

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014



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20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Christmas with Bach

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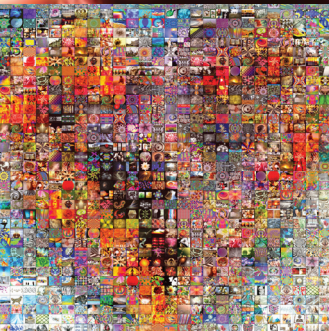


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Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Heidi Ackermann	Tami Copland	Marquis Byrd	Douglas Lau
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Mark De Silva, **tenor**
Mark Donnelly, **countertenor**

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- ❖ Mucky Dog Web Projects, website
- ❖ Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier, accommodation
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- ❖ Black Forest Meats & Sausage Ltd., reception

Christmas with Bach

Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

Soloists:

Soprano – Heidi Ackermann Countertenor – Mark Donnelly
Tenor/Evangelist – Mark De Silva Bass/Herod – George Roberts

Part I – For the First Day of Christmas, The Birth of Jesus

1. Chorus	Jauchzet, frohlocket! auf, preiset die Tage
2. Evangelist recitative	Es begab sich aber zu der Zeit
3. Alto recitative	Nun wird mein liebster Bräutigam
4. Alto aria	Bereite dich, Zion
5. Chorale	Wie soll ich dich empfangen
6. Evangelist recitative	Und sie gebar ihren ersten Sohn
7. Soprano chorale	Er ist auf Erden kommen arm
Bass recitative	Wer kann die Liebe recht erhöhen
8. Bass aria	Grosser herr und starker König
9. Chorale	Ach, mein herzliebes Jesulein

Part III – For the Third Day of Christmas, The Adoration of the Shepherds

24. Chorus	Herrscher des Himmels, erhöere das Lallen
25. Evangelist recitative	Und da die Engel von ihnen gen Himmel fuhren
26. Chorus	Lasset uns nun gehen gen Bethlehem
27. Bass recitative	Er hat sein Volk getröst
28. Chorale	Dies hat er alles uns getan
29. Soprano & bass duet	Herr, dein Mitleid, dein Erbarmen
30. Evangelist recitative	Und sie kamen eilend
31. Alto aria	Schliesse, mein Herze, dies selige Wunder
32. Alto recitative	Ja, ja! Mein Herz sol les bewahren
33. Chorale	Ich will dich mit Fleiss bewahren
34. Evangelist recitative	Und die Hirten kehrten wieder um
35. Chorale	Seid froh, dieweil, dass euer Heil

– INTERMISSION / RECEPTION –

Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G major, BWV 1049 ~ 1st movement, Allegro

J.S. Bach

Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248

J.S. Bach

Part VI – For the Feast of Epiphany, The Adoration of the Magi

54. Chorus	Herr, wenn die stolzen Feinde schnauben
55. Evangelist/Herod recitative	Da berief Herodes die Weisen heimlich
56. Soprano recitative	Du Falscher, suche nur den Herrn zu fallen
57. Soprano aria	Nur ein Wink von seinen Händen
58. Evangelist recitative	Als sie nun den König gehöret hatten
59. Chorale	Ich steh an deiner Krippen hier
60. Evangelist recitative	Und Gott befahl ihnen im Traum
61. Tenor recitative	So geht! Genug, mein Schatz geht nicht von hier
62. Tenor aria	Nun mögt ihr stolzen Feinde schrecken
63. Soprano/alto/tenor/bass recitative	Was will der Hölle Schrecken nun
64. Chorale	Nun seid ihr wohl gerochen

TRANSLATIONS

J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio

Part I

1. Chorus

Shout for joy, exult, rise up, glorify the day,
praise what today the highest has done!
Abandon hesitation, banish lamentation,
begin to sing with rejoicing and exaltation!
Serve the highest with glorious choirs,
let us honour the name of our ruler!

2. Evangelist recitative

It happened at that time that an order went out from
Caesar Augustus that all the world should be assessed.
And everyone went, so that he might be assessed, each to
his own city. Joseph went up out of Galilee from the city
of Nazareth, into the land of Judah to the city of David
which is called Bethlehem; for he was of the house and
race of David: so that he might be assessed with Mary, his
betrothed wife, who was pregnant. And while they were
there, the time came for her to give birth.

3. Alto recitative

Now my dearest bridegroom, now the hero from the
race of David for the consolation and salvation of the
Earth shall at last be born. Now the star that comes
from Jacob shall shine, its rays already burst forth. Rise
up, Zion, and abandon your weeping, your well-being
climbs aloft!

