



J. S. Bach

1685 - 1985

Bucks County Choral Society

Elma Heckler, Music Director

A Festival of Christmas Music

December 7 and 8, 1984 - 8:00 p.m.
Salem United Church of Christ
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Happy 300th Birthday to Johann Sebastian Bach

The Bucks County Choral Society is proud to join the innumerable other musical groups around the world who this season are celebrating the tricentennial of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach, the great Baroque composer and organist. His works are notable not only as foundations for all the great Western music to follow, but also as sources of inspiration and delight for modern audiences.

Bach was both a musical giant in his own right and a member of what may well be the world's most remarkable musical family. It was active musically for seven generations, and more than fifty individual family members have been identified as professional musicians, many of them men of eminence. Among the best known were four of Johann Sebastian's twenty children, some of whose works remain in the current repertoire.

Johann Sebastian Bach himself spent his early childhood at the courts of German princelings at Weimar and Cothen, where he responded to the prevailing light-hearted spirit with some of his most brilliant secular music, including the celebrated Brandenburg concertos. At the age of 35 he made a move he later regretted—to the prestigious but frustrating post of cantor of the Lutheran Thomas-Schule in Leipzig, where he remained until his death at age 65. Though his superiors at the school tried to insist that he concentrate on his duties there, with the aid of noble patrons he did quite a bit of "moonlighting," contributing both to his artistic development and to the support of that vast brood of children.

After his death in 1750 his music all but disappeared from public view, though it had an important influence on the work of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. One of those responsible for its return to favor in the 1830's was Felix Mendelssohn. Though many of his contemporaries thought his music old-fashioned, he is now regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time.

Magnificat in D, BWV 234

St. Luke tells us that after Mary learned she was to give birth to Jesus she hastened to share the news with her cousin Elizabeth. Her words of praise and thanksgiving have echoed down the centuries.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

The Gospel's verses (1:46-55) have become the Hymn of the Virgin Mary, part of the evening service in the Catholic, Lutheran and Episcopal churches. The traditional plainsong setting can still be heard, but many composers have created musical settings of their own.

Johann Sebastian Bach composed the first version of his *Magnificat* in 1723, set in the key of E flat Major. Interpolated into the Latin text were three choruses and a duet on Christmas themes. In the final D Major version, completed about 1730, those interpolations were deleted to make the piece suitable for performance at any season.

Bach's music often combines great solemnity with a kind of purposeful playfulness. There are several examples in this work. The soprano solo, *quia respexit*, is almost rudely interrupted by the chorus in a luxuriant fugue in which they snatch from her lips the final words of her verse, *omnes generationes*. In the sixth movement, a few minutes later, Bach places the word *superbos*—the proud—in splendid harmonic and rhythmic isolation from all that precedes and follows it. In the eighth movement, for alto and two flutes, he dramatizes the text, "and the rich he has sent empty away," by causing the flutes to trail off into unresolved, dramatic emptiness. In the finale, in a moment of pure playfulness, he accompanies the words "as it was in the beginning" with music that is indeed as it was in the beginning of the composition.

—Kingdon W. Swayne

A Festival of Christmas Music

Processional

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light

Harm. by J.S. Bach, 1734

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 29 — Wir Danken Dir

J.S. Bach, 1731

Joan Gurniak, Organ with Orchestra

I

Magnificat in D, BWV 234

J.S. Bach, 1728-31

1. Chorus
Magnificat anima mea Dominum. My soul magnifies the Lord.
2. Aria (soprano)
Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
Friday - Liz Emmert
Saturday - Janet Fryling
3. Aria (soprano)
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae For he has regarded the low estate of his
suae: ecce enim ex hoc beatam me handmaiden: for behold, henceforth...
dicent... will call me blessed.
Friday - Jennifer Culp
Saturday - Jane Rinehart
4. Chorus
...omnes generations. ...all generations.
5. Aria (bass)
Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens For he who is mighty has done great things
est: et sanctum nomen ejus. for me: and holy is his name.
Friday — Philip Franchois
Saturday - David Fryling
6. Duet (alto and tenor)
Et misericordia a progenie in And his mercy is on those who fear him
progenies timentibus eum. from generation to generation.
Margaret Baroody and Michael Martin
7. Chorus
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo: dis- He has shown strength with his arm, he
persit superbos mente cordis sui. has scattered the proud in the imagination
of their hearts.
8. Aria (tenor)
Desposuit potentes de sede, et ex- He has put down the mighty from their
altavit humiles. thrones, and exalted those of low degree.
Michael Martin
9. Aria (alto)
Esurientes implevit bonis: et divites He has filled the hungry with good things,
dimisit inanes. and the rich he has sent empty away.
Margaret Baroody

