



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

Steven Soph – tenor
Steven Eddy – baritone
Elizabeth Field – violin
Dan McCarthy – viola d'amore
Susan Charlton – flute
Nobuo Kitagawa – oboe d'amore

Christopher Jackson
Artistic Director & Conductor



October 8, 2024 – PROGRAM

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681–1767)
*Concerto for Viola d'amore, Oboe d'amore,
and Flute, TWV 53:E1*

Andante – Allegro – Siciliana – Vivace

– Dan McCarthy – viola d'amore • Susan Charlton – flute
Nobuo Kitagawa – oboe d'amore

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
*Cantata Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest
mich denn, BWV 157*

Members of the Bach Festival Orchestra

– Elizabeth Field, concertmaster & Linda Kistler – violin
Nina Falk – viola • Loretta O'Sullivan – cello
Daniel McDougall – bass • Susan Charlton – flute
Nobuo Kitagawa – oboe d'amore
Kerry Heimann – harpsichord & organ

The October Bach at Noon is supported in part by a generous endowment gift from Mrs. Cornelius Ayer Wood Jr. in memory of The Rev. Cornelius Ayer Wood Jr., a member of the choir's Board of Managers 1960–1977.

Second Tuesdays

* 12:10–1:00pm

Central Moravian Church
Historic Downtown Bethlehem

Next Bach at Noon
Tuesday,
November 12, 2024!



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



J.S. Bach | Cantata *Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich denn*, BWV 157

– Translation by H. Ellis Finger

1. Aria (Duet Tenor and Bass)

Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich denn!

- Elizabeth Field, violin • Susan Charlton, flute • Nobuo Kitagawa, oboe d’amore •

I will not let you go until I have your blessing!

2. Aria (Tenor)

Ich halte meinen Jesum feste,
ich lass ihn nun und ewig nicht.
Er ist allein mein Aufenthalt,
drum fasst mein Glaube mit Gewalt
sein segenreiches Angesicht;
denn dieser Trost ist doch der beste.

*I shall hold tight to my Jesus,
I shall not turn away from him now or forever.
He alone is my place of being,
thus my faith embraces with force
his countenance, so rich in blessings;
for this consolation is surely the best.*

- Nobuo Kitagawa, oboe d’amore •

3. Recitative (Tenor)

Mein lieber Jesu du,
wenn ich Verdruss und Kummer leide,
so bist du meine Freude,
in Unruh meine Ruh
und in der Angst mein sanftes Bette;
die falsche Welt ist nicht getreu,
der Himmel muss veralten,
die Lust der Welt vergeht wie Spreu;
wenn ich dich nicht, mein Jesu, hätte,
an wen sollt ich nicht sonst halten?
Drum lass ich nimmermehr von dir,
dein Segen bleibe denn bei mir.

*You my Jesus, dear to me,
when I suffer anguish and burden
you shall be my joy,
in troubled times my peace
and in anxiousness my soothing bed;
the treacherous world is not faithful,
heaven must grow old,
worldly pleasures vanish like dust;
if I did not have you, my Jesus,
on whom might I otherwise rely?
Thus I shall never part from you,
your blessing shall abide with me.*

4. Aria, Recitative and Arioso (Bass)

Ja, ja, ich halte Jesum feste,
so geh ich auch zum Himmel ein,
wo Gott und seines Lammes Gäste
in Kronen zu der Hochzeit sein.
Da lass ich nicht, mein Heil, von dir,
da bleibt dein Segen auch bei mir.

*Yes, surely, I hold tight to Jesus,
thus I will enter into heaven,
where God and guests of his Lamb
are present in crowns at the wedding feast.
There I will not forsake you, my Savior,
there your blessing shall abide with me.*

Ei, wie vergnügt
ist mir mein Sterbekasten,
weil Jesus mir in Armen liegt!
So kann mein Geist recht freudig rasten!

*Ah, how comforting
is my burial chamber,
for Jesus lies nestled in my arms!
Thus my spirit shall rest in bliss.*

Ja, ja, ich halte Jesum feste,
so geh ich auch zum Himmel ein!
O schöner Ort!
Komm, sanfter Tod, und führ mich fort,
wo Gott und seines Lammes Gäste
in Kronen zu der Hochzeit sein.

*Yes, surely, I hold tight to Jesus,
thus I will enter into heaven!
O beauteous place!
Come, gentle death, and lead me forth,
to where God and guests of his Lamb
are present in crowns at the wedding feast.*

Ich bin erfreut,
das Elend dieser Zeit
noch von mir heute abzulegen;
denn Jesus wartet mein im Himmel mit dem Segen.

*I am overjoyed
that the misery of my time here
can today be put aside,
for Jesus awaits me in heaven with his blessing.*

Da lass ich nicht, mein Heil, von dir,
da bleibt dein Segen auch bei mir.

