



BUCKS COUNTY  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY  
ESTABLISHED 1973

Thomas Lloyd, Artistic Director

P.O. Box 702  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
www.buckschoral.org  
215-598-6142

April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Bach's *Mass in B Minor*  
Call now for tickets!

Save the date: Sunday, June 4, 2006 at 7:30pm  
Masterworks for Choir and Organ  
National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown

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bucks county choral society

# Counterpoint

spring 2006

## Upcoming Events

- **Bach's *Mass in B Minor***  
Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:00pm  
St. Ignatius Church  
Yardley, PA  
Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30pm  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church  
Doylestown, PA
- **Fourth Annual Choral Festival Benefit Concert**  
Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:00pm  
Central Bucks South High School
- **Masterworks for Choir and Organ**  
Bernstein—*Chichester Psalms*  
Howells—*Hymnus Paradisi*  
Michael Stairs, organ  
Jane Kamp, soprano  
Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm  
National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA

## Bucks County Choral Society Board of Directors

Dennis R. Walsh, Chairman  
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*The mission of the Bucks County Choral Society is to bring memorable performances of outstanding choral music to the people of Bucks County and the greater Philadelphia area... thereby celebrating and strengthening the social fabric of the wider community.*

## Bach's *Mass in B Minor* Comes to Bucks County

In what will surely be the grandest musical event of the season, the Bucks County Choral Society will join with the Riverside Symphonia for two memorable performances of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Mass in B Minor*. Performances are scheduled for April 1 at 8pm at St. Ignatius Church in Yardley, and April 2 at 7:30pm at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Doylestown.

This special event is the Choral Society's first experience performing the *Mass*, considered by many to be Bach's crowning achievement. And it is very likely the first chance for many music lovers in Bucks County to hear a live performance of the work so close to home. Not even Bach heard the *Mass* performed in its entirety, as it was conceived as a compilation of separate pieces. "Bach's *B-Minor Mass* is the summation and culmination of his life's work", writes noted conductor and Bach scholar Helmuth Rilling.

Many of the movements represent revisions of Bach's

own earlier works, going back as far as 1714. The varied movements of the *Mass* represent a full range of the historical musical styles known to Bach, from the Renaissance motet to the *galant* style of the younger generation of composers in his time. After Bach's death in 1750, the work became of special interest to connoisseurs through the efforts of his son C. P. E. Bach, and due primarily to occasional performances of portions of

*"Bach's B-Minor Mass is the summation and culmination of his life's work."*

the *Mass*. But the world would have to wait until 1859, over a century after the composer's death, for a complete performance.

With the guidance of Artistic Director Thomas Lloyd, the Choral Society has embraced this rare experience, responding to the musical challenge of the *Mass in B Minor* by pursuing an especially intensive rehearsal and preparation schedule. The choir has developed and utilized a host of online re-



Johann Sebastian Bach, himself

sources, including supplemental reading opportunities, Bach chats, and downloadable music MIDI files.

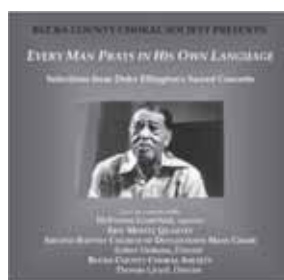
The continued collaboration between BCCS and Riverside Symphonia is welcomed by both groups. "We're pleased and proud to once again be joining forces with Riverside Symphonia, the best orchestra in the area," notes Lloyd, "and we're thrilled to be bringing this glorious music to our audiences." Riverside is also proud of the partnership, saying "collaborations between arts organizations are an important part of keeping the arts alive in our community."

Don't miss this rare chance to hear Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with the Bucks County Choral Society and Riverside Symphonia on April 1 and 2. Be sure to get your tickets in advance – four of the past five BCCS concerts have sold out! For tickets and more information, contact us at 215-598-6142 or [www.buckschoral.org](http://www.buckschoral.org)



Riverside Symphonia

## BCCS Recordings

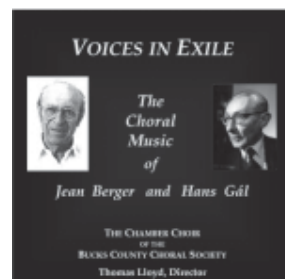


*Every Man Prays in His Own Language*  
Selections from Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts

featuring the Bucks County Choral Society;  
Devonne Gardner, soprano; Eric Mintel Quartet; and Second Baptist Church of Doylestown Mass Choir

The Bucks County Choral Society began the 2005-2006 season, with help from several friends (see above) by presenting two spectacular sold out performances of selections from Duke Ellington's immortal Sacred Concerts. This live recording features some of the best offerings from both nights - these were truly concerts for the ages, and we're pleased to have captured the magic on disc for repeated listening.

