

York County Choral Society

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Sara Hudson Castillo, President; Holly Wingate, Secretary; Harry Holder-Treasurer. Board Members: Wendy Wingard-Gay, Jane Pittman Modla, Chris Fischesser, Toby Haynsworth, Susanne Okey and Melanie Beam O'Neal

To Our Audiences:

Thank you for coming to share in the 16th season of York County Choral Society concerts. This year, as always, we perform choral masterworks for the enjoyment and enrichment of the community.

Our fall concert offers works by Benjamin Britten. Performing the *Saint Nicolas* with a children's group is especially gratifying. Those young voices may soon become part of our ongoing ensemble. A special thank you to those who prepared the children for their part.

In the spring, Johann Sebastian Bach's music is featured. The centerpiece of the concert is his *Missa*, the first version of the *B minor Mass*.

As a community, we are very fortunate to have so many talented, dedicated and hardworking musicians to lead us. David Lowry and Shirley Fishburne, our co-founders have made a positive impact on the musical life of our area. More recently, Susan Read has served as accompanist and coach in Shirley's place. Their teaching and coaching is an invaluable asset to us as singers.

Thanks especially to you, our audience and patrons, for your presence and your financial support. We gratefully acknowledge your role in our success. Without your support and that of the Combined Arts Fund, our concerts could not attain the standard we strive for.

Again, thank you for coming. We hope you will be enriched and rewarded by our music.

Sincerely,

Sara Hudson Castillo

## Sixteenth Anniversary Season

YORK COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY
MEMBERS OF THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
CHARLOTTE CATHCART, SOPRANO
ANNA PERRY GOSNELL, MEZZO-SOPRANO
CHRISTOPHER CAMERON, TENOR
RICHARD CONANT, BASS
DAVID LOWRY, CONDUCTOR

## MUSIC BY JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

1685-1750

Monday, March 17, 1997 ∞ Eight o'clock in the Evening Oakland Baptist Church, Rock Hill

## Mass in B minor, BWV 232

## Missa

Chorus Kyrie eleison Lord, have mercy. Duet Christe eleison Christ, have mercy. Chorus Kyrie eleison Lord, have mercy. Chorus Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus Glory to God in the highest, and peace bonae voluntatis. to his people on earth Aria Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, We praise you, we bless you, we glorify you glorificamus te. Chorus Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. We give thanks to you for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty, Duet Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; altissime. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father Chorus Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Who takes away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Oui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Who sits at the right hand of God, have mercy on us. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Aria For you only are holy, you only are God; you only, O Aria Quoniam tu solus sanctus, to solu Dominus, tu solus altissimus. Jesu Christe, Christ, With the Holy Ghost are most high in the glory of God the Chorus Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen. Father, Amen.

#### Concertists

Miriam Kilbourne, soprano; Beth Joyce, soprano; Faye Daniel, alto; Billy Fallaw, tenor; Linwood Little, baritone.

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## Sixteen Years of the York County Choral Society 1982-1997

Albright - A Song to David

Bach - Cantatas 29, 80, 147, Magnificat,

Missa in B minor

Bernstein - Chichester Psalms

Biebl - Ave Maria

Brahms - A German Requiem, Liebeslieder Waltzer

Britten - A Ceremony of Carols, Rejoice in the Lamb Festival Te Deum, Hymn to the Virgin,

St. Nicolas

Davison - An Advent Carol, What Child is This?

Duruflé - Requiem, Ubi caritas

Elgar - Great is the Lord

Fauré - Requiem

Hailstork - My Lord what a moanin'

Hancock - Deep River

Handel - Messiah, Zadok the Priest,

Let thy hand be strengthened

Haydn - The Creation

Honegger - King David

Hutto - Just as I am

Mendelssohn - Elijah

Mozart - Vesperae solennes de Confessore,

Grand Mass in C Mass in D major, Requiem

Parry - I was glad; Hear my words

Poulenc - Gloria

Rutter - Battle Hymn of the Republic

Schubert - Mass in G

Staheli -How can I keep from singing?

