

# BachBeat

The Newsletter of the Bach Cantata Choir



October 2010

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*The Bach Cantata Choir is a legally organized non-profit corporation under Oregon law, and is a registered 501(c)(3) corporation with the IRS. Donations to the choir are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law and regulation.*

## Newsletter

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The *BachBeat* newsletter is published cyclically by the Bach Cantata Choir.

[www.bachcantatachoir.org](http://www.bachcantatachoir.org)

## Christoph Graupner

By Lorin Wilkerson – Bass

Born in 1683 in Hartmannsdorf, Saxony, in many ways Christoph Graupner led the “typical” life of an educated musician/composer, a life which intersected at various times with those of men who have remained more famous than he, including Bach, Handel, and Johann Kuhnau.

Like many other composers of the era (including Heinrich Schütz, another composer featured in this concert<sup>1</sup>) Graupner studied law. In his case it was at the University of Leipzig, where he also had the opportunity to continue his musical studies with the venerable Kuhnau at the nearby Thomaskirche. In 1705 however, he set out from school to serve as the harpsichordist for the Hamburg Opera.

Graupner was exposed to many great opportunities while in Hamburg; the principal violinist of the opera orchestra at this time was a young G.F. Handel, and the conductor was a famous man named Reinhard Keiser, known as a composer of immensely popular operas. Graupner honed his compositional craft under Keiser’s tutelage and wrote several quite-successful operas during his tenure at Hamburg, as well as collaborating with Keiser on a few more. This experience no doubt helped inform the style of his

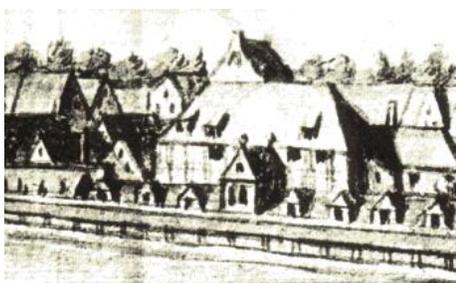
cantatas, which he composed in the new ‘operatic’ style that was sweeping through the world of sacred music in Europe at that time. This should serve as no surprise, since Kuhnau himself was an advocate of this style of composition.

In 1709 Graupner was hired as *Hofkapellmeister* of the court of the Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt. Graupner was known for modesty and humility, but by 1723 the Landgrave was severely in arrears as regards the payment of his salary, so the composer applied for the opening of Cantor at Thomaskirche, a vacancy made available by the death of his former master Kuhnau.

The Landgrave had no desire to lose such a fine musician, and promptly paid Graupner his wages, who then declined the post in Leipzig and included in his refusal a warm letter of recommendation for Bach; such an act was considered very unusual at the time.<sup>2</sup>

Like the music of so many baroque masters, Graupner’s fell out of style and he was all but forgotten for a while, except in the context of the legal wrangling between his estate and the court at Hesse-Darmstadt, both of whom laid claim to the thousands of works in his catalog that lay there gathering dust.

The delightful outcome of this situation is that Graupner’s catalog was preserved in its entirety, a very rare feat for a musician who considered himself primarily a court functionary with no



The first Hamburg Opera (1678-1763)

thought for posthumous glory; indeed the humble man requested that all of his compositions be burned upon his death.

Fortunately his wishes were not carried out, as over a hundred symphonies, eight operas, nearly 1500 cantatas and over 40 concerti and many other works still exist. In recent years the high quality of his work has come to be recognized. The renowned harpsichordist Genevieve Soly has recorded his keyboard partitas in their entirety, and in many cases his vocal and other works are seeing their first performances in hundreds of years. ♪

<sup>1</sup> See *BachBeat* Vol.2, No.1 for a brief biography of Heinrich Schütz.

<sup>2</sup> See *BachBeat* Vol.1, No.3 for further information on Graupner's interaction with Bach.

All past issues are available at [www.bachcantatachoir.org](http://www.bachcantatachoir.org).

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## Upcoming Concerts

### **Sunday, October 24, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.**

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672): Cantate Domino, SWV 81  
Christoph Graupner (1683-1760): Cantata: "Also hat Gott die Welt geliebet"

J.S. Bach (1685-1750): Cantata #78: "Jesu, der du meine Seele"

J.S. Bach: Cantata #192: "Nun danket alle Gott"

### **Friday, December 10, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.**

Sebastian Knüpfer (1633-1676): "Von Himmel Hoch"

Michael Praetorius: (1571-1621): "Psallite," "Es ist ein Ros," "Von Himmel Hoch"

J. S. Bach: "Christmas Oratorio" parts 1-3

*Tickets required - \$23 adult, \$18 student/senior.*

*Tickets on sale now at [www.boxofficetickets.com](http://www.boxofficetickets.com).*



**BACH CANTATA CHOIR**  
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## Join Our Email List!

Sign up at our next concert  
(October 24, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.)  
or online at  
[www.bachcantatachoir.org](http://www.bachcantatachoir.org)

## BCC Silent Auction

The Bach Cantata Choir welcomes you to this our fifth season of bringing you the choral masterworks of the great J.S. Bach. In addition to our mission of singing all of the more than 250 cantatas in this oeuvre, the choir sings works of many other masters, including in this concert cantatas by Heinrich Schütz and Christoph Graupner. As you know, with the exception of our Christmas Oratorio concert, the BCC does not charge admission. Instead, we rely on the generous support of audience members like you to fund our mission. In addition to the free-will offerings at each of our concerts throughout the season, the Silent Auction is our main stream of revenue.

We encourage everyone to show up early, stay late, and bid generously to ensure that we can continue to bring you this wonderful music. The multitalented members of the BCC choir and orchestra will offer the fruits of their many skills and abilities in the form of unique goods and services for your bidding.

In addition to bidding at the auction, if you or your friends, family and neighbors have the resources, please consider donating items such as gift certificates for goods and services, as these are some of the most popular items and will greatly enhance the attractiveness of our auction. As we are a 501(c)(3) corporation, donations to the BCC are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law and regulation.

Please visit our website ([www.bachcantatachoir.org](http://www.bachcantatachoir.org)) or email Lorin Wilkerson, Silent Auction Chair, at [lorinwilk@yahoo.com](mailto:lorinwilk@yahoo.com) if you would like to help out in this way before October 20th. We will provide you a receipt for your tax records. Once again, the Bach Cantata Choir warmly thanks you in advance for your generous support in this endeavor, and you and your families are most cordially invited to attend our inaugural concert on October 24, 2010.