bei Gott zu leben,  
der selbst die Liebe heisst.  
Ach, eintrachtvoller Geist,  
wenn wird er dir doch nur sein Himmelszion geben?

*Who should therefore  
harbor wishes of living here,  
when only hatred and discomfort  
are returned for love?  
Yet, since even my enemy,  
as with my best friend,  
merits my love according to God’s commandment,  
thus flees my heart from anger and resentment,  
and seeks only to dwell with God,  
who himself is named Love.  
Ah, Spirit of abundant concord,  
when will he present to you his heavenly Sion?*

### 5. Aria

Mir ekelt mehr zu leben,  
drum nimm mich, Jesu, hin!  
Mir graut vor allen Sünden,  
lass mich dies Wohnhaus finden,  
woselbst ich ruhig bin.

*Continuing this life fills me with dread,  
therefore take me from here, Jesus!  
I feel horror in face of all sins,  
let me find this dwelling  
where I myself shall find repose.*

• Nobuo Kitagawa, oboe d’amore • Kerry Heimann, organ •

## Soloists

**GABRIELLE RAZAFINJATOVO**, *mezzo-soprano*, celebrated for her expressive musicality and rich vocal tone, is an active performer and teacher based in Colorado. Notable achievements include 2nd place in the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music Honors Competition, multiple finalist awards in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition for Colorado Singers, Encouragement Award in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, and finalist in Colorado Bach Ensemble’s Competition for Young Artists. Razafinjatovo has performed as a soloist with Boulder Opera Company, Loveland Opera Theatre, Opera Fort Collins, Western Plains Opera, Art Song Colorado, Colorado Bach Ensemble, Seicento Baroque Ensemble, Boulder Chamber Orchestra, Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, Aurora Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, and Central City Opera. Recent engagements include alto soloist in Mozart’s *Requiem* and La Frugola in Puccini’s *Il Tabarro*.

**ELIZABETH FIELD**, *violin*, has served as concertmaster of the Bach Festival Orchestra since 2001. She enjoys an active career as a chamber musician and soloist on period and modern instruments. She has served as guest concertmaster of the Washington Bach Consort, National Philharmonic, Opera Lafayette, and Choral Arts Society. Field founded the period instrument group the Vivaldi Project in 2006 and directs the Modern Early Music Institute (historical performance practice for modern players). She also plays with Hesperus, Harmonious Blacksmith, 4 Nations Ensemble, and her mixed modern and period instrument chamber group, ArcoVoce. As a Baroque violinist, she has recorded for the Hungaroton, Naxos, and the Dorian labels. Field collaborated on a DVD with fortepianist Malcolm Bilson, exploring the historical performance practice of 18th-century violin and piano repertoire. As a modern violinist, she performs frequently with the Washington

National Opera and, along with her husband, Uri Wassertzug, is a member of the Novella Chamber Players. From 1982 to 1991, she performed and recorded for Deutsche Grammophon with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and also performed with leading New York ensembles such as the St. Luke’s Ensemble, Brooklyn Philharmonic, and New York City Opera. In 2015, she was the Alan and Wendy Pesky Artist-in-Residence at Lafayette College in Easton.

**NOBUO KITAGAWA**, *oboe*, a graduate of the Tokyo University of the Arts, holds both a Master of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University. He has won the Woolsey Hall Competition, the NHK Young Artists’ Audition, and the Katz Young Musicians’ Competition, which sponsored his debut recital in New York City. He has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Denver Symphony, Yale Philharmonia, Orchestra New England, and the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra. As an orchestral musician, he has performed with Orchestra New England, the New Haven Symphony, the Stamford Symphony, the Princeton Symphony, and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s. He is currently the principal oboist of the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra. On Broadway, he performed in the productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Miss Saigon*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Additionally, he served as the principal oboist for the Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber National Tour. He recorded for Koch International, Delos, and New World Records. The *Morning Call* praised his playing, describing it as having a “sweet, velvety sound that simply melted into every corner of the hall.” He is a faculty member at Lafayette College, Muhlenberg College, and the Kinhaven Adult Chamber Music Workshop. His YouTube channel, featuring nearly 900 instrumental exercise pieces, enjoys a large worldwide following. He also publishes his work through his online store, NK Music Lab, including modern editions of compositions by Georg Philipp Telemann.