Stravinsky - Pater noster, Ave Maria

Thompson - A Testament of Freedom

Vaughan Williams - Fantasia on Christmas Carols,

Dona nobis pacem, Five Mystical Songs,

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Loch Lomond

Vivaldi - Gloria

Wiley - Columbus: Dream to Reality

Tonight's performance of Bach's B minor Mass is the original form of the work, called "Missa" referring to the Lutheran term for the Kyrie and Gloria. Bach wrote these two portions in 1733, and sent them to the Elector of Dresden on 27 July, very frankly asking the Elector for a job: "I submit..the present slight product of that knowledge which I have attained in music, with the most humble request that you will deign to regard it not as its poor composition deserves but, as befits your world-renowned clemency, with a most gracious eye, and thus take me into your most mighty protection."

Goodness! Is this overkill? Or did Bach not know he was changing the course of history? Well, Bach probably did not know he was doing anything other than what his divinely-given talent dictated that he do. He did not get the job. He was already in Leipzig, where he was to stay until he died in 1750, but he felt himself the victim of adverse treatment there, both to his prestige and his income. This wasn't something he did out of the blue, however. There was protocol involved for anyone applying for a job (affirmative action wasn't even a glimmer in someone's eye then) and that was that with an application must come also the submission of a major sacred work. *Missa* was a perfect solution. The Lutherans, which counted Bach among them, still had the Latin version of Kyrie and Gloria in their service. Even though the Elector was Catholic, Bach could serve both without blame by using the *Missa* formula: the Kyrie and Gloria texts.

There were reasons, which we won't rehearse here, why Bach needed to produce this music rather quickly. He turned to earlier compositions to do this. We know definitely where the *Gratias* and the *Qui tollis* originate, and it is likely that most of the rest of *Missa* comes from previously composed works (remember that we have lost many of Bach's works) for the manuscript demonstrates the hand of Bach which is copying, not composing (yes, musicologists can tell the difference!).

After the 1933 submission, the *Missa* was added on to for the next fifteen years. The creed, Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei all continue the form of *Missa*—the "cantata mass" of the older composers in Naples—with texts broken into several movements. Bach surely must have had in mind the extraordinary players in the orchestra at Dresden, a group well known for their virtuosity.

Much scholarship in recent years indicates that the performing forces for such works as this was likely with a small group of voices, even with solo voices in "concertists" areas when the instruments do not double the vocal lines. This type of scholarship is used in this performance, with members of the chorus taking the concertists' lines, alternating with the remainder of the voices. While it is always fascinating to hear a work like this in a large space, one must accept the fact that much Baroque music was performed in smaller salons without detriment to its integrity. The use of a small orchestra and a modestly populated chorus in a smaller space is quite assuredly part of the Baroque performance practice.

# York County Choral Society David Lowry, Music Director

Susan Read, Accompanist Michael A. Miller, Rehearsal Assistant

## Singing Members

Soprano

Sara Castillo Martha Cowan Jackie Christensen Linda Hutchison Beth Joyce Miriam Kilbourne Mary Lynn Norton Melanie O'Neal Bettye Rawls Jan Westerman Wendy Wingard-Gay Holly Wingate

#### Alto

Ann Adams Fave Daniel Karen Ellenberger Veta Evans Elizabeth Johns Anne McCulloch Betty Salmond Linda Shealy Valerie Wilson

## Tenor

Bill Blough Gordon Brookfield **Sharon Collins** Jeff Culp Billy Fallaw Chris Fischesser Chip Grant Jim Johns Dan Lawson Bill Mauney John McCulloch

#### Bass

Andy Castillo Page Connelly J. T. Ellenberger Harry Holder Ed Kelly Linwood Little Tim Moe Larry Nipe Larry Richards

## Orchestra

Flute

Susanna Self Phil Thompson

Oboe

Hollis Ulaky Terry Maskin

Bassoon

Lori Tiberio Hillary Yost

Trumpet

Michael Miller Mark Dulin Brenda Clay

Timpani

Michael Williams

Violin

Martha Geissler Jane Hart Evelyn Blalock **Emily Chatham** Kathy Ross

Viola

Jan Daugherty Piotr Swic

Violoncello

Janis Nilsen

Double Bass

Jeff Ferdon

Organ

Susan Read

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## **NOTES ON TONIGHT'S ARTISTS**

Charlotte Cathcart, soprano, attended Winthrop University and the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. She has appeared in recital in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Her oratorio experience includes Mozart's Solemn Vespers, Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass, Vivaldi's Gloria and Magnificat, Mozart's Requiem, Poulenc's Gloria and Brahms' A German Requiem. Currently a resident of Charlotte, she is Music Associate at Providence United Methodist Church.

