



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2024

CONTACT

Amanda Sweet/Bucklesweet

Amanda@bucklesweet.com

347-564-3371

**THE WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT HIGHLIGHTS RISING ARTISTS,
WORLD-CLASS VOCALISTS, IN 47TH SEASON**

The Bach Consort's 2024-25 **Director's Series** opens September 21 with Bach's **St. Matthew Passion**, considered by many to be the composer's greatest surviving work in its entirety.

Building on the popularity of last season's performance of Bach's complete motets, the Consort vocalists present **Motet Mania | For All Lovers of Choral Music** on October 27.

The concert is followed by **The Christmas Story | Bach's Christmas Oratorio** on December 9, and **Concerti Virtuosi II** on March 23, featuring the superb instrumentalists of the Consort

The Director's Series concludes with the **Mozart Requiem & Joseph Bologne Violin Concerto** on April 27

The Chamber Series, celebrating its 10th anniversary, offers four unique programs, performed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA and Live! at 10th & G in Washington, D.C.

Emmanuel Coppey, violin | Winner of the Lilian and Maurice Barbash International J.S. Bach Competition (September 11); **In Love with Night | A Myth Comes to Life** (October 18-19); **Vocal Polyphony | Heinrich Schütz and the German Motet** (March 7-8); **Bach's Cello Suites | Meet Wade Davis** (April 4-5); **A Song of Dedication | Baroque Splendor in Portuguese Jewish Amsterdam - 350th Anniversary** (May 2-3)

The 36th Annual **Noontime Cantata Series** showcases four free, midday performances of Bach's cantatas, introduced by special solo works for organ



WASHINGTON– The Washington Bach Consort, led by Artistic Director [Dana Marsh](#) today announced its 47th season. The 2024-25 **Director’s Series** will include four concerts held at the [National Presbyterian Church](#) and the [Music Center at Strathmore](#), featuring the Consort’s world-class vocal and instrumental ensemble, along with vocal soloists. Additionally, the season includes the Consort’s renowned **Chamber**

Series, now celebrating its 10th anniversary, with five concerts performed at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria, Va. and Live! at 10th & G in Washington, D.C. The Consort continues their free **Noontime Cantata Series** this season, held at St. Mark’s on Capitol Hill and the Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C. For more information visit [Washington Bach Consort](#).

The Washington Bach Consort’s Director’s Series offers an immersive and educational audience experience. Before each performance, concertgoers can hear an insightful “Talking Bach” presentation from renowned Bach scholar, [Dr. Michael Marissen](#). At the conclusion of each concert is a complimentary reception and opportunity to meet and mingle with the artists.

Photo by Kate Wichlinski

THE DIRECTOR’S SERIES

BACH’S ST. MATTHEW PASSION

Devotion, Betrayal, and Redemption

Saturday, September 21 at 7 PM | St. Mark’s Episcopal Church (Washington, D.C.)

Sunday, September 22 at 4 PM | St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (Washington, D.C.)

Johann Sebastian Bach

St. Matthew Passion, BWV 244

St. Matthew Passion is considered by Bach enthusiasts and aficionados alike to be the composer’s greatest surviving work. Others would argue that it’s the finest composition ever produced in western music. Among a list of unrivaled qualities, Bach is remembered as a great architect of musical form, and his St. Matthew’s Passion, taken as a whole, evinces a meticulous formal symmetry in addition to being a work of deepest emotional expression in all of its minutest detail. Both performers and audiences are profoundly affected by this work long after first experiencing it. The Washington Bach Consort performs this epic drama once every three seasons. *Dedicated to Senator John D. Rockefeller IV for over 30 years of Board service and dedication to the Bach Consort.*

Aaron Sheehan, *Evangelist*
Jonathan Woody, *Jesus*

Clara Rottsoik, *soprano I*
Margot Rood, *soprano II*
Kristen Dubenion-Smith, *alto I*
Rhianna Cockrell, *alto II*
Jacob Perry Jr., *tenor I*
James Reese, *tenor II*
Enrico Lagasca, *bass I*
Edmund Milly, *bass II*

