



## **WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT**

*The Nation's Premier Baroque Chorus and Orchestra*

J. REILLY LEWIS, MUSIC DIRECTOR

**For Immediate Release**

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### **WASHINGTON BACH CONSORT THE NATION'S PREMIER BAROQUE CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA**

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR J. REILLY LEWIS CONTINUES TO CREATE MAGIC IN THE CONSORT'S 31<sup>ST</sup> SEASON!**

RETURNS TO THE DELIGHTFUL NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FREE NOONTIME CANTATA SERIES CONTINUES IN MARCH

*Washington*—The Washington Bach Consort, the nation's premier Baroque chorus and orchestra, will continue its partnership with the Harman Center for the Arts on February 8, 2009 as its sole resident music ensemble. The Consort will perform *The Dresden Connection* considered a crossroads of musical genius including works from J.S Bach, C.P.E. Bach, Handel, Hasse, Telemann, Fasch, and Heinichen, all of whom wrote music for the court in Dresden.

The Consort will return to the National Presbyterian Church for *The Great Organ Mass* on March 22, 2009. Referring to the performance of the "Great Organ Mass" at the National Presbyterian Church, Dr. Lewis says: "I couldn't ask for a more appropriate or noble setting to perform one of the few works that was published in Bach's lifetime." As always, the Washington Bach Consort performs on period instruments and in the authentic style of the Baroque era, so Consort audiences can enjoy this magnificent music just as Bach's audiences did.

The Consort's 31<sup>st</sup> season concludes with a grand finale at the Music Center at Strathmore as we pay tribute to Bach's contemporary, George Frideric Handel. This spectacular all-Handel program commemorates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's death with a large-scale performance of five of his most beloved works, including the "Water Music", the recently discovered "Gloria", two of his festive "Coronation Anthems" and the majestic *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*.

## Spring 2009 Season Performances

### ***The Dresden Connection***

**Sunday, February 8, 2009, 3:00 p.m.**

**Harman Center for the Arts**

"The Dresden Connection" marks the Consort's second Harman Center presentation designed to showcase the virtuosity of our period instrument orchestra. The rich variety of Baroque chamber music includes works from J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, Handel, Hasse, Telemann, Fasch, and Heinichen, all of whom wrote music for the court in Dresden.

### ***The Great Organ Mass***

**Sunday, March 22, 2009, 3:00 p.m.**

**National Presbyterian Church**

We celebrate Bach's Birthday weekend with a performance of his "Great Organ Mass." This performance features the keyboard talents of Consort founder and Music Director Dr. J. Reilly Lewis and Assistant Conductor Scott Dettra along with our chorus in the resplendent acoustics of the National Presbyterian Church. If you love the *Goldberg Variations*, the *Art of Fugue*, or the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, you will not want to miss this essential volume of the Bach keyboard canon.

### ***In Praise of Music***

**Sunday, May 3, 2009, 3:00 p.m.**

**Music Center at Strathmore**

The Consort's 31<sup>st</sup> season concludes with a grand finale at the Music Center at Strathmore as we pay tribute to Bach's contemporary, George Frideric Handel. This spectacular all-Handel program commemorates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's death with a large-scale performance of five of his most beloved works, including the "Water Music", the recently discovered "Gloria", two of his festive "Coronation Anthems" and the majestic *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*.

## Outreach and Education Programs

Each subscription concert will be preceded by a lecture focusing on the work to be performed. The lectures are presented by world-recognized Bach scholar, Michael Marissen, Professor of Music at Swarthmore College. These lectures are approximately an hour in length, immediately preceding the concert.

The popular **Noontime Cantata Series** returns with 3 free-of-charge performances at the Church of the Epiphany, located at 13th & G Streets, NW, Washington, DC, just across the street from the Metro Center metro stop. The Consort will perform at noon on the first Tuesday of March, April and May. The fifty-minute concerts include a brief introduction by Music Director J. Reilly Lewis and an organ prelude and fugue featuring area keyboard artists.

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Presented by Consort musicians in costume, a newly reworked and rewritten **Bach in Time** is the Consort's interactive music education program focusing on fourth through sixth graders. It will be re-introduced in the fall.

### About the Washington Bach Consort

Founded in 1977 by J. Reilly Lewis, the Washington Bach Consort is a professional chorus and orchestra noted for its performance of 18<sup>th</sup>-Century music on period instruments. Its mission is to perform to the highest artistic standards the music of J.S. Bach and his Baroque contemporaries.

As one of the nation's critically acclaimed and widely recognized performing arts institutions, it has appeared at numerous festivals and has made three European tours. Recordings include Bach's complete motets, both J.S. and C.P.E. Bach's *Magnificats*, the first American recording of the *F Major* and *G Minor Masses*, and a soon-to-be-released recording of the solo soprano cantatas featuring opera superstar Elizabeth Futral.

The Consort recently completed Bach's entire 215-cantata cycle. In association with this monumental achievement, the Library of Congress has welcomed the Washington Bach Consort performance recording and concert program archives into its permanent collection.

Washington Bach Consort founder and music director J. Reilly Lewis is recognized internationally as an accomplished conductor and keyboard artist, as well as a leading specialist of Baroque music, particularly the music of J.S. Bach. A native of Washington, DC, Dr. Lewis performs regularly both as a conductor and keyboard artist in his home city, as well as for national and international audiences.

He has been the featured organ soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, presented numerous solo organ recitals, and has performed the complete Bach *Goldberg Variations* in recital on multiple occasions both in the United States and abroad.

His festival appearances include the Handel Festival in Halle, an all American music festival in Taipei, the Cologne New Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival and the Mostly Mozart Festival. Recent conducting appearances include the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (Bach's *B Minor Mass*), the National Symphony Orchestra (Handel's *Messiah*), and Washington's Cathedral Choral Society, where he serves as Music Director.

Among Maestro Lewis' many honors are *Washingtonian* Magazine's Music Hall of Fame, the University Club of Washington's Distinguished Washingtonian Award for the Arts, Special Recognition Mayor's Arts Award for contributions to the arts and cultural community of Washington, and *Washingtonian* Magazine's 2005 Washingtonian of the Year.

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Subscriptions and Single Tickets

Subscriptions to the Washington Bach Consort's 2008-2009 are currently available. Single tickets to Bach Consort performances will go on sale in September. For more information, contact the Consort at 202.429.2121. Information is available on the Consort website at [www.bachconsort.org](http://www.bachconsort.org).

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***The Dresden Connection***  
Sunday, February 8, 2009, 3:00 p.m.  
Harman Center for the Arts  
Sydney Harman Hall  
Sixth and F Streets NW, Washington, DC  
Tickets: \$20, \$35, \$45, \$55  
202.547.1122

<http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/harman/index.aspx>

**The Great Organ Mass**  
Sunday, March 22, 2009, 3:00 p.m.  
National Presbyterian Church  
4101 Nebraska Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
\*\*\*FREE PARKING\*\*\*  
Tickets: \$20, \$35, \$45, \$55  
202.429.2121  
[www.bachconsort.org](http://www.bachconsort.org)

**In Praise of Music**  
Sunday, May 3, 2009, 3:00 p.m.  
Music Center at Strathmore  
5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD  
Tickets: \$20, \$35, \$45, \$55  
301.581.5100  
[www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

**More Information**

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1010 Vermont Avenue, NW  
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