

PRESENTING OUR 2015-2016 SEASON

# MASTERY, MYSTERY, MAJESTY



MARCH 13, 2016 / 7:30 PM

Kettering Adventist Church / 3939 Stonebridge Road / Kettering, Ohio

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## John Neely, Music Director R. Alan Kimbrough, Accompanist

We're delighted you've joined us for this third concert in our 2015-2016 Bach Society season. Today we offer works based on two of the texts most frequently set to classical sacred music: Mary's Magnificat from Luke 1:46-55, and the Requiem Mass. The composers span two centuries and distinctly different styles—but both Bach's and Fauré's masterpieces inspire us with tonal and rhythmic beauty and spiritual meaning.

This is the Bach Society of Dayton's first performance of the Fauré *Requiem* in our 13 year history, while the Bach *Magnificat* is a true favorite. You may remember our double performance of this *Magnificat* in 2009--one concert featuring original choreography in collaboration with the Gem City Ballet and the other providing enhanced visual images from the University of Dayton's Marian Library. Today's performance, as the chorus joins with four renowned soloists and orchestra, invites you to simply experience the beauty and power of text and music.

Make plans now to join us for a proper finale to our season with the Sunday, May 15 concert featuring music from the time of television's Downton Abbey series. Works by Edward Elgar, Hubert Parry, Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams and others remind us of the elegance, charm and increasing complexity of the post-Edwardian era the series depicts. Actors from Dayton's Human Race Theatre Company will guide us through the concert. And a spot of tea served after the concert provides a sense of refined dignity captured so well on the PBS series. Even the Dowager Countess would, we hope, find the whole affair quite delightful—and so will you. Remember that we'll have two performances that day to suit your schedule—at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Order tickets now and make sure to invite your friends.

Thank you so much for your presence and support throughout the Bach Society's 2015-2016 season.





#### **Bach Society of Dayton Chorus**

#### Sopranos

Carla Ballou Jodi Blacklidge Joy Carter Kay Cherry Barbara Colaner Joan Crafton Susan Cromer Sharon Kohnle Rachel Spry Lammi Karen Linaberry Elaine Morris Roberts Connie Palmus Amy Potter Donna Reece Cathy Renfrow Shirley Richardson-McCourt Lydia Schweizer Faye Seifrit Elizabeth Weibel Mary Ann Woods

#### **Altos**

Cynthia Bertleff Kim Bostic Madelyn Callender Willow Cliffswallow Pamela Cooper-Servaites Helen Cripe Carla J. H. Drye Peg Holland Greta Holt Ann Holzer Sharon Norton Barbara Piatt Pam Rauch Mary Beth Rodes Barbara Schramm Loraine Simard Mary Tymeson Sara Vice

#### **Tenors**

Todd Berry
Fred Bartenstein
Craig Boman
Joe Codispoti
Marc Georgin
Thom Meyer
William Miller
Christopher OldstoneMoore

Kevin Samblanet Jerome Servaites William Spohn

#### **Basses**

Mike Bates Erick Beaven Gary Blacklidge Cullen Bower Marc Fleischauer David Grupe John Gummel Lew Hann Dick Hattershire Larry Hollar R. Alan Kimbrough Steve Makovec Dan Minneman David Jon Priebe Dave Roderick Paul Schweizer Wayne Shaw Mark Spencer John Stengel

The Bach Society of Dayton's mission is to perform and promote appreciation of choral music, both sacred and secular, including the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, and to nurture the next generation of choral singers. Through an annual concert series that features diverse repertoire and innovative collaborations and educational elements, the Bach Society provides musical excellence across the range of classical music. Generous funding support from foundations, government arts entities, underwriters, donors, and subscribers makes this possible. See more about us at www.bachsocietyofdayton.org



John Neely is one of the most renowned musicians in the greater Dayton region. He has been Music Director of the Bach Society of Dayton since its inception in 2002. His engaging personality, abundant musical skills, and ability to nurture musicians of varied ages make him the ideal musical leader of the Bach Society. For 34 years John Neely has been Associate Pastor for Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Dayton. A superb organist and choral director, he leads an active music program for all ages at Westminster Church, with five singing choirs and

three handbell choirs. Westminster offers musical programs that nourish the entire region.

Neely holds degrees from Duquesne University, Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister. Prior to coming to Dayton he taught at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, and at Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio. He has held leadership roles in the American Guild of Organists and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. Neely is active in the tri-state area as an organ recitalist and choral clinician.