10. Trio

Suscipit Israel puerum suum, re-
cordatus misericordiae suae.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remem-
brance of his mercy.

*Sharon Dreese, Virginia Haring, Barbara Tull
Doris Charles, Barbara Kaler, Martie Kyde
Colleen Hahn, Susanne Howe, Clare McGraw*

11. Chorus

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.

As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham,
and to his posterity forever.

12. Chorus

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et
semper, et in saecula saeculorum,
Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning is now and
ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

(Luke 1:46-55)

II

The Dale Warland Christmas Settings

What child is this?

17th century English
arr. Dale Warland

Away in a manger

Carl Mueller
arr. Jeffrey Van

What is this fragrance?

French Carol
arr. Dale Warland

The angels and the shepherds

Bohemian Traditional
arr. Stephen Paulus

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella

17th century Provencal
arr. Stephen Paulus

The first Noel

Traditional English
arr. Stephen Paulus

Of the Father's love begotten

15th century Plainsong
arr. Dale Warland

III

Traditional Carols

arr. David Willcocks

God rest you merry, gentlemen

English traditional

Choir and orchestra

Hark the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

Choir, audience and orchestra

- Hark the herald angels sing—Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled;
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored—Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come—Offspring of the virgin's womb;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.
3. Hail the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Unto us is born a Son

from Piae Cantiones

Choir and orchestra

O come, all ye faithful

18th century anonymous

Choir, audience, and orchestra

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the King of angels;
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!
2. Choir and strings
3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest glory,
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!
4. Choir and orchestra

Recessional

On this day

arr. Gustav Holst

* * * * *

Applause is appropriate at the end of each section.

Cover illustration by Martha Stoler

Lighting by Theatrical Design Associates (TDA) of Doylestown

You are invited to greet the musicians at a Holiday Reception in the social room of the church immediately following the concert. The stairs at the front and rear of the sanctuary may be used to reach the reception room.

Guest Artists...

MARGARET BAROODY, mezzo soprano, a four-year scholarship student at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, has performed operatic roles with the Academy of Vocal Arts Opera Theatre, the Philadelphia Opera Company, the Pennsylvania Opera Theatre, and the Camerata Opera of New Jersey. She has been a soloist with the Pennsylvania Pro Musica, the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Oratorio Choir. In addition to her performance schedule, she teaches voice through her private studio in Philadelphia.

MICHAEL MARTIN, tenor, of Gulph Mills, has been soloist with the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia, Philomusica Chorale, LaSalle College Concert Choir and many churches and synagogues in the Philadelphia area. He is presently tenor soloist at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, a member of the Philadelphia Oratorio Choir, and a music teacher in the Haverford Township schools.

THE ORCHESTRA...

The orchestra is composed of musicians of the Philadelphia area, most of whom play with the Pennsylvania Ballet Company.

VIOLINS

Lee Snyder, *Concertmaster*
Florence Rosensweig
Marian Head
Claudia Mruk
Tom Disarlo
Larry Abramovitz

VIOLA

Shaler Moskovitz
Davis Barnett

CELLO

David Guggenheim

BASS

Robert Riccardi

FLUTE

Adeline Tomasone
Mary Burk

OBOE

Steve Labiner (Oboe d'amore)
Gina Pantoni

TRUMPET

William Schiebel
David Arndt
Steve Heitzer

TIMPANI

William Cain

HARPSICORD

Kim Heindel

Soloists from the Bucks County Choral Society...

LIZ EMMERT, soprano, holds degrees in Theater and in Communications from Columbia University's Teachers College and is currently Director of the Arts Center at Germantown Academy. She performs with the New York-based group Left Field.

