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Joyful Holiday Tradition: Washington Bach Consort Performs Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*



Hannah De Priest, *soprano*



Sylvia Leith, *alto*



Thomas Cooley, *tenor & Evangelist*



Tyler Duncan, *bass*

The Washington Bach Consort invites audiences to celebrate the holiday season with a cherished Washington, DC tradition: *The Christmas Story*, featuring selections from Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* (Parts 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6). This performance will take place on **Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 4 p.m.** as part of the Consort's **Director's Series** and is presented in cooperation with **Washington Performing Arts**. Ticket prices range from \$10-\$99 and are available for purchase at <https://bachconsort.org/the-christmas-story-2025/>

This annual performance of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* is as joyous as the ringing-in of the holiday spirit itself—whether you celebrate Christmas or simply the music of the season. The *Washington Post* praised the Consort's rendition as "joyous," noting that the ensemble "could go head-to-head with period ensembles anywhere."

Under the direction of Artistic Director **Dana Marsh**, the Consort will be joined by an exceptional roster of soloists: Hannah De Priest, *soprano*; Sylvia Leith, *alto*; Thomas Cooley, *tenor & Evangelist*; and Tyler Duncan, *bass*. Underwritten by **Mary Ann Gardner, Suzanne R. & Robert L. McDowell, Jr., and Reverend Elizabeth L. Carl**, this concert promises an **uplifting and unforgettable celebration of Bach's timeless Christmas music**.

"I'm always filled with fresh excitement in anticipation of our annual performances of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. This year, we return to the National Presbyterian Church and perform all of this glorious work except for the fourth part, which will make for a substantial Bach-feast and holiday celebration!" —Dana Marsh, Artistic Director

Audiences can join the Washington Bach Consort before the concert at 3 p.m. for "Talking Bach," a series of free pre-concert lectures by noted Bach scholar, Dr. Michael Marissen.

Tickets & Information:

The performance takes place on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 4:00 pm at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. For tickets and more information, visit bachconsort.org.

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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