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## WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT ANNOUNCES 2025–2026 SEASON A CELEBRATORY YEAR OF BAROQUE MASTERWORKS AND RARE GEMS

**Washington, DC** — The Washington Bach Consort proudly unveils its 48th season, an inspired celebration of Bach and his musical contemporaries through a dynamic series of orchestral, choral, and chamber concerts. This season offers rich discoveries—from the **300th anniversary of four Leipzig cantatas** to works by **Monteverdi**, Orlando **Gibbons**, and others—alongside treasured holiday traditions, including the beloved annual performance of **Bach's Christmas Oratorio**. The Consort also expands its Director's Series with a second performance of Bach's monumental **Mass in B Minor** and launches an exciting **new Celebrity Organ Recital Series**. With music that spans the sacred and the celebratory, the Consort continues to affirm its role as one of the nation's premier period-instrument ensembles.

### **CANTATA 300: Leipzig Cantatas of 1725**

*Sunday, September 28, 2025 / 4:00 P.M.*

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

This celebratory opening event uniquely commemorates the 300th anniversary of four of Bach's finest cantatas, highlighting the rarely performed *Dramma per Musica*, "Zerreiet, zersprenget, zertrmmert," commissioned in 1725 by the University of Leipzig with a classical text adapted by Picander, Bach's longtime collaborator and librettist.

**Featured soloists:** Elijah McCormack (male soprano), Reginald Mobley (alto), Andrew Bearden Brown (tenor), Edward Vogel (bass)

**The Christmas Story: Bach's Christmas Oratorio (Parts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6)**

*Saturday, December 13, 2025 | 4:00 P.M.*

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

A beloved DC holiday tradition returns with Bach's joyful retelling of the nativity story, praised by *The Washington Post* as "joyous" and a performance that "could go head-to-head with period ensembles anywhere."

**Featured soloists:** Hannah De Priest (soprano), Sylvia Leith (alto), Thomas Cooley (tenor & Evangelist), Tyler Duncan (bass)

### **The Light of Monteverdi: Vespro della Beata Vergine, SV 206 (1610)**

*Sunday, March 22, 2026 | 4:00 P.M.*

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

Monteverdi's monumental Vespers—among the most celebrated sacred works of the 17th century—is performed by the Consort's world-class period instruments and vocalists.

**Featured soloists:** Paulina Francisco and Margot Rood (sopranos), Jay Carter and Clifton Massey (countertenors), Jacob Perry Jr. and Gregório Taniguchi (tenors), Jonathon Adams and Edmund Milly (basses)

### **Mass in B Minor: Bach's Great Mass**

*Saturday, April 25, 2026 | 7:00 P.M.* – National City Christian Church, Washington, DC

*Sunday, April 26, 2026 | 4:00 P.M.* – National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

The season closes with Bach's epic Mass in B Minor, a work of profound expression and timeless beauty.

**Featured soloists:** Amy Broadbent and Chelsea Helm (sopranos), Kristen Dubenion-Smith (alto), James Reese (tenor), Jonathan Woody (bass)

## **CHAMBER SERIES**

### **Nina Bernat: Transcriptions for Double Bass**

*Friday, September 12, 2025 | 7:00 P.M.* – Live! at 10th & G, DC

*Saturday, September 13, 2025 | 4:00 P.M.* – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, VA

Winner of numerous awards, double bassist **Nina Bernat** explores the expressive range of Bach's solo cello and violin suites, transcribed for her instrument, with elegance and virtuosity.

### **Chelys: The Voice of the Viol**

*Thursday, October 16, 2025 | 7:00 P.M. – Live! at 10th & G, DC*

*Friday, October 17, 2025 | 4:00 P.M. – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, VA*

**Stephen Moran** Violist da gamba Stephen Moran brings to life unaccompanied works for the viol by Sainte-Colombe le Fils, Marin Marais, and Johannes Schenck, concluding with Moran's own transcription of J.S. Bach's Violin Partita No. 1, BWV 1002.