R. Alan Kimbrough, a professor of English at the University of Dayton, is well known within the Dayton arts community as an outstanding organist-accompanist. Dr. Kimbrough was the accompanist for the former Dayton Bach Society from 1974 to 2002. He is a long-time member of the American Guild of Organists and is currently a co-organist at the First Baptist Church of Dayton.

#### **Concert Preview**



Nolan W. Long is professor of music at Sinclair Community College, where he has taught since August 2004. At Sinclair he conducts the Chorale, Chamber Choir, and Women's Ensemble. In addition to teaching "Introduction to Aural Skills and Sight Singing for Singers," he teaches voice primarily to voice majors. He has taught countless students, many of them going to significant schools and careers in music throughout the United States and beyond. He formerly taught and directed choral groups at the University of North Dakota where he also conducted the Grand Forks Master Chorale, Alderson-Broaddus College (WV), Mt. Senario College

(WI), and Highland High School (Medina, OH) where his choir received straight superior ratings at the OMEA Choir Contest in his first year of teaching. He holds the Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education/Piano from Manchester College (IN), a Master of Music degree in Choral Music from the University of Illinois, and completed all coursework and recitals for the DMA in Choral Conducting (minor in Orchestral Conducting) at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

His choirs have performed across the country and internationally. He is a frequent adjudicator and has served as adjudicator, guest conductor, and clinician in several states. He was the first in-state conductor of the West Virginia All-State Chamber Choir and served as assistant coordinator for the Two-Year College Honor Choir at the American Choral Directors Association national convention.

He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, International Federation of Choral Musicians, and National Association of Teachers of Singing. Throughout his career, he has held church choral, organ, and paid singing positions. He presently serves as Chancel Choir Director at Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church in Kettering. A native of northwestern Ohio, he enjoys gardening, travel, the ocean, and bringing beauty into the lives of others through musical expression.

#### **Guest Artists**



Andrea Chenoweth, Soprano, is a two-time regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. She has appeared with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Cleveland Opera, Commonwealth Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Dayton Opera, the Springfield Symphony, the Bach Society of Dayton, Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, and Arcadia Players. Career highlights include her recent Carnegie Hall debut

singing Verdi's *Requiem* and touring Japan with Maestro Neal Gittleman and the Telemann Chamber Orchestra. She has sung numerous operatic roles, including Lucia in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Atlanta in Handel's *Xerxes*, the First Lady in Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Kitty Hart in Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*. Ms. Chenoweth concertizes frequently, is a frequent soloist at Boston's The Shakespeare Concerts, and is featured on several recordings of works with text by Shakespeare on the Parma label. A proponent of new music, Ms. Chenoweth has worked with many living composers including Libby Larsen, Joseph Summer, Jack Perla, Jonathon Sheffer, and Monica Houghton. Ms. Chenoweth earned her Masters of Music degree in voice from The Cleveland Institute of Music and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Dayton. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Music at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. Her teachers include Kenneth Shaw, Ruth Golden, George Vassos, Ellen Shade, and Linda Snyder. Ms. Chenoweth is an Artist-in-Residence at the University of Dayton, where she teaches voice and opera, and coordinates admissions for the Department of Music.



**Dr. Ryu-Kyung Kim**, Mezzo Soprano, highlighted her recent seasons with roles of Suzuki, Third Lady and Jade Boucher in Dayton Opera's *Madama Butterfly, The Magic Flute* and *Dead Man Walking*, as soloist in Mozart *C Minor Mass*, Bach *Lutheran Mass* and Schubert *Mass in C* with Bach Society of Dayton, and her debut performances with Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra and Greater Newburgh Symphony in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9.* She has performed major roles in operas and concert works throughout the world including *La Cenerentola, Orlando, Der Rosenkavalier, Madama Butterfly, Carmen, Die Fledermaus, II Barbiere di Sevigia, Idomeneo, Otello, The Magic Flute, Dan Gievenni, Den Chienhiette, Erminne,* 

Don Giovanni, Don Chischiotte, Ermione, Rigoletto, Lakmé, Verdi's Messa da Requiem, Handel's Messiah, and Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde with many prestigious opera companies and orchestras including Santa Fe Opera, Dayton Opera, Baltimore Opera, Cleveland Opera, El Paso Opera, Virginia Opera, Ash Lawn Opera Festival, Opera Orchestra of New York, Caramoor Music Festival, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, National Chorale, Korean Symphony Orchestra, Seoul

Philharmonic Orchestra, Great Mountains Music Festival, Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, and Staatskapelle Halle in Germany. She received her DMA from SUNY in Stony Brook, Artist Diploma from Academy of Vocal Arts, MM and BM from Manhattan School of Music. She has joined the faculty of the Department of Music at UD in 2013, and will be performing Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* with Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and Handel's *Messiah* with Helena Symphony Orchestra in the upcoming 2016-2017 season.