JANET FRYLING, soprano, is a graduate of Houghton College with a degree in vocal performance. She has been soloist at many area churches and this season will be soprano soloist in the performance of Handel's *Messiah* at Doylestown Baptist Church.

JENNIFER CULP, soprano, has been a soloist in oratorios and concerts in northern New Jersey. Now a resident of Doylestown, she studies voice with Neal Tracy and has had leading roles in the Bucks-Mont Opera's recent productions of *HMS Pinafore* and *Gianni Schicci*.

JANE RINEHART, soprano, has performed with the Municipal Opera Company of Allentown, Bucks-Mont Opera Company, and the Delaware Valley Opera Company. A student of George Reynolds, Philadelphia, she has also sung performances for radio, television, and dinner theater.

PHILIP FRANCHOIS, bass, studies with Elizabeth Baker, Doylestown. He recently performed leading roles with the Town and Country Players in *Side by Side by Sondheim* and *Lady in the Dark*.

DAVID FRYLING, bass, a graduate of Houghton College with a major in Music Education, is Director of Music at Plumstead Christian School. In addition to being a frequent soloist in area churches, David is also director of the senior choir at Hilltown Baptist Church.

JOAN GURNIAK, Jenkintown, serves as accompanist for the Choral Society. A graduate of Beaver College, she is a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists and is organist-choirmaster of All Hallows Episcopal Church, Wyncote.

ELMA HECKLER, Hatfield, was graduated from Juniata College, and earned the Master of Music degree in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College. Now in her seventh season of conducting the Choral Society, she was formerly Director of Music at Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton, and Pleasantville Church, Chalfont.

BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

SOPRANO

Elizabeth Burke, Chalfont
 Doris Charles, Doylestown
 Mary Clarke, Richboro
 Jennifer Culp, Doylestown
 Sharon Dreesse, Quakertown
 Anne Ehrhart, Doylestown
 Jean Elfman, Doylestown
 Liz Emmert, Doylestown
 Janet Fryling, Dublin
 Geri George, Yardley
 Lynne Guest, Richboro
Secretary
 Linda Gyath, Richboro
 Jinny Haring, Furlong
 Norma Johnson, Newtown
 Barbara Kaler, Hatfield
 Martie Kyde, Newtown
 Helen O'Connor, Richboro
 Jane Macomber Rinchart, Hatfield
 Barbara Tull, Doylestown

TENOR

Carola Benecke, Doylestown
 Carl Bergeson, Holicong
 Norman Christy, Chalfont
 Richard Cowles, Jr., Carversville
 Ennis Grunden, Hatboro
 David Hughes, Doylestown
 Walter Quaste, Warrington
Treasurer

ALTO

Marcia Averre, Langhorne
 Evelyn Bucher, Lansdale
 Audrey Close, Doylestown
 Penni Dumas, Harleysville
 Lola Glass, Doylestown
 Colleen Hahn, Richboro
 Betty Hasiuk, Hatboro
 Susanne Howe, Perkasie
 Lore Jungster, Lansdale
 Sue Knorr, Doylestown
 Clare McGraw, Newtown
 Lois Moore, New Britain
 Martha Palaskey, Ambler
 Hope Pratt, New Hope
 Frances Waite, Doylestown

BASS

Hugo Ciccotosto, Hatfield
 Merrill Detweiler, Sellersville
Vice President
 Philip Franchois, Doylestown
 David Fryling, Dublin
 Jeff Greaser, Souderton
 John Grever, Colmar
 Gerry Kratz, Perkasie
 Carrell McNulty, Jr., Doylestown
 Peter Ott, Ottsville
 Walfred Saari, Lansdale
President
 Ralph Swanson, Chalfont
 Kingdon Swayne, Newtown
 Ron Tempest, Hatboro
 Howard Winters, Telford

COMMUNITY PATRONS

*The Choral Society
 thanks the following individuals
 for their loyal financial support.*

BENEFACTOR

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bergeson
 Mr. & Mrs. Claude Haring, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. George S. Heckler

PATRON

Mrs. Margaret B. Armstrong
 Mrs. Bettysue H. Carkhuff
 Mr. George Heckler, Jr.
 Mrs. R. N. Hilkert
 Mrs. Kathryn A. Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. I. R. McGraw

