

masterworks *Matters*

MASTERWORKS CHORALE • TOLEDO, OHIO • MARCH 2020



happily, our classics concert “transitions” falls on j.s. bach’s birthday

johann sebastian bach, one of the greatest musical geniuses of all times, was born on march 21, 1685

“Happy Birthday, dear Johann!” Yes, the Chorale will actually sing these words at our annual Classics Concert on March 21. That date happens to be the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach, so, just for the occasion, Artistic Director Tim Cloeter has whipped up a new arrangement of “Happy Birthday” in the compositional style of the great Baroque master.

Join us for our Classics Concert, entitled *Transitions*, as we explore aspects of two of life’s big moments: birthdays and marriages. To celebrate birthdays, we’ll travel to St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig, 1731, for Bach’s Cantata 36 *Schwingt freudig euch empor* (Raise up your joyous song). This sacred cantata, written for Advent, is a revision of a secular piece Bach had written a few years before for the birthday of a town official. For another birthday celebration, imagine yourself at the court of William and Mary as we perform Henry Purcell’s charming 1694 birthday ode for Queen Mary II, *Come Ye Sons of Art*, the last and finest of six birthday odes Purcell penned for Her Majesty.

Back to Germany for a wedding. The Chorale will perform Bach’s joyful Cantata 196 *Der Herr denket an uns* (The Lord remembers us), which Bach wrote for a wedding; some scholars have suggested it was the wedding of the minister who presided at the

wedding of Bach himself and his first wife. Weddings upon weddings!

Each of these pieces will be accompanied by a different mix of instruments including strings, oboes, oboes d’amore, bassoon, harpsichord, and organ. Each has extended instrumental sections as well as choral, and solo vocal music.

To complete this exploration of marriage, travel with us from 17th century Europe to the USA of our own era. Solo violin, piano, and tambourine will accompany Eric Whitacre’s 1996 settings of five delicate poems by his betrothed, Hila Pittmann, in her native language, Hebrew. We’ll sing Nathan Jones’s 2009 unaccompanied setting of Marjory Wentworth’s touching poem “Newlyweds,” (see page 3) and we’ll all wipe away a tear or two during “Sunrise, Sunset” from *Fiddler on the Roof*, which will be accompanied by piano.

A perfect mix of joy, warmth, and love: just the ticket as we all make the transition from winter into spring! Come along with us! — Tom Sheehan, Tenor

*a celebration of
two of life’s
big transitional moments,
birthdays and marriages*





*the music of bach
appeals to both sides
of my personality*

Tim Cloeter,
Artistic Director

*from the artistic director
celebrating transitions with music that balances head and heart*

I'm a huge fan of Johann Sebastian Bach. Since my youth, I've gravitated toward the music of the Baroque period, but the music of J.S.B. has always held a special appeal. I programmed a solo cantata by Bach on my undergraduate senior voice recital, I programmed a choral cantata on my master's degree conducting recital, and I happily spent a decade as a professional singer in the Oregon Bach Festival chorus under Helmuth Rilling. I think the reason I find the music of Bach so attractive is that it appeals to both sides of my personality: the intellectually analytical and the emotionally expressive.

Here's a fun fact: I was originally a physics major, and even after I switched to an education degree, my two majors were music and math, both of which I've taught. Certainly, the music of Bach has a mathematical quality, but I would also assert that his music is also always deeply expressive. For one, he takes the logic that underpins a "harmonic progression"—a series of harmonies chosen to give a feeling of forward propulsion—to its pinnacle, but he also uses those harmonies to evoke a full range of emotions. For instance, the tension-filled and marvelously complicated harmonies of the second movement of Cantata 36 evoke longing for

the Savior, while the bright opening sinfonia of Cantata 196 has all the stately joy of a wedding procession. For another, Bach is a master of "counterpoint," music in which multiple simultaneous melodies fit together as they pass from voice to voice, but even when he's engaged in the intellectual activity of creating counterpoint, he seeks to express the emotion of the text by devising melodies that illustrate that text. For instance, in Cantata 36 the opening theme that is sung in turn by each voice of the choir has a prominent upward leap for text that urges us to "joyfully swing our voices upward."

And what better music to celebrate the transitions of birthdays and weddings than music that so exquisitely balances head and heart? As we look to the next stage of our lives, or as we choose a partner in life, we would do well to mesh the intellectual and the intuitive, and the Bach cantatas on this Classics Concert are beautiful reminders that those parts of ourselves can indeed cooperate, and when they do, the result is extraordinary. I hope you'll join me and the Chorale in March as we put our heads and hearts together to create something mathematically expressive and emotionally meaningful.

*chorale tenor
daniel baumgartner: musician, teacher, newlywed*

For Tenor Daniel Baumgartner, singing, music, and life have always been connected.

Daniel, who is from Findlay, Ohio, began singing at a young age in children's choirs and started taking voice lessons in 7th grade. In high school, he sang in three choirs; played trombone in the band and orchestra; played in Pantasia, the Findlay High School steel drum band; and sang in five school musicals including the lead parts in four of them. After high school, Daniel attended Bowling Green State University, obtaining a degree in music education with a specialization in voice. While at Bowling Green he sang in the University Men's Chorus and the Collegiate Chorale, and participated in three operas and in intercollegiate barbershop quartet competitions.

