

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Gamut Bach Ensemble

Audrey Fernandez-Fraser, *soprano*; Rebecca Ringle Kamarei, *mezzo-soprano*;
James Reese, *tenor*; Edmund Milly, *baritone*; Daniel Matsukawa, *bassoon*;
Emilie-Anne Gendron & Stephanie Zyzak, *violin*; Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt &
Shizuka Inoue, *viola*; Zachary Mowitz, *cello*; Nathaniel West, *double bass*;
Jonathan Oddie, *organ*; Koji Otsuki, *director*

Wednesday, May 8 – 7:30 PM

Church of the Holy Trinity

PROGRAM

Nach dir, Herr, verlangst mich, BWV 150

Johann Sebastian Bach

Born: March 31, 1685, Eisenach, Germany

Died: July 28, 1750, Leipzig, Germany

Composed: ca. 1707

Duration: 16 minutes

This delicate and small-scale cantata is one of Bach's earliest cantatas. Its atmosphere changes countless times, demonstrating the kind of variation in tempo and character that is typical of Bach's early cantatas.

Der Herr denkt an uns, BWV 196

Johann Sebastian Bach

Composed: ca. 1708

Duration: 12 minutes

Bach composed this cantata as a wedding present for a family friend, Johann Lorenz Stauber. He carefully selected the text, which comprises four verses from Psalm 115, in which the word 'bless' plays an important role.

Mein Gott, wie lang, ach lange, BWV 155

Johann Sebastian Bach

Composed: 1716

Duration: 13 minutes

Most of the cantatas Bach wrote during his tenure in Weimar are to texts of Salomo Franck, the head of the mint at the Weimar court. This is one of just two cantatas in Franck's book that opens with a recitative. Bach avoids a dry beginning by turning it into an expressive recitative

with orchestral accompaniment, which conveys a feeling of incessant suffering. In the other movements, too, he keeps adding special touches to Franck's text: an unexpected run in the basso continuo in the recitative for the bass, a contrast between jumping and sustained notes in the soprano aria, and a colorful solo for bassoon in the duet.

O heiliges Geist- und Wasserbad, BWV 165

Johann Sebastian Bach

Composed: 1715

Duration: 13 minutes

The subject of this cantata, which also sets texts by Franck, is the purification of the human spirit by baptism. Franck constructs a moving and poetic set of images to discuss this difficult topic, and Bach's music is both watery and visionary.

Christ lag in Todes Banden, BWV 4

Johann Sebastian Bach

Composed: 1707

Duration: 19 minutes

Christ lag in Todes Banden is Bach's first cantata for Easter—in fact, his only extant original composition for the first day of the feast—and his earliest surviving chorale cantata. The source was Martin Luther's hymn of the same name, the main hymn for Easter in the Lutheran church. John Eliot Gardiner described it as Bach's "first-known attempt at painting narrative in music" and calls Bach's setting of Luther's hymn "a bold, innovative piece of musical drama", and observes "his total identification with the spirit and letter of Luther's fiery, dramatic hymn."