*Voices in Exile*  
The Choral Music of Jean Berger and Hans Gal  
featuring the Chamber Choir of the Bucks County Choral Society



The Chamber Choir of the Bucks County Choral Society's debut compact disc recording, *Voices in Exile - the Choral Music of Jean Berger and Hans Gal*, presents a survey of the music of two outstanding mid-20th century composers. Caught in the onrushing Nazi juggernaut leading up to World War II, both men were forced to flee their homes - from their adopted countries came music of great passion and expression, with each composer utilizing a different musical palette and language. At a time when Gal's instrumental music is beginning to be recorded, the Chamber Choir's CD is the only available recording of his vocal music. The choral music of both Berger and Gal has distinct "sounds" - the Chamber Choir faithfully captures the beauty in both mens' work.

Add these CDs to your collection today!  
Call (215) 598-6142 to order, or visit [www.buckschoral.org](http://www.buckschoral.org).

## Sharing Music and More with our Community

### In the Spirit of Christmas

BCCS is pleased to go beyond its normal concert schedule to share the music it loves with the community. This was especially evident this past Christmas season when two groups of BCCS carolers performed in special appearances. A group of eleven singers joined the Yardley Main Street Christmas Parade on December 10, caroling in front of the Yardley fire station and at the community center. A separate group of singers caroled at the Durham House, a mental health care facility in Pipersville. Said BCCS singer Eric Muth, "I hope BCCS can do more of this sort of outreach. It reminds us all how spiritually rewarding it is to give something of oneself, especially to those with special needs."

December's "Conduct-the-Choir Charity Auction" gave BCCS a chance to share more than just its music, raising hundreds of dollars for the choir and surrounding communities and bringing smiles to the faces of singers and audience alike. Online auctions were held on the BCCS website for the opportunity to conduct the choir in concert singing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*. Monies raised in the auctions were shared with local charitable organizations: the Bucks County Flood and Mitigation Fund in Yardley, A Woman's Place in Doylestown, and the Central Bucks Cares Hurricane Relief Effort. This year's three winning bidders (one for each performance) were Christopher Whitney, Carol Shelly Ebert and Karen Winey. 🎵

### Come Sing with us!

BCCS is now accepting applications from local youth to audition for a chance to perform in concert with the choir. The winner of the competition will perform the child alto solo setting of Psalm 23 from Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* in the Choral Society's June 4 concert at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown. In addition to the solo opportunity, cash awards will be presented to the top finalists. Details of the upcoming auditions are available at [www.buckschoral.org](http://www.buckschoral.org).

This July, BCCS will invite area singers of all skill levels to join the choir and enjoy reading through some of the best-loved music in the choral repertoire. The "Summer Sings" program, started in 2005, offers a pressure-free opportunity for musical exploration in sessions that blend serious choir rehearsal and informal relaxed sing-along. This summer's schedule begins July 11, when Central Bucks High School West Choral director Joseph Ohrt will conduct Fauré's *Requiem* at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown. BCCS Artistic Director Thomas Lloyd will lead a reading of Mozart's *Requiem* on July 18 at the Yardley Community Center, and the series wraps up on July 25 with Handel's *Messiah*, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Solebury, led by church organist and choirmaster Timothy Harrell. Admission to each Summer Sing session is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. Optional score rental is \$1. 🎵

### Choral Festival Benefit Concert

The Fourth Annual Choral Festival Benefit Concert is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 at 8pm at Central Bucks High School South in Doylestown. Presented jointly by the Community Conservatory of Music (CCM), Doylestown, and BCCS, the concert brings together a variety of area choirs and musical styles for a night of singing that is at once heartwarming and inspiring. The event is a fundraiser for CCM with proceeds benefiting their charitable outreach projects. These programs include the Prelude Project of creative arts therapy for individuals with special needs, Tuition Assistance Grants for financially disadvantaged families and Arts for Seniors.

"As in the past, we look forward to this year's concert being a celebration of the joy of singing and the spirit of music, truly embracing the missions of both the Conservatory and the Choral Society" says CCM Executive Director and BCCS singer Steve Rock. Choirs currently scheduled to participate include Bucks County Choral Society, Central Bucks South High School Women's Ensemble, Kardon Institute for Arts Therapy Chorale, Second Baptist Church of Doylestown Mass Choir, and the Pennsylvania Youth Chorale.