## Soloists

**KERRY HEIMANN, keyboards**, has been president of the American Boychoir School and accompanied the choir's almost 100 annual concerts, coordinating an extensive international touring and recording schedule. With degrees in organ performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Heimann earned his doctoral degree in harpsichord and early music from Illinois, with a minor in choral conducting. His principal teachers have included Charlotte Mattax, Michael Farris, and Chet Alwes, and he received several awards, including the prestigious Theodore Presser Award and the Pi Kappa Lambda National Honor Society in Music. A widely sought-after accompanist, conductor, and collaborator, Heimann has played at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Kennedy Center and performed

at festivals throughout Europe and North America, such as the Spoleto Festival and the Festival de Lanaudière. He helped found the Baroque Artists of Champaign-Urbana and served as producer for Charlotte Mattax's six CDs of harpsichord works. He has performed at national and regional conferences for the American Choral Directors Association, the Society for Seventeenth Century Music, and the Organization of American Kodaly Educators. In addition, Heimann serves as Operations Manager for Princeton University Concerts, Director of Music for Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton, and Rehearsal Accompanist/Assistant Conductor of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem.

## 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 115 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 Salzburger Dom, Nikolaikirche in Potsdam, and the Thomaskirche, Bach's church in Leipzig, as part of the 2024 European tour; Herkulesaal at Munich's Royal Residence 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 Bach Choir has released 12 recordings on the Dorian and Analekta labels, including most recently Mendelssohn/Bach *Matthäus-Passion* (2024), Bach's Cantata 21 and Handel's *Ode for Saint Cecilia's Day* (2018), *A Child's Christmas in Bethlehem* (2013), and *St. 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).

Next Bach at Noon is April 8, the last concert until the program resumes in Bethlehem in September.  
Plan to attend the Allentown Summer series beginning in June!



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## BE TRANSPORTED TO MESMERIZING MUSICAL REALMS...

### Spring Concert

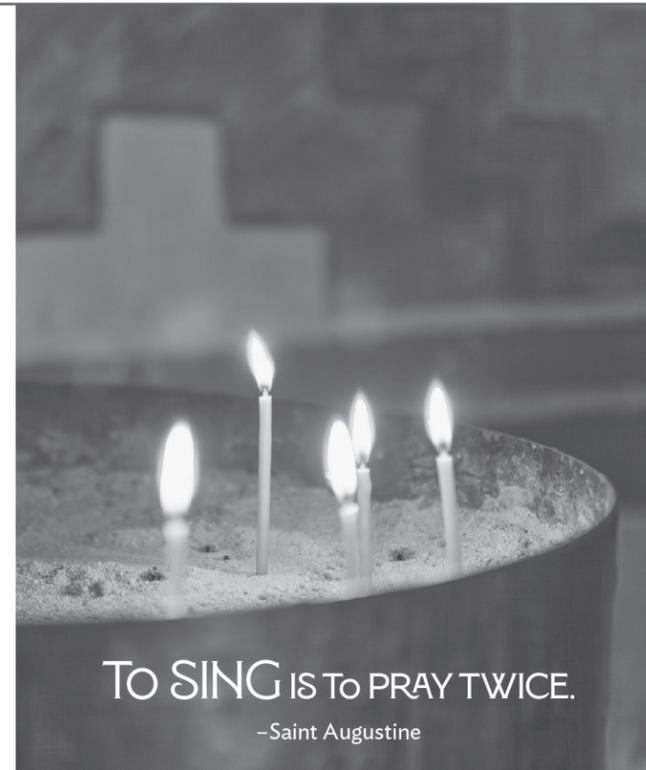
Bach Choir of Bethlehem & Westminster Choir

### Sergei Rachmaninoff: *ALL-NIGHT VIGIL, Op. 37*

SUN | March 30, 2025 | 4pm  
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

For singers and audience, the *Vigil* is an unforgettable mountaintop experience awash in the chants and luxurious harmonies of the Russian church. The Bach Choir performs it for the first time in our history, along with the talented singers of the Westminster Choir, the flagship ensemble of Westminster Choir College, in a first-ever collaboration between two titans of the American choral landscape.