The emotional power of music and singing became apparent to Daniel during his freshman year at college when he had an opportunity to sing the choral piece, "My Flight For Heaven," by Blake Henson. "The overarching story of the piece is about someone's journey to heaven – leaving earth for a better place," says Daniel. "At that time, my first voice teacher, Jim Wilson, someone who had taught me from seventh grade through high school, had just passed away. Singing that song at that time really was an extremely emotional experience for me."

Daniel has had a fulfilling personal and professional life since graduating from college in 2017. He teaches music from kindergarten through eighth grade at the iLEAD Spring Meadows, a public charter school; and in November of last year, he and his fiancée, Aubrey Gordon, got married. The couple had been dating since high school.

As a tenor in Masterworks, Daniel appreciates the Chorale's mission to connect lives through music. He says, "The mission is meaningful in a number of ways. First it is about the lives of the members of the Chorale, and how we connect together.

"Then there is the audience and the impact you can have for them as you sing. You may not know what is going on in someone's life as you are singing, and yet you can be moving them in incredible ways. It is magical."

— Tim Langhorst, Bass



Daniel and Aubrey Baumgartner.
The couple were married in November.



photo by Rachel Smithberger



*outreach to the community in 2019
national anthem at hens game, intern program, performing for kids*

The Chorale continued its commitment to outreach in a number of ways in 2019. From the left above: In June, a Chorale ensemble sang the National Anthem at a Toledo Mud Hens game. • In September, Sophie Wilson, a soprano and a senior at Sylvania Southview High School, began an internship with the Chorale. She rehearsed with us all fall and then sang in our two Christmas concerts. • Chorale singers braved chilly weather to herald the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Toledo Zoo in November. After singing "O Christmas Tree" and other carols at the zoo, many singers rushed to Promenade Park downtown to carol for thirty minutes at the ProMedica *Hope for the Holidays*, which was broadcast throughout the region on ABC13. • The day after our second Christmas concert, a group of singers performed concert selections for young people at the Lucas County Youth Treatment Center, a lock-up facility for boys and girls who have been in serious trouble. About twenty of the incarcerated youth were allowed to attend the performance as a reward for good behavior. • Not pictured, singers caroled for visitors at *Holidays at the Manor House* at Wildwood Metropark.

Do you know any
skilled high school singers
looking for adventure?
Tell them soon about the Masterworks Chorale
Internship Program. Information at
www.masterworkstoledo.com
They could be singing with us this spring!

one singer's playlist
inspired by the theme
of our
classics concert
"transitions"
MWC 2020
Birth, Renewal, &
Celebration

Enjoy an eclectic playlist of music about birth, renewal, and celebration. The list was curated by Bass Tim Langhorst.

Listen straight through or put the playlist on shuffle. Enjoy. Don't have a Spotify account? It's easy to sign-up, and there's a free version. Just go to spotify.com.

*aspects of the choral art:
it's so often about the poetry*

Our Classics Concert "Traditions" includes several settings of poems about love and marriage. Nathan Jones set for choir "Newlyweds," a poem by Marjory Wentworth. Jones writes that the visual images in the poem "invoke for me the feeling of excited uncertainty at the beginning of a married couple's journey."

Newlyweds
by Marjory Wentworth
set for choir by Nathan Jones

A bride, beneath a backpack
bigger than her body, holds
a vase of red and yellow
roses in front of her heart.
The groom, dragging a suitcase
on wheels, hugs a shopping bag
stuffed with still-wrapped gifts.
Wedding cake balanced on top.
Ribbons, spilling thin white streams
through the air behind them,
as they travel home with all
they think they will ever need.

Giving Matters!

Did you know that each regular adult member of Masterworks Chorale pays \$75 dues each year? Join us in supporting choral art in Northwest Ohio! Send your generous donation to Masterworks Chorale, PO Box 114, Toledo OH 43697.



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Masterworks Chorale

connecting lives through choral music



Go Ahead! Slit the Seal! Here's What's Inside!

A preview of our March 21 Classics Concert *Traditions* • A profile of one of our rising stars, tenor Daniel Baumgartner • A look back at ways the Chorale reached out to the community in 2019 • Some of the beautiful poetry that will be heard, set for choir, in the Classics Concert • The latest Singer's Choice playlist on Spotify • An inspiring message from our Artistic Director, Tim Cloeter

Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!

Our Classics Concert

Transitions

Saturday, March 21 at 8 p.m.
Epiphany Lutheran Church
915 North Reynolds Road
Toledo

Cabaret Night Fundraiser

Tuesday, April 21, 6 p.m.
Carranor Hunt & Polo Club
Perrysburg

Our Connections Concert

Renewal

Sunday, June 7 at 4 p.m.
Epworth United Methodist Church
Toledo

Contact the Chorale

PO Box 114, Toledo, OH 43697
(419) 742-2775
masterworkstoledo@gmail.com

Tickets and Other Details

New system better for all!

The Chorale has a new ticketing system! For tickets, please visit www.masterworkstoledo.com. "A" Level (closer up): \$25, "B" level (farther back): \$20 and Students: \$12. For group discounts and student tickets, call our office at (419) 742-2775. Have a group of eight or more? Get 20% off!

Accessibility



If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please advise the Chorale's business office at (419) 742-2775 at least two weeks before the concert. For TTY/TDD use Ohio Relay Service 1 (800) 750-0750.

CABARET NIGHT

An Evening of Delectable Diversions

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 • 6-9 p.m.
Carranor Hunt and Polo Club • Perrysburg
For tickets, visit www.masterworkstoledo.com

Help raise funds for your favorite chorus, and we'll show you a great time!