Jeremy Scott Winston, Tenor, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graduated from Oakwood University in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music, and Morgan State University in 2003 with a Master of Arts degree. Jeremy currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music and Chorus Director of the acclaimed Central State University Chorus at Central State University. Accepting this position in August of 2013, Jeremy has begun to continue the great tradition of this Chorus as ambassadors of the great black choral tradition. The inaugural choral concert featured six-time Grammy Award nominee, Karen Clark Sheard. The Chorus has already received three invitations to perform abroad including a perfor-

mance with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra in Prague, Czech Republic.

Recent career highlights include a performance for President Barack and Michelle Obama with The Jeremy Winston Chorale at The White House in December of 2012. This same ensemble won the gold medal championship at The World Choir Games in Cincinnati, Oh, in July of 2012. As the conductor and director of The Award-Winning Wilberforce University Choir, Winston has recently led this ensemble in a performance at The White House for President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle Obama. Other highlights include performances with Wynton Marsalis and The Lincoln Jazz Orchestra, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, The Dayton Opera as cast and chorus of the great American opera *Porgy and Bess*, and featured on title track of the major motion picture *Amazing Grace*. Sought after as an educator and conductor, in 2011 Winston served as choral director for University of California Berkeley's Young Musicians Program. In 2010 he received the John F. Kennedy Medal for his leadership as a National Conductor for the 105 Voices of History Concert Choir at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In April of 2012, Oakwood University recognized Jeremy as an outstanding alumnus.



Errik M. Hood, Baritone, a Dayton, Ohio, native, has appeared professionally with Madison Opera, Dayton Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Opera Columbus, Opera Project Columbus, Chautauqua Opera, and Opera New Jersey, as well as with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic Concert Band, Lebanon Symphony Orchestra, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra, Gallion Community Orchestra, Capriccio Vocal Ensemble, Bach Society of Dayton, and with resident orchestras of Northwestern University, The Ohio State University, Wright State University, and Northern Kentucky University.

Recent operatic engagements include: Montano in *Otello* (Verdi), Germont in *La Traviata* (Verdi, abridged), Motorcycle Cop/1st Guard in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Menotti), Simone in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*,Escamillo in *Carmen* (Bizet, abridged), Cardinal/Priest in *Galileo Galilei* (Phillip Glass), Ford in *Falstaff* (Verdi), and Figaro in both John Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles*, and Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Recent concert engagements include *Messiah* (Handel), *Mass in C* (Schubert), *Missa Brevis in A* (J.S. Bach), *Judas Maccabaeus* (Handel), *A German Requiem* (Brahms), *Petite Messe Sollenelle* (Rossini), *Messe di Gloria* (Puccini), *Te Deum* (Bruckner), and *Kindertotenlieder* (Mahler).

Dr. Hood holds a Bachelor of Music from Wright State University, a Master of Music from The Bienen School of Music of Northwestern University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts from The Ohio State University. Dr. Hood has taught voice at Northern Kentucky University, Wright State University, The Ohio State University, Northwestern University, and is currently on the faculty of the University of Dayton.

#### **Orchestra**

1<sup>st</sup> Violins

Aurelian Oprea Dona Noune-Wiedmann Rachel Charbel

2<sup>nd</sup> Violins

Kirstin Greenlaw Kara Monteufel

**Violas** 

Colleen Braid Lori LaMattina Stephen Goist Leslie Dragan James Braid

Cellos

Mark Hofeldt Jonathan Lee Erin Patterson

**Bass** 

Don Compton

**Flutes** 

Rebecca Andres Jennifer Northcut

**Oboes** 

Eileen Whalen Ashley Noble

Horns

Aaron Brant Sean Vore

**Trumpets** 

Eric Knorr David Zeng Daniel Lewis

Harp

Leslie Stratton

Timpani

Jane Varella



#### Magnificat BWV 243

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Requiem Op. 48

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

#### Introit and Kyrie

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis. Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion: et tibi redetur votum In Jerusalem. Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet. Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them. Thou, O God, art praised in Sion and unto Thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem. Hear my prayer; unto Thee shall all flesh come. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

#### Offertory

#### Errik Hood, baritone

O Domine Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae, libera animas defunctorum de poenis inferni, et de profundo lacu. . . . libera animas defunctorum de ore leonis, ne absorbeat Tartarus: ne cadant in obscurum. Hostias et preces tibi Domine, laudis offerimus: tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie memoriam facimus. Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam. Quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini eius.