There will be a private pre-concert reception from 5:30 to 7 pm, including preferred concert seating. Cost for the reception is \$60 per person. Concert ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors (65+), \$5 for ages 7-18 and free for 6 and under. For information, call 215-340-7979. 🎵

## A Thank You to our Concert Sponsors

Bucks County Choral Society wishes to express our sincere gratitude for the generous support of our concert sponsors for the 2005-2006 season. These sponsors, our "angels," have made it possible for us to plan and accomplish wonderful things this season. We are most grateful to arts patron and jazz aficionado Gene W. Fickes for his sponsorship of our highly successful "Classic Jazz in a Sacred Space" concerts in October. We also greatly appreciate the support of the Univest National Bank and Trust Co., sponsor of our season-ending Masterworks for Choir and Organ concert at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in June.



From left to right: Eric Mintel, Gene W. Fickes, DeVonne Gardner, Tom Lloyd. (photo credit: H. Wein)

Sponsorship support such as this provides BCCS with invaluable funds to cover the costs associated with our performances. Sponsoring businesses, individuals, foundations and community groups enjoy many benefits including recognition at our concerts and in our publications, complimentary tickets, "behind-the-scenes" visits with singers and our Artistic Director Thomas Lloyd, and most importantly, the joy and satisfaction of supporting the arts in our community. There are varying levels of sponsorship and we are confident that there is an opportunity for you to become one of our angels. To learn more, contact Laura Biersmith at 215-794-6867. 🎵

## Sacred Jazz program sells out 2 performances and 300 CDs!

It was a groundbreaking experience for BCCS: exploring new repertoire, new collaborations, and with many new faces in the audience. Thanks in large part to the generosity of BCCS patron and jazz aficionado Gene W. Fickes, the Choral Society presented two sold-out performances of "Classic Jazz in a Sacred Space" at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown in October. Featuring the rarely performed music of Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts, the concerts were graced with the creamy voice and authentic artistry of soprano DeVonne Gardner, a Philadelphia native who was Ellington's featured soloist in performances of the Sacred Concerts all over the world.

The concerts were also the occasion of the first BCCS collaboration with popular pianist Eric Mintel and his jazz quartet, already well known to jazz audiences in Bucks County and all over the east coast. Long associated with the sacred music of Dave Brubeck, this was Eric's first involve-

ment with Ellington's autumnal Sacred Concerts. Afterwards he reflected, "I had so much fun, the music was so uplifting, my drummer even got emotional towards the end of the concert on the second night, he was truly inspired! The choir was incredible, what a glorious sound!"



(photo credit: H. Wein)

Also collaborating in these performances were the passionately committed singers of the Second Baptist Church of Doylestown Mass Choir, directed by Esther Dinkens and featuring soloist Conrad Miller. This roof-

raising gospel choir was introduced to BCCS in last season's Choral Benefit Concert, and was featured in the jazz concert both by themselves and in a rousing antiphonal finale with BCCS singing Ellington's celebration of "Freedom!"

After selling out the originally scheduled single performance weeks in advance, BCCS scrambled to add a second performance and was gratified with a second full house. Another unexpected bonus was the production of a live CD recording of the concert entitled "Every Man Prays in His Own Language", which after its recent release, quickly sold out its first printing of 300 copies. If you would like a copy of this CD, please contact BCCS at 215-598-6142 or [www.buckschoral.org](http://www.buckschoral.org).

Plans are already underway to build on the newfound excitement of these concerts with another program of sacred choral jazz for early next season! 🎵

## New Singing for Seniors Program Gets Under Way

In response to the growing population of music-loving senior citizens in the Bucks County area, BCCS began a new program, "Singing for Seniors," this past fall. The sold-out kick off event was a workshop led by noted area teacher, conductor, singer and composer Helen Kemp, held at The Manor at Yorktown in Jamison, PA. The workshop was designed to provide a pleasurable and educational experience for Bucks County's singing seniors, regardless of their level of musical expertise. "Studies are showing that one of the healthiest things a senior can do for both body and mind is to get together with others and sing, and BCCS is happy to organize this opportunity to do just that," comments BCCS Artistic Director, Thomas Lloyd.

In morning and afternoon sessions, Dr. Kemp and over 80 participants sang through then musically developed four pieces of choral music covering a range of

styles. While learning the music, workshop participants were treated to Kemp's renowned instructional and inspirational skills. In the highly convivial and energized atmosphere created by Dr. Kemp, singers learned about warming up their voices and bodies, breathing techniques, tone production, pronunciation, as well as how to instill their musical expression with emotion and passion.

The next event in the program will be a "Singing for Seniors Choir Festival" to be held on Thursday, April 20 at the Central Bucks Community Senior Center in Doylestown. Individual senior choirs will perform informally for each other, and all will come together at the end with members of the Choral Society to sing two songs,

one with Helen Kemp, and one with Thomas Lloyd. For further details, contact BCCS by phone or email. 🎵

