



2023–2024 Season



Provided with support from Arts United, the Indiana Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Foellinger Foundation.



Greetings from the Artistic Director

My summer days in southern Vermont will be well in the past by the time this message reaches you, but as of now, I am surrounded by the green mountains. I am also surrounded by world-class musicians from all over the world. This is Marlboro Music, an international summer chamber music school and festival in Marlboro, Vermont. And I serve here as the head music librarian and Bach specialist. When the musicians have fewer pieces to rehearse toward the end of the summer season, many of them seek to play some Bach for me.

I absolutely consider this to be the best part of my job at Marlboro—working with extremely gifted young musicians sharing their inner selves with me by playing solo Bach. It is the heart-to-heart connection between us that is so rewarding and fulfilling. And Bach provides a natural way for this to happen. Bach allows us to be more vulnerable, honest, and generous.

The sense of fulfillment that comes from such personal connections naturally leads my thoughts to the Bach Collegium Fort Wayne. Do you know what is so special about our concerts? I get to cherish the connections between each member of the ensemble, and we as musicians get to share them all with our audience! We become collectively happier and more warmhearted. We leave the venue as better persons (at least temporarily!). Bach's music voices and empathizes with our daily struggles. And Bach's music reminds us of what truly matters in life.

In our season opener on November 12 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, I plan to play a rare baroque instrument, the violoncello piccolo (da spalla), in an aria featuring our amazing soprano Sarah Shafer. On March 3 at Zion Lutheran Church, we are presenting the monumental St. John Passion with a truly exceptional tenor, Daniel McGrew, as our Evangelist. Our season finale, taking place on April 21 at Zion Lutheran Church, features a few shorter cantatas, as well as a couple of secular a capella works by Brahms which I am very excited to share.

I wholeheartedly believe that what we offer to our community is very special. But sustaining this remarkable organization founded by Dr. Daniel Reuning, while continuing to deliver Bach's gift to humankind with the artistic integrity it demands, is a costly endeavor. We need your support more than ever. Your contributions will directly impact our course, and our future depends on them. I promise you that I will do whatever I can to make you proud donors of the BCFW.

Thank you so much for your support. See you all at our concerts!

Cordially,

Koji Otsuki
Artistic Director, Bach Collegium Fort Wayne



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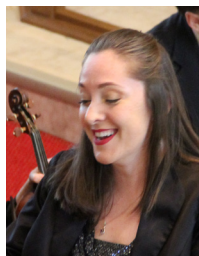
Sarah Shafer



Daniel McGrew



Keith Brautigam



Ashlee Bickley



Corey Shotwell

Sun Nov 12 at 4 pm – Concert I

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 917 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft. Wayne

In memory of Marika Fischer Hoyt, a violist of the Bach Collegium Fort Wayne

J.S. Bach: *Es ist das Heil uns kommen her*, BWV 9

Mache dich, mein Geist, bereit, BWV 115

—intermission—

G.A. Homilius: *Sehet, welch eine Liebe*, HoWV V.48

J.S. Bach: *Süßer Trost, mein Jesus kommt*, BWV 151

Sarah Shafer, *soprano*

Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*

Blake Beckemeyer, *tenor*

Keith Brautigam, *baritone*

Sun Dec 3 at 2 pm – *Messiah* Sing-Along

Queen of Angels Catholic Church, 1500 W. State St., Fort Wayne

The joy of singing *Messiah* is open for everyone in our annual *Messiah* Sing-Along, with **Thomas Remenschneider** directing. Bring your own score or borrow a copy we will have available. Holiday cookies will be served.

300th Anniversary of St. John Passion

Sun March 3 at 4 pm – Concert II

Zion Lutheran Church, 2313 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne

J.S. Bach: *St. John Passion*, BWV 245

Part I

—intermission—

Part II

Natalie Young, *soprano*

Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*

Evangelist: Daniel McGrew, *tenor*

Jesus: Keith Brautigam, *baritone*

Pilate: Edward Vogel, *baritone*

Sun Apr 21 at 4 pm – Concert III

Zion Lutheran Church, 2313 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne

J.S. Bach: *Ach Gott, wie manches Herzeleid*, BWV 3

Warum betrübst du dich, mein Herz, BWV 138

—intermission—

C. Graupner: *Overture in F major*, GWV 445, V. Le Desire

J. Brahms: *In stiller Nacht*, WoO 34, No. 8

Waldesnacht, Op. 62, No. 3

J.S. Bach: *Du Friedefürst, Herr Jesu Christ*, BWV 116

Sarah Shafer, *soprano*

Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*

Corey Shotwell, *tenor*

Keith Brautigam, *baritone*



We grow together!



The Bach Collegium Fort Wayne is a community organization and the region's only vocal and instrumental ensemble specialized in performing J.S. Bach's vocal works. What makes us different from other early music ensembles is our passion for Bach and our unyielding efforts to understand the composer's underlying designs in his works. The BCFW strives to present concerts in a historically informed manner using period instruments, but not to reenact; we believe that being fluent in Bach's musical language is the most effective way to allow his music to work as he intended. And we simply choose the suitable instruments to speak the language.

Our choir, composed of local singers, is integral to our mission.

And the choir's commitment to our goal matches that of our professional vocal soloists and instrumentalists—we are one, and we grow together!

Our Mission:

The Bach Collegium Fort Wayne is a community of singers and instrumentalists who offer insightful performances of the vocal music of J. S. Bach to our listeners and supporters.

Your support sustains us!

What makes our performances possible is the financial support from people like you. Ticket sales cover only part of our expenses. Because we are a 501(c)(3) corporation, all donations to the BCFW are tax-deductible. Donations may also be given in memory of departed loved ones, and as sponsorships for singers and instrumentalists.

Your support will help the Bach Collegium fulfill its mission.

Tickets for concerts are \$25, with student tickets at \$10 and children 12 & under free with an adult. For groups of 5 or more adults, ticket prices are \$20 each when purchased at least 24 hours before a concert through our website: www.bachcollegium.org.



Email Updates



Buy Tickets



Donate Online

Yes, I want to support the Fort Wayne Bach Collegium!

____ Tickets @ \$25 each \$ _____
 ____ Student Tickets @ \$10 each \$ _____

Yes, I want to donate to the Fort Wayne Bach Collegium!

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ____ Other

Total _____

Please make checks payable to: Fort Wayne Bach Collegium, P.O. Box 11832, Fort Wayne, IN 46861
 You can buy tickets and make donations online at www.bachcollegium.org and also at the door.