4. Alto aria

Make yourself ready, Zion,
with tender desires to see with you soon
him who is most beautiful, most dear!
Your cheeks must today be far more beautifully
resplendent,
hasten, to love your bridegroom with the greatest
longing!

5. Chorale

How should I receive you and how should I meet you?
O longing of the whole world, O adornment of my soul!
O Jesus, Jesus, place your lamp by me yourself
so that what gives you delight I may know and
understand!

6. Evangelist recitative

And she gave birth to her first son and wrapped him in
swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger for they had
otherwise no room in the inn.

7. Soprano chorale and bass recitative

He has come on Earth in poverty
Who will rightly extol the love
that our Saviour cherishes for us?
so that he may have mercy on us,
Indeed, who is able to realise
how he is moved by human suffering?
and make us rich in heaven

The Son of the Highest came into the world
because its salvation pleases him so well
and like his beloved angels.
that he himself is willing to be born as a man.
Lord, have mercy!

8. Bass aria

Great Lord, O mighty king,
dearest saviour, O how little
you regard earthly splendour
He who maintains the whole world
and created its glory and adornment
must sleep in a hard crib.

9. Chorale

Ah, little Jesus dear to my heart,
make for yourself a clean, soft bed,
to rest in the shrine of my heart
so that I may never forget you!

Part III

24. Chorus

Ruler of heaven, hear our inarticulate speech,
let our faint songs please you,
when your Zion exalts you with psalms!
Hear the exultant praise of our hearts,
as we show our reverence for you
since our welfare is made sure!

25. Evangelist recitative

And as the angels went from them to heaven the
shepherds said to one another:

26. Chorus (shepherds)

Let us now go to Bethlehem
and see the event that has happened there,
which the Lord has made known to us.

27. Bass recitative

He has consoled his people, He has redeemed his Israel,
sent help out of Zion and ended our suffering. See,
shepherds, this is what he has done; Go, this is what
you will find!

28. Chorale

All this he has done for us
to show his great love;
for this reason let all the Christian world rejoice
and thank him for this in eternity.
Lord have mercy!

29. Soprano and bass duet

Lord, your compassion, your mercy
console us and make us free.
Your gracious favour and love,
your wondrous desires
make the love you have for us as a father
again new.

30. Evangelist recitative

And they came in haste and found both Mary and Joseph and with them the child lying in the manger. But when they had seen this they spread the word that had been spoken to them about this child and all those to whom it came wondered at the speech which the shepherds had told to them. Mary however kept all these words and thought over them in her heart.

31. Alto aria

Enclose, my heart, this blessed wonder
firmly in your faith!
Let this wonder, this work of God,
always serve to strengthen
your weak faith!

32. Alto recitative

Yes, yes, my heart shall cherish what it has experienced
at this gracious time for its blessedness as a sure
revelation.

33. Chorale

I shall diligently keep you in mind,
I shall live for you here,
to you shall I depart,
with you I shall one day soar aloft
full of joy, beyond time
there in the other life.

34. Evangelist recitative

And the shepherds went back again, glorified and
praised God for everything they had seen and heard, as
it had been said to them.

35. Chorale

Meanwhile be joyful that your salvation
has been born here as both God and man,
He, who is the Lord and Christ
In David's city, chosen out of many.

Ruler of heaven, hear our inarticulate speech,
let our faint songs please you,
when your Zion exalts you with psalms!
Hear the exultant praise of our hearts,
as we show our reverence for you
since our welfare is made sure!

Part VI

54. Chorus

Lord, when our arrogant enemies snort with rage
Then grant that we in firm faith
May look to your power and help!
We want to trust you alone,
Then we can escape the sharp claws
Of the enemy unhurt.

55. Evangelist/Herod recitative

Evangelist –

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and
carefully learned from them when the star had

appeared. And he directed them to Bethlehem and
said...

Herod –

Go there and enquire carefully about the little child, and
when you have found him come back and tell me so
that I also may go and worship him.

56. Soprano recitative

You cheat! You only seek the Lord to bring him down.
You use all your false cunning to hunt after the saviour.
But he whose power no man can measure still remains
in safe hands. Your heart, your false heart is already, with
all your treachery, by the son of the Highest, whom you
seek to cast down, very well-known.

57. Soprano aria

Just a wave of your hand
Casts down the powerless strength of men.
Here all might is derided
If the highest speaks one word
To put an end to the pride of his enemies,
Oh, then at once must
Thoughts of mortals be changed.