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of the departed from the pains of hell and from the bottomless pit. . . . deliver the souls of the departed from the lion's mouth, Nor let them fall into Tartarus, nor let them be swallowed up in darkness. We offer unto Thee this sacrifice of prayer and praise; receive it for those souls whom today we commemorate. Allow them, O Lord, to cross from death into the life which once Thou didst promise to Abraham and his seed.

#### Sanctus

#### Aurelian Oprea, violin

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

#### Pie Jesu

Andrea Chenoweth, soprano

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem, sempiternam requiem.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest, eternal rest.

#### Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem sempiternam. Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest; grant them everlasting rest. And may eternal light shine on them, O Lord, with Thy saints for ever, because Thou art merciful.

#### Libera Me

#### Errik Hood, baritone

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda: Quando caeli movendi sunt et terra: dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem. Tremens factus sum ego et timeo, dum discussio venerit, atque ventura ira. Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae, dies illa, dies magna et amara, amara valde. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Deliver me, O Lord, from ever-lasting death on that dreadful day when the heavens and the earth shall be moved, when Thou shalt come to judge the world by fire. I quake with fear and I tremble, awaiting the day of judgment and the wrath to come. That day, the day of anger, of calamity and misery, that day, that great day and most bitter. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them.

#### In Paradisum

In paradisum deducant angeli: in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres, et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem. Chorus angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam habeas requiem.

May the angels lead thee into Paradise, and at thy coming may the martyrs receive thee and bring Thee into the holy city Jerusalem. May the chorus of angels receive thee, and with Lazarus, once poor, may you have eternal rest.

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#### INTERMISSION

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Magnificat BWV 243

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

#### 1. Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

#### 2. Et exsultavit spiritus meus

Ryu-Kyung Kim, mezzo soprano

Et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

#### Interpolation: "Vom Himmel hoch"

Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her, ich bring euch gute neue Mär, der guten Mär bring ich so viel, davon ich singn und sagen will.

From heaven high to earth I come to bear you good new tidings, of good tidings I bring so many of which I now will sing and say.

#### 3. Quia respexit humilitatem

Andrea Chenoweth, soprano

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae. Ecce, enim ex hoc beatam me dicent

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth, those who will call me blessed are

#### 4. Omnes generationes

Omnes generationes.

All generations.

#### 5. Quia fecit mihi magna

Errik Hood, baritone

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est et sanctum nomen eius.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.

#### 6. Et misericordia

Ryu-Kyung Kim, mezzo soprano, and Jeremy Winston, tenor

Et misericordia a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

#### 7. Fecit potentiam

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo; dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

#### Interpolation: "Gloria in excelsis Deo"

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Et in terra pax hominibus bona voluntas.

Glory be to God on high! And on earth peace to men of good will.

#### 8. Deposuit potentes

Jeremy Winston, tenor

Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.

#### 9. Esurientes implevit bonis

Ryu-Kyung Kim, mezzo soprano

Esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.

He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away.

#### 10. Suscepit Israel

Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus misericordiae suae.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel.

#### 11. Sicut locutus est

Sicut locutus est ad Patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

#### 12. Gloria Patri

Gloria Patri, gloria Filio, gloria et Spiritui sancto! Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit! and will be forever. Amen.

#### NOTES

This evening's concert, "Songs of Mystery and Praise," spotlights two of the most familiar texts for lovers of religious music: the Requiem Mass or Mass for the Dead with its reflections on the mysteries of the afterlife and the Magnificat, Mary's song of praise, recorded in St. Luke's Gospel. The settings this concert comprises are among the most familiar for both texts: the *Requiem* Op. 48 of Gabriel Fauré and Johann Sebastian Bach's *Magnificat in D Major* BWV 243. In addition to their intrinsic musical interest, both compositions feature some noteworthy textual features.

