

Bach Beat

The Newsletter of the Bach Cantata Choir



October 2012

www.bachcantatachoir.org

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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.

2012-2013 Season Preview

By Lorin Wilkerson—Bass

The Bach Cantata Choir and Chamber Orchestra warmly welcome you to our most exciting season yet! Whether you are new to our concerts or one of our staunch, loyal concert-goers (we like to think of you as hard-core Baroque music fans), there are incredible moments of music just ahead! Here are a few of the things you can look forward to this year:

Sunday, November 4th

Our Silent Auction Fundraiser! This hugely important event is one of the mainstays of our continuing fiscal solvency. Browsing and bidding will take place before the concert and during the break, and will continue until 20 minutes after the concert has ended! Enjoy live music and help your BCC continue to bring you the music you love, such as J.S. Bach's great motet for double choir, *Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied* and Handel's Chandos Anthem #5b, *I Will Magnify Thee*, as well as other selections by Mendelssohn, Bach and Buxtehude. Please note: it's not too late to donate items to the auction; professional goods/services are especially encouraged! E-mail silent auction chair Kristin Sterling at bachcantatachoir@gmail.com for details.

Friday, December 21st

For our Christmas concert this year, you can look forward to a new format that

still brings you the same things you've loved about this concert before. In addition to extensive highlights from the entire *Christmas Oratorio*, we will sing Giovanni Gabrieli's *O Magnum Mysterium* as well as the glorious *Magnificat in D Major* by J.S. Bach. Buy tickets when you pay for your silent auction purchases at the November concert!

Tickets for this concert (\$25 general admission/\$20 students or seniors) will go on sale online in early November and be available for purchase at our November 4th concert.

Sunday February 3rd

SuperBach Sunday! Ignore the big game entirely or get home in time for kick-off after getting your choral music fix! The choice is yours. Enjoy the third different setting of the chorale *Nun Danket alle Gott* that the BCC has performed over the years, this time by Friedrich Zachau, as well as the Grande Motet *Te Deum* by the great middle Baroque composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier.

Sunday March 17th

For the Lenten concert this year, enjoy music by composers ranging from Thomas Tallis to our own artistic director Ralph Nelson. Bach's great *Concerto for Violin and Oboe in C Minor* (BWV 1060) showcasing our incredibly talented soloists Paul Pitkin, oboe and Mary Rowell, violin is our featured instrumental work of the year, and the choir will sing Chilcott's *Irish Blessing* and much more.

Sunday June 2nd

In honor of the 450th anniversary of the birth of John Dowland, guest artist Hideki Yamaya, lutenist and artistic director of Musica Maestrale (online at www.musicamastrale.org), will perform selections by this great English composer. J.S. Bach's *Wedding Cantata* and Durufle's *Ubi Caritas* are just two of the choral works you will hear at our season finale. Or is it...?

The Bach Cantata Choir has been extended the great honor of being asked to sing for the 42nd Annual Abbey Bach Festival in Mt. Angel. This incredible event, set in a beautiful monastic environment, will take place over three evenings; July 24th-26th. More information can be found at www.mountangelabbey.org/bach-home.htm.

Featured Silent Auction Items

We encourage everyone to show up early, stay late, and bid generously on November 4th on some of these wonderful items (a more complete catalog will be available on our website the week before the auction):

- An estate plan for individual or couple.
- Fine wines and custom, home-baked pies, cupcakes, cookies and more!
- A four-hour sailing trip on the Columbia or a two-hour canoe paddle tour on the Willamette.
- Gift certificates to some of your Portland favorite places including Bellagio's Pizza and Title Wave Used Bookstore.
- Tickets to some of the best performances in town including Portland Center Stage.



BACH CANTATA CHOIR
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**Don't miss the
Silent Auction at
our next Concert!**

Sunday, November 4, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.
Rose City Park Presbyterian Church
Doors will open at 1:30 pm
Bidding ends approximately 20 minutes
after the concert ends

BachGround

By Lorin Wilkerson - Bass

The Great Dane Returns to the BCC

One of the foremost influences on a young J.S. Bach, certainly from his perspective as an organist, was the master of that instrument from the Marien-Kirche in Lübeck, the great Dietrich Buxtehude. Bach took a lengthy leave of absence from his post as organist in Arnstadt to travel on foot more than 200 miles in the cold, wet North German autumn to study with Buxtehude; indeed he outstayed his leave by quite a bit and nearly lost his job because he couldn't tear himself away from the amazing opportunity he had to study with Buxtehude, nick-named the 'Great Dane.' For a more detailed analysis of Buxtehude's influence on J.S. Bach, see *BachBeat* Vol. 1 no. 2, 'The Long Road to Lübeck.'¹

J.S. Bach's Mighty Motets

In 1789, almost 40 years after the master's death, the boys choir at St. Thomas Kirche in Leipzig was engaged in a performance of J.S. Bach's great motet for double choir, *Singet dem Herrn sein neues Lied*. A young man in the audience rose in amazement at the music and yelled to the choirmaster 'What's that?' That young man was Mozart, and he spent the afternoon studying scores, lost in deep contemplation over the music of J.S. Bach. The BCC will sing this motet at the November 4th concert. For more information on the Bach motets, look to *BachBeat* Vol 1. No 5, 'The Mysterious Motets of J.S. Bach.'

For anyone reading this newsletter on paper, all past issues of *BachBeat* are available at www.bachcantatachoir.org.

¹ The BCC will perform Buxtehude's cantata *Alles, was ihr tut mit Worten* at the November 4th Concert.