MOTET MANIA

For All Lovers of Choral Music
Sunday, October 27 at 4 PM
National Presbyterian Church

Building on the popularity of last season's performance of Bach's complete motets, the vocalists of the Washington Bach Consort perform a program devoted to the genre of the Motet throughout history—from the Middle Ages to the present day. Audiences won't want to miss this unrivaled repertory, performed by the WBC chorus.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Bach's Christmas Oratorio
Parts 1, 2, 3, 6
Sunday, December 15 at 3 PM
Music Center at Strathmore
Johann Sebastian Bach
Weihnachtsoratorium, BWV 248

In what has become Washington Bach Consort's signature work, audiences can enjoy this performance in the spectacular Music Center at Strathmore for what *The Washington Post* praises as a "splendid" and "joyful" rendering of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. Of all seasonal offerings, this work is uniquely focused on the complete story of the Nativity.

Nola Richardson, *soprano*
Meg Bragle, *alto*
Gene Stenger, *tenor and Evangelist*
Paul Max Tipton, *bass*

CONCERTI VIRTUOSI II
Fire and Verve!
Sunday, March 23 at 4 PM
National Presbyterian Church

Following the resounding success of their 2022 concert, the Washington Bach Consort proudly presents an encore performance of brilliant instrumental concertos showcasing the exceptional talents of Consort soloists. With fiery passion and artistry, audiences will be treated to a selection of exhilarating baroque works by J.S. Bach and his contemporaries, which promises to lift spirits high.

MOZART REQUIEM & JOSEPH BOLOGNE VIOLIN CONCERTO

Classics of Paris and Vienna
Sunday, April 27 at 4 PM
National Presbyterian Church

Joseph Bologne
Violin Concerto in G major, Op. 5
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Requiem, K. 626

There has been a strong revival of interest in the music of composer Joseph Bologne, popularized in the 2022 film, *Chevalier*. Bestowed with the title, “Chevalier de Saint-Georges”, he was a champion fencer, accomplished dancer, and decorated soldier. Bologne is justly remembered for an impressive repertory of published compositions, which include 12 violin concertos. Concertmaster Andrew Fouts will perform Bologne’s Concerto in G major. 11 years Bologne’s junior was Mozart, whose iconic Requiem will conclude the evening’s performance. Although Mozart died before his final commission was finished, the Washington Bach Consort will perform the version completed by his pupil, Franz Xaver Süssmeyer, which, apart from significant recompositions by modern musicologists, is the only completed performance version of the work contemporaneous to the composer.

Andrew Fouts, violin
Laura Choi-Stuart, soprano
Sylvia Leith, alto
Matthew Hill, tenor
Jonathon Adams, bass

THE CHAMBER SERIES

Join the Washington Bach Consort as they celebrate the 10th anniversary of the renowned chamber concert series. Experience one-of-a-kind performances presented in two intimate and inviting venues, perfectly tailored to the repertoire.

Friday performances take place at Live! at 10th & G. Enjoy a drink at the Bach Bar before the concert and stay afterwards for a beer, chocolate, or dessert tasting by one of our local partners. Ample garage parking is available, and the Metro Center and Gallery Place Metro stations are only steps away. Saturday evenings are spent in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, nestled in historic Old Town Alexandria.

EMMANUEL COPPEY, VIOLIN

Winner of the Lilian and Maurice Barbash International J.S. Bach Competition

Wednesday, September 11 at 7 PM

Live! at 10th & G

Established in 2019, The Lillian and Maurice Barbash International Bach Competition is the most important event of its kind to launch in decades. Its distinguished winners have garnered international praise through honors and competitions at the highest peaks of musical artistry and virtuosity. The Washington Bach Consort presented the competition's inaugural winner Rachell Ellen Wong on their Chamber Series in 2022. Beginning with the forthcoming 2024–2025 season, the Consort shall present the winner of this prestigious competition annually, showcasing for their audience the pinnacle of international solo Bach performance.

