



WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT

The Nation's Premier Baroque Chorus and Orchestra

J. REILLY LEWIS, MUSIC DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release
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WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT ANNOUNCES 2009 – 2010 SEASON RETURNS TO THE CRYSTALLINE ACOUSTICS OF NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Washington, D.C.—The Washington Bach Consort presents its 32nd season. The subscription series of four concerts will return to the National Presbyterian Church, in the Tenleytown neighborhood of Washington, DC, for all four performances. The season features works of J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, and a Christmas program incorporating seasonal works from composers from around the world. Joining founding Music Director J. Reilly Lewis and the esteemed chorus and orchestra will be remarkable soloists from its professional chorus.

The Washington Bach Consort will open its 2009-2010 season at the National Presbyterian Church with the Consort's highly acclaimed performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor* on Sunday, October 4, 2009. The Consort will once again celebrate the holiday season with an international program on Sunday, December 20, 2009, *An International Christmas*. In spring the Bach Consort will commemorate Bach's 325th Birthday with *Happy Birthday Bach!*, a selection of Bach's most beloved instrumental works, on March 21, 2010. The season will close with the brilliant settings of the *Magnificat!* by J.S. Bach and C.P.E. Bach on Sunday, May 2, 2010. As always, the Washington Bach Consort performs on period instruments and in the authentic style of the Baroque era, so Consort audiences can enjoy this magnificent music just as Bach's audiences did.

Each subscription concert will be preceded by an hour lecture focusing on the work to be performed. The lectures are presented by world-recognized Bach scholar, Michael Marissen, Professor of Music at Swarthmore College. These lectures begin at 2pm, immediately preceding the concert. There will be a brief, informal reception with refreshments following each of the four performances.

In addition to the subscription concerts, the popular **Noontime Cantata Series** returns with six free-of-charge performances at the Church of the Epiphany, located at 13th & G Streets, NW, Washington, DC, just across the street from the Metro Center metro stop. The Consort will perform at noon on the first Tuesday of October, November, December, March, April, and May. The fifty-minute concerts include a brief introduction by Music Director J. Reilly Lewis, an organ prelude and fugue featuring area keyboard artists, and one of J.S. Bach's Cantatas with chorus and orchestra.

Washington Bach Consort 2009-2010 Season

Subscription Series

National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 3 p.m. **Mass in B Minor**

Bach's crowning masterpiece, on which he continued to work for the last 17 years of his life, is in the words of Professor Christoph Wolff, "the summa not only of Bach's vocal music, but of all his sacred music." Considered the Consort's "signature" piece, the *Mass in B Minor* has never ceased to be an inspiration. One reviewer wrote of the Consort's most recent performance: "...it was a night to remember: From start to finish, this chamber-size group of choristers, orchestra and soloists... made that leap beyond human abilities, which Bach demands, with compassion, tonal beauty and a sense of inevitable momentum. ... [with] music-making so magnificent and moving that the audience took a second to gasp at the end before its cheers." (*The Washington Post*)

Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 3 p.m. **"An International Christmas"**

Building on the success of last season's *An International Christmas*, we are pleased to continue this festive tradition, showcasing the virtuoso talents of our outstanding singers as well as the brilliant keyboard skills of organist Edward Moore on one of Washington's most magnificent pipe organs. This holiday performance also features harpist Caroline Gregg in Benjamin Britten's colorful *Ceremony of Carols*, a classic holiday favorite sure to delight young and old. Join us on a musical journey highlighting holiday repertoire from around the world including premieres of new works by modern composers and, of course, the music of Bach.