*There I will not forsake you, my Savior,
there your blessing shall abide with me.*

- Elizabeth Field, violin • Susan Charlton, flute •

Bach | *Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich denn* | continued

5. Chorale

Meinen Jesum lass ich nicht,
geh ihm ewig an der Seiten;
Christus lässt mich für und für
zu den Lebensbächlein leiten.
Selig, wer mit mir so spricht:
meinen Jesum lass ich nicht.

*My Jesus I shall not forsake,
I shall always have him at my side;
Christ causes me now and forever
to be led to the waters of life.
Blessed is the one can say with me:
my Jesus I shall not forsake.*

Soloists

STEVEN SOPH, *tenor*, is a “superb vocal soloist” (*Washington Post*) with “impressive clarity and color” (*New York Times*), and he performs concert repertoire spanning the Renaissance to modern day. In 2023–24, he debuted with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra in Handel’s *Messiah*, made his solo debut in Handel’s *Israel in Egypt* with Boston’s Handel + Haydn Society, his Meyerson Symphony Center solo debut in Berlioz’s *Requiem* on Dallas’ Highlander Concert Series, and joined the University of Iowa for Britten’s *War Requiem*. He has performed with top American vocal ensembles including GRAMMY-Award-nominated True Concord Voices & Orchestra, Roomful of Teeth, and Conspire, Gramophone finalist Cut Circle; Yale Choral Artists, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Oregon Bach Festival Berwick Chorus; Colorado Bach Ensemble, Sounding Light, Ensemble Altera, Artefact, Ensemble Origo, The Leonids, and Spire Chamber Ensemble. Soph attended the American Bach Soloists Academy in 2011, was a 2014 Carmel Bach Festival Adams Fellow, and a 2016 Oregon Bach Festival Young Artist. He holds degrees from the University of North Texas and Yale School of Music. stevensoph.com

STEVEN EDDY, *baritone*, is an accomplished concert artist and Baroque music specialist, and he has garnered praise as a soloist and professional choral singer with such ensembles as The New York Philharmonic, The Oratorio Society of New York, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Seraphic Fire, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, Spire Chamber Ensemble, The Thirteen, Variant Six, Clarion Music Society, American Classical Orchestra, Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, Choral Arts Philadelphia, Handel Choir of Baltimore, New York Virtuoso Singers, and Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity. Eddy was the 1st Prize winner of the 2019 Oratorio Society of New York’s Lyndon Woodside Competition, which led to his debut with The Oratorio Society of New York in the world premiere of Paul Moravec and Mark Campbell’s *A Nation of Others*. He was also the winner of the 2015 Joy in Singing Music Sessions, which led to his New York solo recital debut at Merkin Hall. He was a Regional Finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Upcoming projects include a return to The Oratorio Society of New York and Carnegie Hall in the world premiere of Paul Moravec and Mark Campbell’s *All Shall Rise*, a debut with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Handel’s *Messiah* and David Lang’s *the little match girl passion* with The Thirteen, Bach’s *Mass in B Minor* with Choral Arts Philadelphia, and concert projects with Seraphic Fire and Variant Six. For more information, please visit Eddy’s website at steveneddybaritone.com

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. Ms. 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. Ms. 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 1982–1991, 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.

DAN MCCARTHY, *viola d’amore* McCarthy’s playing has been described as “virtuosic” by *Seen and Heard International*. He was a part of the first class of Baroque violists ever to be accepted into the historical performance program at The Juilliard School, where he was often featured in performances playing violin, viola d’amore, and viola da gamba. McCarthy has served as section violist with the Trinity Wall Street Baroque Orchestra, Concertmaster of the Austin Baroque Orchestra, and tenor gambist with Parthenia. He has also toured extensively throughout North America, East Asia, and Europe with artists and groups such as Jordi Savall, Masaaki Suzuki, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, and American Bach Soloists. Here on the East Coast he plays with Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity, Washington Bach Consort, New York State Baroque, Artek, REBEL, Clarion Music Society, Opera Lafayette, Teatro Nuovo, Academy of Sacred Drama, Brandywine Baroque, and Tempesta Di Mare.

Soloists

SUSAN CHARLTON, *flute*, is originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with degrees in Flute Performance and Chamber Music Studies and Performance and has studied and coached with flutists and other instrumental and vocal performing artists throughout the United States. She received performance awards from the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association and National Flute Association, appeared as featured concerto soloist with a variety of orchestras throughout the Upper Midwest, and has performed with orchestras and chamber ensembles on the East Coast. In the Lehigh Valley she performs with the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra and Bach Festival Orchestra. She serves as Instructor of Flute at Lafayette College and maintains an active private teaching studio.

