

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem

Segment Three Run Time: 17:40

Overview

The Bach Choir has garnered national and international recognition although it is based in Bethlehem, a relatively small town. In 1976, the choir traveled to Bach's hometown for several concerts. Most recently, in July of 2003, the choir performed on one of the largest stages nationally: the prestigious BBC Proms in London's Royal Albert Hall.



Choir conductor Greg Funfgeld has led the choir for a number of years and has developed a special bond with his singers. Many of them express awe at his leadership abilities, and characterize him as the heart and soul of the choir – a person without whom the choir would have never reached the lofty height it has today.

Discussion/Questions

1. What do you think it is about Bach's music that is able to draw so many different types of people together?
2. What makes The Bach Choir's conductor so inspiring? What qualities do you think are important in a leader?

Activities

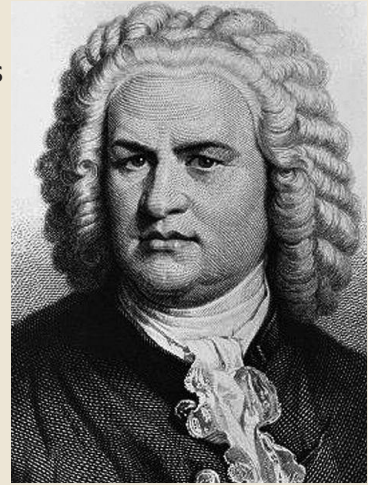
1. Research music funding in schools and come to your own conclusion about how it should be increased or decreased, taking into account the effects it has on so many people.
2. Research the lyrics for The Mass in B Minor and compare and contrast them with modern-day lyrics.

Spotlight: Bach Music Today

Although Bach's music is more than 300 years old, patrons who come to listen to it today feel that its sound is as pure and alive as ever. People still come to listen to Bach's music from all walks of life. This is especially true in the Lehigh Valley where Bach music has been played for over a 100 years.

From its beginning in 1898, the Lehigh Valley has witnessed some of the great Bach moments in history, including the first American performance of The Mass in B Minor on March 27, 1900 in the local Moravian Church. Even today, it looks as though Bach will continue to stand the test of time, as the choir – despite changes in its membership - has been doing a good job of living up to its legacy.

Under the leadership of Greg Funfgeld, the choir of 100 dedicated volunteer singers has achieved a level of musical excellence that has been internationally recognized. The choir performs numerous concerts around the area each year, accompanied by the Bach Festival Orchestra and world-renowned soloists.



More information

Bach Museum Thomaskirchhof 15/16 04109 Leipzig

Contact: www.Bach-Leipzig.de Tel: 0049 341 9 13 73 00

Academic Standards

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem is specifically designed to address the Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities as set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program supports the successful achievement of standards 9.1 Production, Performance and Exhibition Music, as defined under grade 8 measurement criteria:

9.1.8 Production, Performance and Exhibition of Music

9.1.8 E Communicate a unifying theme or point of view through the production of works in the arts

9.1.8 F Explain works of others within each art form through performance or exhibition

9.1.8 I Know where arts events, performances and exhibitions occur and how to gain admission