J.S. Bach (Germany)	Javier Busto (Spain)
Richard Dirksen (US)	Hugo Distler (Germany)
Herbert Howells (England)	Damijan Močnik (Slovenia)
Sergei Rachmaninoff (Russia)	Edvard Grieg (Norway)
Benjamin Britten (England)	
Jean Langlais (France)	

Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 3 p.m. **"Happy Birthday, Bach!"**

J.S. Bach	<i>Orchestral Suite No.1, BWV 1066</i>
	<i>Violin Concerto No.2, BWV 1042</i>
	<i>Prelude & Fugue in G Major, BWV 541</i>
	<i>Sinfonia from Cantata No. 42</i>
	<i>Brandenburg Concerto No.3, BWV 1048</i>

In celebration of the 325th anniversary of Bach's birth, we present a selection of his most brilliant, joyful, and best-loved works, many of which were created during the composer's highly productive tenure as Capellmeister to the Prince of Anhalt-Cöthen. It was during those fertile six years that most of Bach's legendary instrumental music was created, a legacy upon which his later additions to the genre in Leipzig (the orchestral suites, harpsichord concertos and cantata sinfonias) were based.

Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 3 p.m. **Magnificat!**

J.S. Bach	<i>Prelude & Fugue in D Major, BWV 532</i>
J.S. Bach	<i>Magnificat in D Major, BWV 243</i>

C.P.E. Bach *Magnificat in D Major*, WQ 15

These two settings of the ***Magnificat***, Mary's expression of ecstatic joy from the Gospel according to St. Luke, reveal the genius of two generations of the Bach family, J.S. Bach and his brilliantly innovative son C.P.E. Bach. Performed together, the two settings beautifully demonstrate the evolution from the Baroque to the emerging Classical aesthetic. The program also features the performance of one of Bach's best-loved prelude and fugue masterpieces on the magnificent Skinner pipe organ.

Noontime Cantata Series

Church of the Epiphany
1317 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 12:10 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany

J.S. Bach *Gleichwie der Regen und Schnee*, BWV 18
Prelude & Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548: J. Reilly Lewis, organist

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 12:10 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany

J.S. Bach *Bereitet die Wege, bereitet die Bahn*, BWV 132
Concerto in D Minor after Vivaldi, BWV 596: Marvin Mills, organist

Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 12:10 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany

J.S. Bach *Christen, ätzt diesen Tag*, BWV 63
Toccat, Adagio & Fugue in C Major, BWV 564: Jon Laird, organist

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 12:10 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany

J.S. Bach *Komm, du süsse Todesstunde*, BWV 161
Prelude & Fugue in C Minor, BWV 546: Edward A. Moore, organist

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 12:10 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany

J.S. Bach *Barmherziges Herze der ewigen Liebe*, BWV 185
Prelude & Fugue in G Major, BWV 541: Julie Vidrick Evans, organist

Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 12:10 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany

J.S. Bach *Erschallet, ihr Lieder*, BWV 172
Prelude & Fugue in D Major, BWV 532: Scott Dettra, organist

About the Washington Bach Consort

Founded in 1977 by its Music Director, J. Reilly Lewis, the Washington Bach Consort is a professional chorus and orchestra noted for its performance of 18th-Century music on period instruments. Its mission is to perform to the highest artistic standards the music of J.S. Bach and his Baroque contemporaries. As one of the nation's critically acclaimed and widely recognized performing arts institutions, it has appeared at numerous festivals and has made three European tours. Recordings include Bach's complete motets, both J.S. and C.P.E. Bach's *Magnificats*, the first American recording of the *F Major* and *G Minor Masses*, and a recording of the solo soprano cantatas featuring opera superstar Elizabeth Futral.

Washington Bach Consort founder and Music Director J. Reilly Lewis is recognized internationally as an accomplished conductor and keyboard artist, as well as a leading specialist of Baroque music, particularly the music of J.S. Bach.

Subscriptions and Single Tickets

Subscriptions to the Washington Bach Consort's 2009-2010 season are currently available. Single tickets to Bach Consort performances are currently on sale. For more information, contact the Consort at 202.429.2121. Information is available on the Consort website at www.bachconsort.org.

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More Information
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