58. Evangelist recitative

And when they had heard the King, they went away.
And see, the star, which they had seen in the East went
before them, until it came and stood over the place
where the little child was. When they saw the star, they
rejoiced greatly and went into the house and found the
child with Mary, his mother. And they fell down and
worshipped him and opened their treasures and gave
him gold, frankincense and myrrh.

59. Chorale

I stand here at your crib
O Little Jesus, my life;
I come, bring and give you
What you have given to me.
Take it! It is my spirit and mind,
Heart, soul and courage, take it all
And may it be pleasing to you!

60. Evangelist recitative

And God ordered them in a dream that they should not
return to Herod, and so they departed by another way
back to their own country.

61. Tenor recitative

Go then! It is enough that my treasure does not depart
from here. He stays here by me, I will not let him leave
me. His arm, out of love with desire full of gentleness
and with great tenderness, will embrace me. He will
remain my bridegroom, I will dedicate my heart and
prayers to him. I know for certain that he loves me. My
heart also loves him ardently and will always honour
him. What sort of enemy could now do me harm when
I am so fortunate! You, Jesus, are and remain my friend
and if I beg you anxiously "Lord, help!", then let me see
your help.

62. Tenor aria

Now you, arrogant enemies, may try to scare me.
What sort of fear can you arouse in me?
My treasure, my refuge, is here with me.
Though you may appear ever so fierce
And threaten to cast me down once and for all
Yet see! My saviour lives here.

63. Soprano/alto/tenor/bass recitative

What will the terror of hell do now? What will the world
and sin do to us since we rest in the hands of Jesus?

64. Chorale

Now you are well avenged
On the host of your enemies;
Christ has broken in pieces
What was against you.
Death, Devil, sin and hell
are weakened once and for all;
With God is the place
For the human race.

(Translation by Francis Browne)

NOTES

Johann Sebastian Bach is truly one of the great composers – and I use the present tense because his music is perhaps even more loved now than during his lifetime when he seems to have been most appreciated as an organist. His vast output of varied compositions are mostly sacred, reflecting both his church vocation and his personal strong Christian beliefs.

Christmas Oratorio, or Weihnachts-Oratorium in German, is actually in six parts; a cantata for each feast day from Christmas to Epiphany. Today we celebrate Part I rejoicing in Jesus' birth, Part III about the shepherds and their adoration of the newborn child, and Part VI written for the Feast of Epiphany and its celebration of the wise men's arrival to worship the king whose birth they had foreseen in the stars.

Bach was music director at Thomaskirche in Leipzig from 1723 until his death in 1750. The Christmas Oratorio was written in 1734 and was performed both at Thomaskirche and at St. Nicholas during that Christmas season. The texts were a combination of scripture and poetry by Picander, a local poet whose works Bach frequently used. It is in German, the language of the people – he wanted to communicate the story fully and I encourage you to read the translations during the performance so that you hear the story, too.

The mood of the entire Oratorio is appropriately one of jubilation; for Christians, God's gift of Jesus to humankind is an amazing, affirming, hopeful and completely joyful event.

The six **Brandenburg Concertos** were written earlier than the Christmas Oratorio. For some, these concertos epitomize Bach – beautiful and masterful craftsmanship. He evidently named them for Christian Ludwig, Margrave of Brandenburg to whom he presented them in hopes of being employed by the Margrave. Surprisingly, the Margrave doesn't appear to have even responded. Bach continued working in the small town of Cöthen for Prince Leopold for whom he wrote mostly secular music. His move to Leipzig and Thomaskirche came within two years.

Today, we play the first movement of the fourth Brandenburg Concerto. While not written for Christmas, its mood is joyful and festive.

I leave you with two quotes about Bach and his music (www.gramophone.co.uk):

"[Bach's music] represents the idea – as very few people can – of great structure with great heart. To build them both together, is that not the top achievement? Art comes out of the combination of the two of those in perfect balance. Their coming together is the greatest thing in art." – Tom Phillips, artist

"I really can't think of any other music which is so all-encompassing, which moves me so deeply and so consistently, and which, to use a rather imprecise word, is valuable beyond all of its skill and brilliance for something more meaningful than that – its humanity." – Glenn Gould, pianist

– Lars Kaario, Artistic Director



Adoration of the Magi (Kempes), photo by Dave Webster, 2010, flickr.com

THE MUSICIANS



LAUDATE SINGERS

Laudate means praise, and for Laudate Singers, every concert is a joyful celebration. Now celebrating its 20th anniversary season, current artistic director Lars Kaario founded Laudate Singers in 1995. This chamber choir continues to skillfully and passionately presents repertoire that spans centuries, cultures and genres. The choir also strives to foster the development of professional musicians and enrich the cultural fabric of our community.