ASSOCIATE

Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Armstrong
 Mrs. Jean K. Elfman
 Miss Amy E. Fabian
 Mr. & Mrs. Everett Fretz
 Mr. Theodore L. Gross
 Ms. Lynne Guest
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold McCleary
 Mr. & Mrs. R. W. McNamee, Jr.
 Mr. Hervey W. Schofield, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. George R. Shelly
 Mrs. Darlington Styer
 Mr. Kingdon W. Swayne
 Mr. Ray M. Taylor
 Mr. Walter Wunsch

DONOR

Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Daniels
 Mr. & Mrs. Laurence C. Glass
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne C. Watson
 Mr. & Mrs. David Weiss

SPONSOR

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Averre
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Ronald Charles
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Child
 Mr. & Mrs. T. W. Clark
 Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Detweiler
 Mr. & Mrs. Edwin C. Harrington
 Mr. & Mrs. Jere Hohmann
 Mr. Ronald L. Kerschner
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Palaskey
 Mrs. Dorothy H. Rufe
 Mrs. Edwin H. Satterthwaite

FRIEND

Mr. & Mrs. James F. Barnes
 Mrs. Althea L. Bloom
 Mr. & Mrs. William F. Chedeville
 Ms. Eleanor Cogshall
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Davis, Jr.
 Miss Jean E. Dawson
 Dr. Benjamin J. Novak
 Mr. & Mrs. David H. Oglevee
 Mr. & Mrs. George E. Page
 Mr. R. M. Pinkerton
 Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Rowe
 Mr. David E. Schwartz
 Mrs. H. B. Wagner

BUSINESS PATRONS

The Choral Society thanks the following businesses for their support and we recommend them to you, our audience.

American Olean Tile
Lansdale

Anne Bailey's Bridal Shop
Fountainville

Atlantic Richfield Foundation

B & G Equipment Co.
Plumsteadville

John Bell Associates
Mechanicsville

Benefit Counseling Service, Inc.
Souderton

Bucks County Bank & Trust Company
Perkasie

Burke, Lawton, and Brewer
Erdenheim

Computer Hardware Maintenance Co.
Southampton

County Linen Center
Doylestown

Edward A. Czerniakowski, DDS PC
Doylestown

Paul F. Detweiler, Inc.
Telford

Doylestown Racquet Club
Doylestown

Ercolino Leather
Doylestown

Erpel Design Corporation
North Wales

Thomas S. Forte, DDS PC
Doylestown

V. R. Frattone & Associates
Plymouth Meeting

George's Tool Rental, Inc.
Hatfield

Grates and Grills, Inc.
Dublin

Gross Gourmet Foods
Doylestown

Karl T. Hieber Machine Shop, Inc.
Plumsteadville

Hygienics Exterminating Co., Inc.
Abington

Melon Bank East
Doylestown

Merck, Sharp, & Dohme
West Point

J. Carroll Molloy, Realtors
Doylestown

N B Instruments, Inc.
Horsham

Nyce Printing Co.
Harleysville

Peter H. Ott
Ottsville

Harold Patterson & Sons
Doylestown

Place & Kowalski
Doylestown

Prudential Insurance Co. of America
Fort Washington

SPS Technologies, Inc.
Newtown

Estate of Geo. S. Snyder, Inc.
Hatfield

Solutions Computer Center
Doylestown

Susan Louise Needlework Shop
Doylestown

Systems Troubleshooters, Inc.
Yardley

James G. Hotchkiss
Taylor Music
Willow Grove

U-Max Engineering & Construction Co.
Ringoos

Women's Exchange of Yardley
Yardley

COMING EVENTS:

BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY—

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Feb. 3, 2:30 pm | - Peter Becker Community, Harleysville |
| Mar. 16, 8:00 pm | - Carversville Christian Church, Carversville |
| May 11, 8:00 pm | - Handel's Israel in Egypt
Dr. Robert Harris of Northwestern University,
conducting
Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton |

BUCKS COUNTY SYMPHONY - Central Bucks East High School, Holicong

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Feb. 16, 8:00 pm | - Winter Concert |
| Apr. 13, 8:00 pm | - Spring Concert |