**Gabriel Fauré** (b Pamiers, Ariège, 12 May 1845; d Paris, 4 Nov 1924) was the most advanced and most influential French composer of his generation. His *Requiem* Op 48 is perhaps his most often performed composition, since it has an established place in both concert halls and liturgical settings. Fauré wrote the first version of the *Requiem* in 1887-88, and it was first performed in January of 1888, at a funeral in the Madeleine, the fashionable Paris church where Fauré was choirmaster. (The funeral was not the occasion for the work's composition. Franck later wrote that the work "was composed *for nothing* . . . for fun, if I may be permitted to say so!") That version has only five movements: Introit and Kyrie, Sanctus, Pie Jesu, Agnus Dei, and In Paradisum. The Pie Jesu was written for soprano solo; the other four movements were for SATB choir. The original instrumentation was for divided violas, divided cellos, basses, harp, timpani (for only one movement—the first), and organ. The Sanctus featured a solo violin; the In Paradisum a solo viola. Subsequently wind parts were added at places—two or four horns, two trumpets, and two bassoons, as well as violins for the In Paradisum.

Already in this first version, Fauré is textually unconventional. One might look at all of the traditional elements of the Requiem Mass that he omits completely, including the sequence Dies Irae. And the In Paradisum with which he concludes his *Requiem*, is not part of the traditional Requiem text; instead it comes from the Burial Office, a liturgical service often attached to, but not part of, the Requiem.

Fauré's Requiem offers a deliberate contrast to the more operatic familiar Requiem settings by Mozart, Verdi, and Berlioz, marked particularly by the absence of the Dies Irae and consequently a vastly diminished emphasis on judgment. In 1921, Fauré said that "everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion I put into my Requiem, which moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest."

Fauré prepared an expanded version, first performed in January 1893, that added two movements, both featuring a baritone soloist. The Offertory was written in 1899. The Libera me had been written as an independent composition for baritone and organ in 1877. It may have been for the 1893 performance that the wind parts were added to the original orchestration; the new Offertory uses only strings and organ, but the Libera me included four horns, three trombones, timpani, and organ.

A third Requiem version had its premiere in July 1900, during the Paris World Exhibition. This was scored for full orchestra, and vocal and orches-

tral scores were published shortly thereafter, with many misprints and other inaccuracies. How this third version emerged is shrouded in mystery, and there is no conclusive evidence that Fauré himself was responsible for the reorchestration. John Rutter, who prepared a 1983 performing edition, has observed that the published version makes changes "affecting dynamics, articulation, string bowings and indeed actual notes, frequently for the worse." Rutter notes that Fauré's choir at the Madeleine would have been only 20-30 men and boys, and he insists that the instruments should "never be so numerous as to overbalance the organ and choir."

It is Rutter's edition that we are using for this evening's performance. It has been recorded by the Cambridge Singers and members of the City of London Sinfonia under Rutter's direction. A recent (2014) recording by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, directed by Stephen Cleobury, includes both another performance of Rutter's edition and the premier recording of Marc Rigaudière's new reconstruction of the earliest complete liturgical performance of the *Requiem*. For this the recording faithfully recreates the 1889 premiere, even using the organ stops available to the organist at the L'église de la Madeleine in Paris. The instruments and techniques used by the orchestra are typical of those used in a French orchestra of the late 19th century.

Johann Sebastian Bach (b Eisenach, 21 March 1685, d Leipzig; 28 July 1750) set the Latin text of the Magnificat, in E-flat, his first year in Leipzig, for the 1723 Christmas Vespers. He revised the work some eight years later, perhaps early in 1732, changing the key to D Major (a more satisfactory key for trumpets in particular), expanding the orchestra, polishing the harmony, and tightening the rhythms. For the earlier version, Bach allowed the insertion of four additional Christmas texts. Omitting the interpolated texts made it usable throughout the church year. Its first performance was for The Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, July 2, 1733. In this evening's performance, we are restoring two of the interpolated texts, now set in D Major by the Bärenreiter editors—the German Christmas hymn "Vom Himmel hoch" (the only German text used this evening) and an abbreviated Latin "Gloria in excelsis."

As John Bawden, Musical Director (1994-2006) of the Fareham Philharmonic Choir, has noted, "In its splendor and jubilation [Bach's *Magnificat*] anticipates the great choruses of the later *Mass in B Minor.*" The work uses no recitatives and no extracts from other Biblical or poetical sources; rather it is, unlike Bach's oratorios or passions, what Bawden calls "a continuous and homogenous whole," deftly divided among the chorus and soloists. The solo arias avoid the da capo form often associated with opera and suspected of secular influence.