A Laudate Singers is a committed champion of Canadian choral music, commissioning and performing new Canadian works every season in addition to mentoring and nurturing young composers through a composer-in-residence programme.

Laudate Singers has been pleased to undertake stimulating and innovative partnerships with high caliber local performers and ensembles such as the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, the North Shore Celtic Ensemble, Tangissimo, Denis Bédard, Couloir and period baroque instrumentalists. In 2009 the choir was honoured to represent North Vancouver at the Chiba (Japan) Cultural Festival.

The choir has recorded six critically-acclaimed CDs, most recently Voice of the Tango with celebrated tango performers Tangissimo.

LARS KAARIO is founder and director of the professional-level chamber choir Laudate Singers. He has built an impressive reputation as a conductor, singer and educator in his native Vancouver. Lars has forged valuable and lasting relationships with leading musicians and organizations in BC's arts scene.

He is keenly interested in commissioning and performing Canadian music.

As Director of Choral Studies in the Diploma of Music Program at Capilano University where he directs Capilano University Singers and Capilano University Festival Chorus, Lars is able to support and mentor young singers, instrumentalists and composers. He shares his

joy and skill of choral conducting as head instructor in the University's Conducting Certificate Program.

Lars has appeared as conductor with such notable local ensembles as the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, Theatre Under the Stars and others. He has also appeared as soloist in Bach's B Minor Mass, Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem and more with many of BC's major choirs and orchestras.

GUEST SOLOISTS

MARK DE SILVA received his early musical training in violin and voice in Malaysia and England. In Canada, his voice teachers and coaches were George Roberts, Eric Hannan, Peter Butterfield and Bruce Pullan. He was a member of Laudate Singers for many years and has also sung with the Vancouver Chamber Choir.

Mark has appeared as tenor soloist with many fine ensembles throughout BC in live performances, radio broadcasts and recordings. He has toured Canada and internationally with various ensembles and performed in the UK, the US, Italy, France, Spain, Japan and Taiwan.

Mark enjoys performing repertoire from the Baroque to Contemporary music. His recital performances include Schubert, Brahms, Strauss, Barber, Britten and Vaughan Williams. His oratorio work includes Bach's St. Matthew Passion, St. John Passion, Mass in B minor, Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers, Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem, Haydn's Harmoniemesse and Schöpfungsmesse and Stravinsky's Cantata. He was also tenor soloist in the premiere of Canadian composer Jennifer Butler's opera Aftermath.

MARK DONNELLY began his singing career as a chorister in one of Canada's foremost Men and Boy's Choirs – at St. Matthew's Church in Ottawa, his home city. He has recently been studying with Nancy Argenta, Ingrid Attrot, and Robert Holliston. Mark's recent opera, oratorio, and recital performances have attracted critical acclaim, and include Nerone in Monteverdi's *l'Incoronazione di Poppea*, Oberon in Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Toby in Menotti's *The Medium*, Bach's St. John Passion, Purcell's *Sound the Trumpet*, *Beat the Drum*, Purcell's *Welcome to all the Pleasures*, Arvo Pärt's *Passio*, Handel's *Messiah*, Benjamin Britten's *Canticle IV Abraham and Isaac*, Purcell songs, and the swan in Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Mark enjoys collaborating on innovative works and performance that extend the traditional countertenor repertoire. Donnelly's upcoming roles include *The Sorcerer* in a fully staged production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Monteverdi's *Vespers*, Britten's *Canticles*, and a collaborative project of new arrangements of Dowland songs by Canadian composers. While completing his undergraduate studies, he studied voice with Jan Simons (McGill University) and Bruce Pullen (UBC.) Mark has sung in Canada, the US, the UK, and South Africa.



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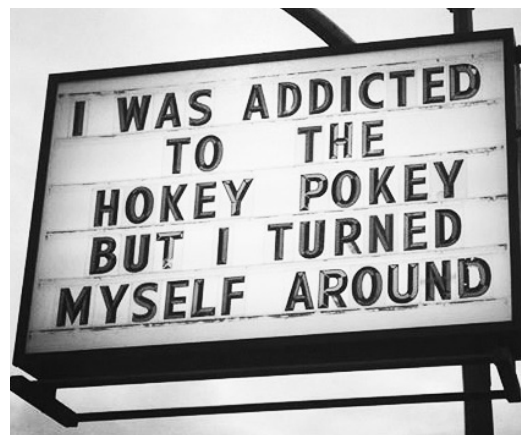
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