

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT ANNOUNCES FALL 2025 PERFORMANCES

A season of Bach, baroque treasures, and holiday traditions

Washington, DC — The Washington Bach Consort is delighted to announce its Fall 2025 performances, bringing masterworks and rare gems of the baroque to audiences across the DC region. From a major anniversary celebration of Bach's Leipzig cantatas to a holiday tradition beloved by Washington audiences, the Consort continues its mission of presenting historically informed performances that inspire and uplift.

DIRECTOR'S SERIES

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*, "*Zerreiβet, zersprenget, zertrümmert*," 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 (countertenor), Andrew Bearden Brown (tenor), Edward Vogel (baritone)

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 (mezzo-soprano), Thomas Cooley (tenor & Evangelist), Tyler Duncan (baritone)

CHAMBER SERIES

Nina Bernat: Double Bass

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

Saturday, September 13, 2025 | 7:00 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 | 7:00 P.M. – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, VA

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 | 7:00 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.

NOONTIME CANTATA SERIES

Free, mid-day performances in the heart of Washington, DC

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 – Prelude and Fugue in E-flat major, BWV 552

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. – Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 543

Tickets and Information

Tickets and subscriptions for the 2025–2026 season are now on sale. For more information about individual concerts and season subscriptions, visit bachconsort.org or contact the Washington Bach Consort at 202.429.2121.

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 the field of early music especially, the *Washington Post* hailed the group as one that “could go head-to-head with period ensembles anywhere.”

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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