IN LOVE WITH NIGHT

A Myth Comes to Life

Friday, October 18 at 7 PM

Live! at 10th & G

Saturday, October 19 at 7 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

French and English baroque masters such as Jean-Philippe Rameau, Michel Pignolet de Montéclair, Marin Marais, and Henry Purcell wrote a great deal of music that connects listeners with early-modern sensibilities of the supernatural via the legends of classical mythology. Washington Bach Consort musicians will “make the olden world appear” through an enchanting evening of music celebrating the goddess Diana's starlit night.

Margot Rood, *soprano*

Margaret Owens, *oboe, recorders*

Sarah Cunningham, *viola da gamba*

Kevin Payne, *theorbo*

Leon Schelhase, *harpsichord and director*

VOCAL POLYPHONY

Heinrich Schütz and the German Motet

Friday, March 7 at 7 PM

Live! at 10th & G

Saturday, March 8 at 7 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Selections from *Cantiones Sacrae* (1625) and *Geistliche Chormusik* (1643)

Heinrich Schütz was arguably the foremost composer of the early-baroque German motet and the most important German composer before J.S. Bach. After three years of study in Venice with the Giovanni Gabrieli, Schütz brought early Italian baroque style to German-speaking churches. Vocalists of the Washington Bach Consort under the direction of Dana Marsh will delve into Schütz's finest collections: first, the incomparable *Cantiones Sacrae*—a cycle of motets with an entirely unique musical language—not only when compared with other composers, but as Joshua Rifkin has put it, even when compared with any other collection of Schütz's own work during his lifetime. Schütz's *Geistliche Chormusik* offers some of his most richly popular motets, which reveal the composer at the top of his craft.

BACH'S CELLO SUITES

Wade Davis, cellist

Friday, April 4 at 7 PM

Live! at 10th & G

Saturday, April 5 at 7:00 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007

Suite No. 3 in C major, BWV 1009

J.S. Bach's cello suites are among the composer's most popular, celebrated works, and like the unaccompanied partitas and sonatas for violin, their performance evokes a depth of intimacy that is hard to match in any other repertory. Washington Bach Consort cellist, Wade Davis, will offer the first and third suites.

A SONG OF DEDICATION

Baroque Splendor in Portuguese Jewish Amsterdam - 350th Anniversary

Friday, May 2 at 7 PM

Live! at 10th & G

Saturday, May 3 at 7 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Shir Hanukkat Beit HaKnesset (Song for the Dedication of the Portuguese Synagogue) (1675)

Composed by Members of the Portuguese Community, Text by Rev. Isaac Aboab da Fonseca (1605-1693)

Hizki Hizki, Piyyut for the Inauguration of the Portuguese Synagogue, Rev. Isaac Aboab da Fonseca (1675)

Festival Kedusha for the Inauguration of the Portuguese Synagogue (1675), attr. to Rev. Hazzan Joseph de Farro (c.1608-1689) and Rev. Hazzan Imanuel Abenatar Mello

Liturgical Chamber Music by Abraham de Cáceres (d.1740)

From the 17th century until World War II, the Portuguese Israelite Synagogue of Amsterdam was the nexus of the Western Sephardic diaspora. This program commemorates the 350th anniversary of its inauguration with musical celebrations and baroque spectacle from its opening. An architectural marvel, the *Esnoga* was the most conspicuous symbol of religious freedom offered to Jews in a Protestant Republic anywhere in Europe. Ian Pomerantz and Alicia dePaolo will highlight the August 1675 musical celebrations with the North American premiere of the dedicatory cantata, *Shir Hanukat Beth Hamiqdash*. Recently discovered in the manuscripts of Cantor Joseph ben Sarfati, with text by the Portuguese-born Rabbi Rev. Isaac Aboab da Fonseca, it is a lasting testimony to tolerance, the Dutch Golden Age, and the resilience of the Portuguese Jewish community.