Others have placed greater emphasis on the variety of styles Bach employs in the work and his control over maximum contrast and architectural symmetry within a relatively brief, even terse, setting of the canticle. Notice the variety of instrumentation, with the fullest orchestral forces reserved appropriately for the beginning, the ending, and the central movements of the work. Note how the texts of those movements make the full orchestration almost inevitable.

"Sicut locutus est," among the other choral movements, is a five-voice fugue, deliberately old-fashioned in its associations and thus particularly apt

for the text that talks about God's promises "to our forefathers, Abraham, and his seed." The fugal style would have been very familiar for Bach's Leipzig listeners, evocative of the composer Bach had succeeded there, Johann Kuhnau.

Bach sets "Suscepit Israel" as a terzetto for upper voices, accompanied by oboe, organ, and cello. The continuo instruments are given a "walking bass" that has been identified as imaging God's eternal time. Simultaneously, the oboe plays a Gregorian psalm tone—the "Tonus Peregrinus" or "wandering tone"—to which the Magnificat was traditionally chanted. That tone also provided the basis for the chorale melody to which the German version of the Magnificat, "Meine Seele erhebt den Herren," was traditionally sung.

Bach concludes *Magnificat* with a Gloria Patri doxology, as would have been typical from the text's function as a Vespers canticle. When he gets to the words "as it was in the beginning" ("sicut erat in principio"), he uses music from the opening movement of the piece: a suitably clever and joyous touch with which the end!

People wanting to add a CD (or even a DVD) of Bach's *Magnificat* to their collection may want to do considerable research among the many competing versions available for purchase. Both the E-flat early version (with or without interpolations) and the later D Major version are available. Tastes vary widely, and among the variables worth considering would be the size of the choral forces (from one on a part to huge massed choirs); the size of the orchestra; the use of period or modern instruments; the use of mature women sopranos or boy sopranos; the choice between female alto and male counter-tenor, especially for the fifth soloist; the choice between organ and harpsichord for the continuo keyboard; the use of five or only four soloists; the tempos, pacing, and overall length of the recording; the acoustics of the building used for the recording, particularly with different degrees of reverberation; and, finally, the choice of English, German, or Italian Latin.

Mark your calendar now to listen to the next Bach Society broadcast on "Live and Local" on WDPR/WDPG (FM 88.1 and 89.9 or on the web at www.discoverclassical.org) at 10 a.m. May 14 when today's concert will be aired. The Bach Society is deeply grateful to Charles Berry for generously sponsoring the recording of all our concerts this season for later broadcast on Discover Classical 88.1 and 89.9 FM.



#### **Bach Society of Dayton Sponsors**

Among the many financial donors for whom the Bach Society is grateful, the following have provided generous sponsorship support designated for particular facets of this season. Their specific gifts will also be recognized at the concerts they have chosen to underwrite.

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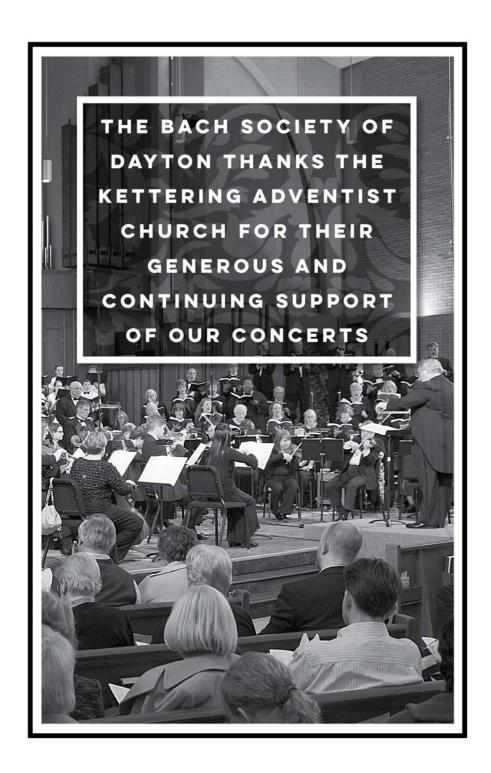
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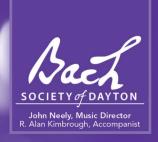
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