Soloists mezzo-soprano **Luthien Brackett** and tenor **Steven Brennfleck** will be joined by **Glenn Miller**, an incomparable basso profundo, who, with the 130 voices of the combined choirs, will offer a universe of vocal sonorities in this absolutely not-to-be missed performance of some of the most moving and transporting music ever written.



## One Weekend. Four Days. 117th Bethlehem BACH Festival

THURS-SUN | May 8-11, 2025 | South Side & Historic Downtown Bethlehem



**A New Festival Format!** We are thrilled to launch our redesigned Festival experience, now transformed into one unforgettable four-day weekend. Enriching opening day programs kick off the revamped schedule on Thursday, where we step **Outside the Bachs with Fire & Grace**, an eclectic collaboration between guitarist **William Coulter** and violinist **Edwin Huizinga**. This unique duo explores the connective musical elements of classical, folk, and contemporary traditions from around the world. **Flamenco dancer Fanny Ara** joins Fire & Grace for this special interdisciplinary program. The music continues Friday and Saturday with our traditional lineup. Experience the time-honored tradition of the choir's annual performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, retaining its pride of place on Saturday at 2:30pm. Delight in our cherished core concerts, including **Bach at 8**, **Ifor Jones Memorial Chamber Music Concert**, **Bach at 4**, and **Zimmermann's Coffee House**. The celebrations conclude on Sunday with two new additions, a **Love Feast** hosted by Central Moravian Church and the **Cantata in Context Series**, along with the traditional **Chamber Music in the Saal**. These concerts take place in the heart of the newly inscribed **UNESCO World Heritage Site** on the grounds of the Moravian Church Settlements - Bethlehem.

Throughout the Festival, you can enjoy our talented Bach Choir singers, Bach Festival Orchestra, and invited guest performers. Join us for this special immersive musical experience as we celebrate Bach's music and influence, renew old friendships, and forge new bonds.



Tickets & Information:  
[BACH.org/tickets](http://BACH.org/tickets)  
610-866-4382 x. 115/110



The Bach Choir of Bethlehem gratefully acknowledges our Bach at Noon corporate & foundation sponsors.



Jephson Educational Trusts

Keystone Savings Foundation



The Bach Choir is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts



## CENTRAL MORAVIAN CHURCH

As an active and vibrant Moravian faith community in Bethlehem for over 282 years, Central Moravian Church is situated in the newly inscribed UNESCO World Heritage site, recognizing the Moravian Church Settlements of Gracehill (Northern Ireland), Christiansfeld (Denmark), and Herrnhut (Germany), as well as Bethlehem.

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 Minister 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 & now LIVESTREAMED!

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](http://WWFM.org) or tune in to a station in your area.

**NEW!** Since September 2024, Bach at Noon concerts are also livestreamed on the choir's YouTube channel in partnership with Central Moravian Church. Please see [BACH.org](http://BACH.org) for more information. Please donate to support our Bach at Noon live broadcast.

### Bach at Noon 2024-2025 Bethlehem Schedule

**2024**  
September 10  
October 8  
November 12

**2025**  
January 14  
February 11  
March 11  
April 8



**Special thanks to:**  
Central Moravian Church,  
Senior Pastor Janel Rice  
Rebecca Lepore, Minister of Music

John C. Baker Recordings, LLC,  
for generosity and expertise in support  
of livestreaming

The Guarantors of the Bach Choir  
for their continuing support.

### Bach at Noon 2025 Allentown Schedule:

June 10 July 8 August 12

610-866-4382 | [BACH.org](http://BACH.org)