This is Ms. Cathcart's first performance with the York County Choral Society.

Anna Perry Gosnell, mezzo-soprano, is a native of Augusta, Georgia, and currently a resident of Charlotte. She holds the degree Bachelor of Music in performance from Winthrop University. She has made numerous appearances with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and the Oratorio Singers as well as the Brevard Music Center Symphony and Opera Company. Other credits include solo appearances with the Fayetteville Symphony, the Festival Singers of Charlotte in the Spoleto Festival and the August Symphony.

Ms. Gosnell has appeared several times with the York County Choral Society, the last of which was with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra in Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* with David Lowry

conducting.

Christopher Cameron, tenor, is a resident of Charlotte whose career has taken him throughout the United States and Europe. He has had major roles in over 35 operas in thirty opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Paris Opera and Rome. His oratorio experience includes Britten's War Requiem and St. Nicolas to Handel's Messiah. His principal academic study was at the Cleveland Institute of Music, from which he holds the degree Bachelor of Music.

This is Mr. Cameron's first appearance with York County Choral Society.

Richard Conant, bass-baritone is professor of music in the College of Music of the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Dr. Conant holds academic degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Maryland and the University of Texas. He has sung with both with Roger Wagner and Robert Shaw, and in 1991 was the bass soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in Carnegie Hall. His remarkable career in both classical and popular music has taken him literally around the world as soloist and director of show groups in front of audiences from the Pope to three USA presidents.

This is Dr. Conant's first appearance with York County Choral Society.

## INSTRUMENTAL SOLOISTS IN TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE

Martha Geissler, violin. Ms. Geissler is a member of violin section of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and has been the manager of YCCS instrumental forces for a number of years.

Susanna Self, flute. Currently in her second season with the CSO, Ms. Self holds the Blumenthal Foundation Chair as principal flute.

**Phil Thompson, flute**. Dr. Thompson is professor of music at Winthrop University and a per service saxophonist for the CSO.

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Terry Maskin, oboe da caccia. Mr. Maskin holds the English Horn chair of the CSO.

Richard Goldfaden, horn. Mr. Goldfaden holds the chair of third horn of the CSO.

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Acknowledgments

Episcopal Church of Our Sayiour
Oakland Baptist Church
Winthrop University Department of Music
Martha Geissler
Andy Westbrook



## Musical Quiz

How many can you answer before the concert begins?

## What

- 1. What advice did Bach give to musicians?
- 2. What does BWV mean?

## Which

- 3. Which work of Bach was used as the theme of Wm. F. Buckley's Firing Line?
- 4. Which work of Bach was played in Disney's Fantasia?

## Where

- 5. Where is the second oldest Bach festival in the USA?
- 6. Where did Bach work?

## Who

- 7. Who were Bach's two wives?
- 8. Who did Bach decide not to marry, even though it meant having a fine job?

## Why

- 9. Why does Lee Fast care so much about the work of YCCS?
- 10. Why did Bach journey to Lübeck on foot at age 20?

### When

- 11. When did Bach become Cantor at Leipzig?
- 12. When did the YCCS sing in a Winthrop University Bach Festival?

I. "There is nothing to it. You only have to hit the right note at the right time, and the instrument plays itself." 2. Bach-Werke Verseichnis, the catalog of his works complied by Schmieder. 3. Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F, BWV 1047. 4. Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565. 5. Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio. Two graduates of that school here today are trumpeter Michael Miller and conductor David Lowry. 6. Arnstadt, Mühlhausen, Weimar, Cöthen, and Leipzig. 7. Maria Barbara (1684-1720) and Anna Magdalena (1701-1760). 8. Buxtehude's daughter, in Lübeck; she was 10 years his elder. 9. She values the quality of life York County— the reason to ask Lee Fast, of course, to help you with your real estate needs! 10. To meet and study with the great organist Dietrich Buxtehude. 11. In 1723, and was actually appointed to four churches at the same time. 12. In 1985, the 300th anniversary of his birth.

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