

# BLOOMINGTON BACH CANTATA PROJECT

Daniel R. Melamed, director  
Lawrence Abernathy, manager  
Wendy Gillespie, founding director

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# BLOOMINGTON BACH CANTATA PROJECT

SEASON 12

CHRISTUM WIR SO LLEN LOBEN  
SCHON                      BWV 121

72



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022 | BLOOMINGTON, IN



# "CHRISTUM WIR SOLLEN LOBEN SCHON" BWV 121

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

1. Chorale
2. Aria
3. Recitative
4. Aria
5. Recitative
6. Chorale

Marinna Carmichael, soprano  
James Walton, alto  
Benjamin Bird, tenor  
Daniel Lentz, bass  
Sam Motter, cornetto  
Liza Malamut, Oscar Cañizares, Tucker Woerner, trombone  
Jennifer Kirby, oboe d'amore  
Ingrid Matthews, Jimena Burgo-Lopera,  
Miranda Zirnbauer, Havuka Lund, violin  
Esteban Hernández Parra, viola  
Kevin Flynn, cello  
Sharif Ibrahim, violone  
Anastasia Chin, organ  
  
Oscar Cañizares, music director  
Daniel R. Melamed, lecturer

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

March 27  
Kris Kwapis, director  
BWV 137

May 22 (evening)  
Carolann Buff, director  
BWV 108  
Bloomington Early Music Festival

## TEXT AND TRANSLATION

**1. Christum wir sollen loben schon,  
Der reinen Magd Marien Sohn,  
So weit die liebe Sonne leucht  
Und an aller Welt Ende reicht.**

**1. We should resplendently praise Christ,  
Son of the virginal maidservant Mary,  
Just as far as the beloved sun shines  
And reaches to the ends of all the world.**

2. O du von Gott erhöhte Kreatur,  
Begreife nicht, nein, nein, bewundre nur:  
Gott will durch Fleisch des Fleisches Heil  
erwerben.

2. Oh you creature elevated by God,  
Do not [try to] comprehend; no, no, just marvel:  
God will purchase the salvation of [sinners'] flesh by  
[sacrificing Christ's] flesh—

Wie gross ist doch der Schöpfer aller Dinge,  
Und wie bist du verachtet und geringe,  
Um dich dadurch zu retten vom Verderben.

How great indeed is [God] the creator of all things,  
And how despised and lowly are you!—  
So as thereby to rescue you from [eternal] ruin.

3. Der Gnade unermesslichs Wesen  
Hat sich den Himmel nicht  
Zur Wohnstatt auserlesen,  
Weil keine Grenze sie umschliesst.  
Was Wunder, dass allhie Verstand und Witz  
gebricht,  
Ein solch Geheimnis zu ergründen,  
Wenn sie sich in ein keusches Herze giesst.  
Gott wählet sich den reinen Leib zu einem  
Tempel seiner Ehren,  
Um zu den Menschen sich mit wundervoller  
Art zu kehren.

3. Mercy's/Grace's unmeasurable essence  
Has not selected [only] heaven  
For [its] dwelling place,  
Because no border can enclose it [mercy/grace].  
What wonder [is it] that here understanding and intellect  
are deficient  
To fathom such a mystery,  
When it [mercy/grace] pours itself into a chaste heart.  
God chooses the undefiled body as a temple of his  
honor,  
So as, in wonderful fashion, to turn himself toward  
humankind.

4. Johannis freudenvolles Springen  
Erkannte dich, mein Jesu, schon.  
Nun da ein Glaubensarm dich hält,  
So will mein Herze von der Welt  
Zu deiner Krippe brünstig dringen.

4. John [the Baptist]'s joyful leaping [in the womb]  
Already recognized you [as Christ], my Jesus.  
Now that an arm of faith holds you,  
So will my heart fervently press on  
From the world to your manger.

5. Doch wie erblickt es dich in deiner Krippe?  
Es seufzt mein Herz: mit bebender und fast  
geschlossener Lippe  
Bringt es sein dankend Opfer dar.  
Gott, der so unermesslich war,  
Nimmt Knechtsgestalt und Armut an.  
Und weil er dieses uns zugutgetan,  
So lass ich mit der Engel Chören  
Ein jauchzend Lob- und Danklied hören!

5. But how does it [my heart] behold you in your manger?  
My heart sighs; with trembling and almost closed  
[upper] lip  
It brings its offering in thanks there [to the manger].  
God, who [before Christ's birth] was so unmeasurable,  
[In Christ] assumes servant's form and poverty.  
And because he [God] has done this for our benefit,  
So I, together with the choirs of angels, will make heard  
A jubilant song of praise and thanks [to Christ].

**6. Lob, Ehr und Dank sei dir gesagt,  
Christ, geboren von der reinen Magd,  
Samt Vater und dem Heiligen Geist  
Von nun an bis in Ewigkeit.**

**6. May praise, honor, and thanks be declared to you,  
Christ, born of the virginal maidservant,  
Together with [God the] father and the Holy Spirit  
From this time forth until [we are] in eternity.**

(transl. Michael Marissen and Daniel R. Melamed)