### **The Cryes of London: Gibbons 400**

*Friday, November 14, 2025 | 7:00 P.M. – Live! at 10th & G, DC*

*Saturday, November 15, 2025 | 4:00 P.M. – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, VA*

A very special tribute to Orlando Gibbons on the 400th anniversary of his death, featuring consorts of voices and viols in masterworks of the English Renaissance.

### **James O'Donnell: Clavierübung III (1739)**

*Friday, February 27, 2026 | 7:00 P.M. – St. George's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA*

The former Organist and Master of Choristers at Westminster Abbey (also director of music for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II), will present a rare performance of Bach's *Clavierübung III* in its entirety—considered by many to be among Bach's finest collections, inaugurating a new annual concert tradition.

### **Metal and Gut: Two "Violas of Love"**

*Friday, March 6, 2026 | 7:00 P.M. – Live! at 10th & G, DC*

*Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 4:00 P.M. – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, VA*

**Daniel McCarthy** performs on two types of viola d'amore, offering a range of musical works that highlight the instruments' expressive beauty—very rarely heard in live performances today, joined by collaborators **David Ross**, **Margot Rood**, and **Marc Bellasai**.

### **Toccatas & Suites: Bach at the Summit**

*Friday, April 10, 2026 | 7:00 P.M. – Live! at 10th & G, DC*

*Saturday, April 11, 2026 | 4:00 P.M. – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, VA*

Performing toccatas and dance suites by the finest 17th-century composers—such as Frescobaldi, Froberger, Buxtehude, Couperin, and d'Anglebert—harpsichordist **Adam Pearl** will illustrate intricate connections drawn from successive generations of composers, with all roads leading to featured works by J.S. Bach.

## NOONTIME CANTATA SERIES

*St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC (Capitol Hill)*

*Church of the Epiphany, Washington, DC (Downtown)*

### ***Actus Tragicus: BWV 106 – Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit***

*Monday, October 6, 2025 | 12:10 P.M. – St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

*Tuesday, October 7, 2025 | 12:10 P.M. – Church of the Epiphany*

Soloists: Sara MacKimmie, soprano; Hannah Baslee, alto; Oliver Mercer, tenor; Ross Tamaccio, bass

Organ Prelude: Jinsun Cho, TBA

### ***Ich bin vergnügt mit meinem Glücke: BWV 84***

*Monday, November 3, 2025 | 12:10 P.M. – St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

*Tuesday, November 4, 2025 | 12:10 P.M. – Church of the Epiphany*

Soloist: Julie Bosworth, soprano

Organ Prelude: Paul Byssainthe Jr., TBA

### ***Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen: BWV 56***

*Monday, March 2, 2026 | 12:10 P.M. – St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026 | 12:10 P.M. – Church of the Epiphany*

Soloist: Edmund Milly, bass

Organ Prelude: Paula Maust, TBA

### ***Nach dir, Herr, verlangt mich: BWV 150***

*Monday, April 13, 2026 | 12:10 P.M. – St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

*Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 12:10 P.M. – Church of the Epiphany*

Soloists: Laura Choi Stuart, soprano; Roger Isaacs, alto; Matthew Loyal Smith, tenor; Mark Duer, bass

Organ Prelude: Jeff Kempeskie, TBA

“The Washington Bach Consort’s 48th season promises an enriching and serendipitous journey for all music lovers, especially for those new to our series. As our 50th season emerges on the horizon, programming will become more and more focused on a special assortment of Bach’s

very finest musical offerings. In addition to Bach, the forthcoming 2025-2026 season will also offer delightful excursions into baroque works by Monteverdi, Marais, Buxtehude, Frescobaldi, Froberger, and François Couperin; with a quatro-centenary commemoration of English Renaissance Composer, Orlando Gibbons,” said **Artistic Director Dana Marsh**.

#### Tickets and Information

Subscriptions for the 2025–2026 season are now on sale. For more information about individual concerts and season subscriptions, visit [bachconsort.org](https://bachconsort.org) or contact the Washington Bach Consort at 202.429.2121.

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### 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.

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