

WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT
DR. J. REILLY LEWIS | FOUNDER



WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT

The Washington Bach Consort was founded in 1977 by the late Dr. J. Reilly Lewis. The Bach Consort is a professional choral and orchestral ensemble that is committed to ensuring that current and future DC audiences experience the music of J.S. Bach. The Consort is noted for its performances of 18th-century music on period instruments at the highest artistic standards.

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 the 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 three solo soprano cantatas featuring Elizabeth Futral.

The Consort completed Bach's entire 215-cantata cycle in 2006. To commemorate this monumental achievement, the Library of Congress welcomed the Consort's professional recordings of the *Noontime Cantata Series* into its permanent collection.

Among its many honors, the Washington Bach Consort was selected as the winner of the American Prize in Choral Performance in 2011 in the professional chorus division. The Consort is now a three-time recipient of an UPSTART award, the signature capacity-building program of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. J. Reilly Lewis and the Bach Consort were the recipients of the 2016 Greater Washington DC Area Choral Excellence "Ovation Award" in the "Most Creative Programming" category.

GIVING BACH TO THE COMMUNITY

From its inception, the Washington Bach Consort has made music education and community outreach a priority as a conduit to achieve its mission to present accessible world-class art and promote current and future appreciation of J.S. Bach in our community. The wide range of initiatives the Consort presents to the community brings the arts to students who, for cost, location, schedule, or lack of knowledge with the music, would not regularly attend a classical music performance.

The *Giving Bach to the Community* initiatives are central to the Consort's mission for offering a range of educational and enrichment programs to over 5,500 residents of the greater DC area annually. The existing *Bach to School* and newly created *Wunderkind Projekt* programs introduce underserved DC public school students to Bach and his music with an interactive, educational experience. *Talking Bach* is a free pre-National Presbyterian Church performance lecture series presented by Bach scholar, Dr. Michael Marissen. The free *Noontime Cantata Series* provides a beautiful and peaceful respite in the middle of our busy city for the 350 audience members who fill the Church of the Epiphany six times per year. Each *Giving Bach* program showcases the talents of our renowned and accomplished artists while providing thousands of Washington, DC residents with the opportunity to hear Bach's music.

NOONTIME CANTATA SERIES

The Noontime Cantatas are a beloved Washington, DC, tradition, described by *Washingtonian* as a "hidden gem," and by the *Washington Post* as "the gift you can't put a price on." Held on the first Tuesday of each month from October—December and March—May, each free fifty-minute concert consists of a cantata and a solo performance on the recently restored *Æolian-Skinner* organ at the historic Church of the Epiphany. The Noontime Cantatas attract a wide range of audience members, including seniors on limited incomes, homeless people who seek temporary daytime refuge in the sanctuary, students, longtime supporters, and businessmen and women that work in the city.

BACH TO SCHOOL

Bach to School is the Consort's preliminary educational program for second through fifth graders, comprised of two unique 45-minute plays, *Bach in Time* and *A Goldberg Variation*, written by Helen Hayes-winner Eric

Shimelonis. In 2011, local DC cartoonist, Andrew Cohen, designed comic books that are tailored for each play in the *Bach to School* program. In this program, students discover the significance of early music in modern times through one of the two plays which tell the story of Bach's life, interspersed with numerous short pieces performed by Consort artists on period instruments.

Bach to School is presented in collaboration with the DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative Arts for Every Student program, the Sitar Arts Center, THEARC, and Atlas Performing Arts Center.

WUNDERKIND PROJEKT

A wunderkind is a person who achieves great success when relatively young. The *Wunderkind Projekt* is presented in conjunction with the *Noontime Cantata Series*. In this program, Consort artists with education backgrounds visit DC sixth through twelfth grade music classrooms for pre- and post-performance discussions around a Noontime Cantata that are targeted to the students' ages and musical backgrounds. The class is then brought to the corresponding cantata performance by the Consort so they may gain the full concert experience.

The *Wunderkind Projekt's* "going deeper" with each student is a model that is being followed by other organizations. As a result, the Bach Consort has been invited to appear on panels and serve on committees with DC Commission on Arts and Humanities, DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative, and DC Public Schools to discuss the successes of the program.

TALKING BACH

Talking Bach is a series of free pre-concert lectures held one hour before each subscription concert. Each lecture is presented by Dr. Michael Marissen, Chair of the Music Department at Swarthmore College, and noted Bach scholar. The lectures focus on the musical elements of the work that will be performed, as well as the historical context in which the music was created. Talks are designed to enhance the concertgoers' appreciation and enjoyment of the performance that they are about to hear. The series is open to all ticket holders.

PLANNED GIVING

1685 Society

HONOR J. REILLY LEWIS BY INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

A gift through your will, retirement plan or life insurance policy is one of the simplest ways to support the future of the Bach Consort; leaving your legacy of timeless Bach music.

The *1685 Society* is a group of supporters who have expressed their commitment to the Washington Bach Consort by naming the Consort as a beneficiary of their will or other planned gift.

We thank our *1685 Society* members for their dedication and foresight in preserving the artistic and educational goals of the Consort that will allow future generations to experience the music of J.S. Bach here in our nation's capital.

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† In memoriam

Let us know your plans! If you have included the Bach Consort in your plan, please let us know so that we can thank you and honor your wishes!

If you would like more information on how to plan the best charitable gift for you, please contact Development Manager Alex Interlandi at ainterlandi@bachconsort.org or by phone at 202.429.2121.



J. REILLY LEWIS, FOUNDER
WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT

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**J. REILLY LEWIS, FOUNDER
WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT**

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Please indicate how you would like to be acknowledged in the Washington Bach Consort publications (email logo to jmoskowitz@bachconsort.org)		

The Washington Bach Consort is a registered 501(c)(3). Our tax identification number is 52-1107948.

A copy of the current financial statement of the Washington Bach Consort is available by writing to us at 1010 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 202, Washington, DC 20005 or by calling 202.429.2121. For Maryland residents, documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are available from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410.974.5534 for the cost of postage and copies. For Virginia residents, a financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218.

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