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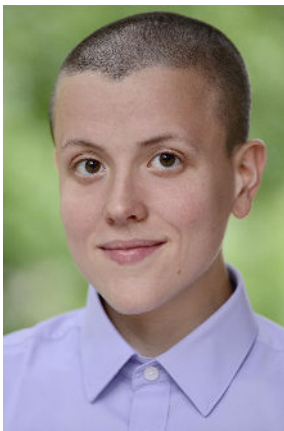
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## Washington Bach Consort Celebrates 300th Anniversary of Bach's Leipzig Cantatas



Elijah McCormack, male soprano



Reginald Mobley, countertenor



Andrew Bearden Brown, tenor



Edward Vogel, baritone

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

**September 28, 2025, at 4:00 pm**

**National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC**

The Washington Bach Consort opens its fall season with a landmark event, **Cantata 300**, celebrating the 300th anniversary of four of Johann Sebastian Bach's most remarkable Leipzig cantatas. The concert, **led by Artistic Director Dana Marsh**, features the rarely performed *Dramma per Musica: Zerreiet, zersprengt, zertrmmert*, commissioned in 1725 by the University of Leipzig with a classical text adapted by Bach's longtime collaborator and librettist, Picander. Audiences will feel the full expressive range of Bach's creative spirit in these cantatas of 1725 in a way that illuminates both the nuances of musical detail and the cumulative

dramatic impact.

“These supremely inspired works, both individually and collectively, have something deeply transformative and uplifting to offer all of our listeners. One marvels at how Bach so masterfully composed these four uniquely contrasting gems within the same year!” —Dana Marsh, Artistic Director

The program includes *Gott, der Herr ist Sonn und Schild*, BWV 79, *Ihr werdet weinen und heulen*, BWV 103, *Wer mich liebet, der wird mein Wort halten*, BWV 74, and the dramatic secular cantata, *Zerreiet, zersprenget, zertrmmert die Gruft*, BWV 205. Soloists for this performance are **Elijah McCormack**, male soprano; **Reginald Mobley**, countertenor; **Andrew Bearden Brown**, tenor; and **Edward Vogel**, baritone. Underwritten by Helen H. McConnell, Tamera Luzzatto, and Alpheus Fair, this concert promises an unforgettable exploration of Bach’s genius in Leipzig, blending historical significance with thrilling live performance.

#### **Tickets & Information:**

The performance takes place on Sunday, September 28, 2025, at 4:00 pm at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. For tickets and more information, visit [bachconsort.org](http://bachconsort.org).

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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 2023, 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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