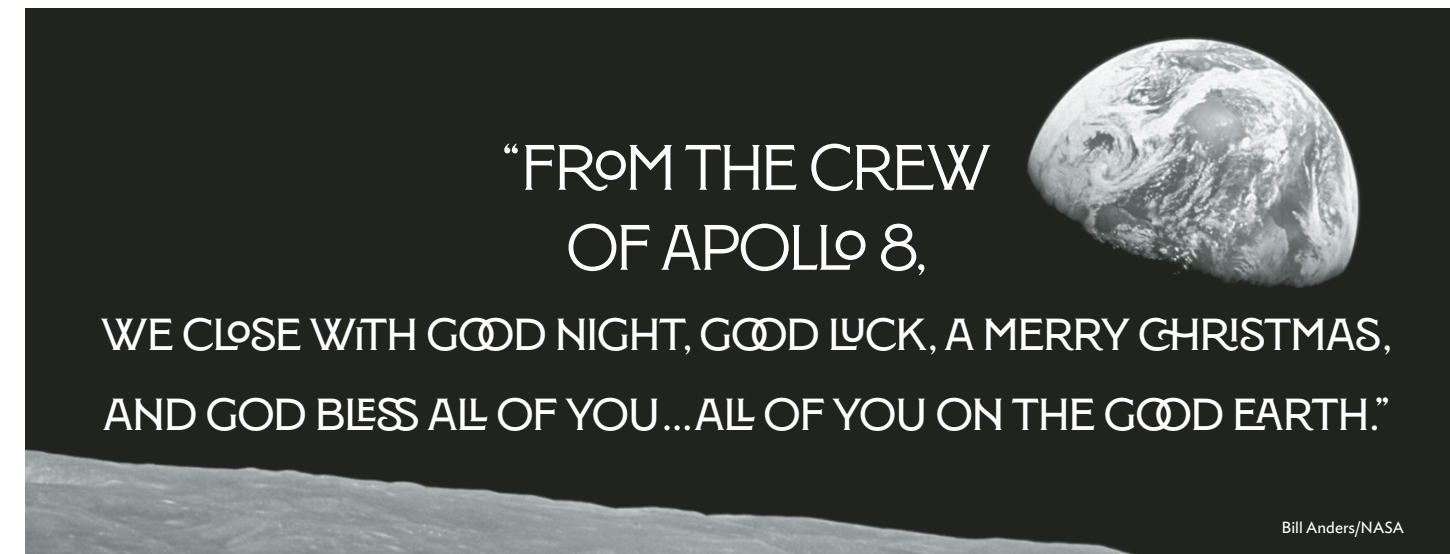
NOBUO KITAGAWA, *oboe*, a graduate of the Tokyo University of the Arts, holds both a Master of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University. He has won the Woolsey Hall Competition, the NHK Young Artists' Audition, and the Katz Young Musicians' Competition, which sponsored his debut recital in New York City. He has appeared as a con-

certo 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.

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.




Christmas Concerts

Heavenly Christmas: Bach, Kile Smith, & Carols

We welcome you to join us for these infectiously joyful performances that are a cherished part of the Lehigh Valley's Christmas season.

SAT | December 7, 2024 | 4pm
First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

SUN | December 8, 2024  | 4pm
First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem

The Bach Choir Christmas Concerts explore the heavenly firmament with the music of Bach and Philadelphia composer Kile Smith. We begin with Bach's Cantata *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, BWV 1, (*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*), based on a Philipp Nicolai hymn reverently known as the "Queen of Chorales." Virtuoso vocals and the warmth of French horns combine with a shimmering violin obbligato in Bach's response to this evocative text and regal melody. A profoundly moving accompanying piece, Smith's *The Consolation of Apollo*, captures the awe of the Apollo 8 crew witnessing the Earth rise over the moon as shared in a historic 1968 Christmas Eve broadcast. Weaving passages from Genesis and lunar radio transmissions, this illuminating work exudes glimmering choral textures and sparkling percussion.

Celebrating the inscription of the Moravian Church Settlement to the UNESCO World Heritage List, the choir will debut a Moravian hymn text composed by Smith as part of the choir's Carol Commission Project. At the concert's conclusion, the audience is invited to sing carols with the choir.

Guest soloists:

Nola Richardson & Katelyn Grace Jackson – soprano • Janna Critz & Kate Maroney – mezzo-soprano
Lawrence Jones & Nathan Hodgson – tenor • Steven Eddy & Daniel Schwartz – bass

 Livestream option

BACH at NOON Tuesday, NOVEMBER 12

This November, we look toward the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We begin the concert with a charming set of carols for instruments by French composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier, and then we'll feature the Advent Cantata *Schwingt freudig euch empor*, BWV 36 (*Soar joyfully upward!*). Come celebrate the coming holiday season with us!



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Here.**

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



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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

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 (N. Ireland) 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 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.

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 or tune in to a station in your area.

NEW! Beginning with September's Bach at Noon, concerts will also be livestreamed on the choir's YouTube channel in partnership with Central Moravian Church. Please see 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

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