Alicia DePaolo, *soprano*

Ian Pomerantz, *bass-baritone*

NOONTIME CANTATA SERIES

Now entering its 36th season, the Washington Bach Consort's Noontime Cantata Series continues its mission of bringing the music of Johann Sebastian Bach to the Washington, DC community. Presented at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill (**Capitol Cantata Series**) and Church of the Epiphany (**Downtown Cantata Series**), performances are free of charge to all attendees.

Capitol Cantata Series

Mondays at 12:10 P.M.

St. Mark's Capitol Hill

301 A St SE, Washington, DC 20003

Downtown Cantata Series

Tuesdays at 12:10 P.M.

Church of the Epiphany

1317 G Street NW, Washington, DC

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1 AT EPIPHANY

Cantata: Ich armer Mensch, BWV 55

Matthew Smith, *Tenor*

Jinsun Cho, *Organist*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AT ST. MARK'S

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT EPIPHANY

Cantata: Ich habe Genug, BWV 82

Jason Widney, *Bass*

Paula Maust, *Organist*

TUESDAY, MARCH 4 AT EPIPHANY

Cantata: *Du wahrer Gott und Davids Sohn*, BWV 23

Margot Rood, Soprano

Kristen Dubenion-Smith, Alto

David Evans, Tenor

Ross Tamaccio, Bass

Tom Sheehan, Organist

MONDAY, MARCH 31 AT ST. MARK'S

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 AT EPIPHANY

Cantata: *Am Abend aber desselbigen Sabbats*, BWV 42

Sara MacKimmie, Soprano

Roger Isaacs, Alto

Oliver Mercer, Tenor

Ian Pomerantz, Bass

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., Organist

Organ Preludes will be announced soon.

ABOUT THE WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT

Founded in 1977 by the late Dr. J. Reilly Lewis, and since 2018 headed by Dr. Dana Marsh, the Washington Bach Consort is a nationally preeminent vocal and period-instrument ensemble based in Washington, DC. While the group is especially renowned for its historically informed performances of 18th-century music on period instruments, the entire breadth of its offerings spans the 14th to the 19th centuries. The Consort has also made regular appearances alongside prestigious groups such as the National Symphony Orchestra, the Post-Classical Ensemble, Washington Performing Arts, and the Washington Cathedral Choral Society.

In May 2019, the Council of the District of Columbia honored the Washington Bach Consort in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the group's free classical-music performances through the popular Noontime Cantata Series. Recordings and printed programs of these performances are now archived in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress. The Council's 2019 proclamation acknowledged the Consort's commitment to enriching the lives of audiences through making Bach's music accessible to the widest possible range of listeners. Emphasizing the transformative power of music, all educational outreach programs (reaching 3,000 D.C. public school students) are given free of charge. The impact has been consistently evident in evaluations from DC teachers, who praise the ensemble's role in providing one of the few live classical music education experiences available to their students.

Noteworthy ensemble recordings include Bach's complete motets, magnificats by both J.S. and C.P.E. Bach, the first American recording of the F major and G minor masses, an album of solo cantatas featuring opera luminary Elizabeth Futral, and most recently in 2022, the album

“Myths Contested,” which has received effusive critical acclaim from numerous media platforms.

The Washington Bach Consort has been nationally recognized for the visionary excellence of its work: in 2020, an SMU DataArts study identified the Consort as the nation’s 8th highest-performing arts organization and 2nd highest-performing music organization, among thousands of nonprofits. In 2023, Spur Local (formerly the Catalogue for Philanthropy) continued its tradition of recognizing the Bach Consort as one of the best small nonprofits in greater Washington since 2004.

In October 2023, the Bach Consort released its first album in more than 15 years. Myths Contested, on the Acis label, offers both an historical and a modern-day look at perspectives and values that society connects to music. It features Consort musicians performing Bach’s The Contest between Phoebus and Pan and Trevor Weston’s A New Song, a Consort commission that had its world premiere in 2022.

For further information please visit bachconsort.org

###