



BACH
COLLEGIUM
FORT WAYNE

KOJI OTSUKI
Artistic Director



2024–2025 Season



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Greetings from the Artistic Director

I hope your summer has been restful and not too busy, unlike my summer here in southern Vermont. Though my hectic days will be well in the past by the time this message reaches you, as of now I am deeply embedded in the intense retreat that is Marlboro Music, a chamber music school and festival. Here, I serve as Head Music Librarian and Bach Specialist. My job as Bach Specialist is to coach groups of international musicians of the highest caliber as they put together Bach cantatas without a conductor.

Marlboro participants often struggle to make the cantata sound right and true. As Bach Specialist, I first provide guidance, information, and necessary context. Still, that is often not enough for them to find the groove. As a second step, I offer to conduct them once to directly communicate how it can sound—and usually, that changes the level of the music-making for the better—musically and emotionally.

Understanding how much artistic leadership and conducting can affect the music, I realize the responsibility I have as Artistic Director of the Bach Collegium Fort Wayne. I cannot express how privileged I am to direct the ensemble and chart the artistic course of the organization.

Artistic leadership, however, can only be effective with the support and understanding of the Board of Directors. I am so grateful to the entire Board. Each member brings unique talent, skills, and experience to the table. But much like a Bach cantata group at Marlboro, the Board's efficacy can truly flourish under strong leadership. I cannot be happier with Tom Remenschneider as Board President; his patience, genuineness, knowledge, and other qualities as a leader and human are unmatched. Thank you so much, Tom!

This season, the BCFW does something unique in each of its three concerts. Our first concert on November 10 features tenor Daniel McGrew taking on Cantata No. 55, the only tenor solo cantata in Bach's oeuvre. Daniel left such a strong impression on our audience as the Evangelist in our St. John Passion concert this past March. Our second concert on February 16 features cantatas that call for the *cornò da tirarsi* (slide horn); for these, we invite Brad Tatum, who plays this rare baroque instrument, from Maryland. In our third concert on April 27, along with three amazing cantatas, we let our string players have fun playing one of the six *Concerti armonici* by Dutch composer Unico Wilhelm van Wassenaer. Our choir will also take on challenging a-cappella repertoire throughout the season.

In the future, our hope is to be able to bring you Bach's masterworks (such as the Mass in B minor and the Passions) more often. Furthermore, we would love to bring you cantatas that we have never performed (such as cantatas with four baroque trombones). If you would like to hear these works as much as we would love to perform them for you, please help us make it a reality. Your contributions enable us to bring what we believe is truly special. I promise that I will do whatever I can to make you proud donors of the BCFW.

Thank you so much for your encouragement and support. I look forward to seeing you in our concerts!

Cordially,

Koji Otsuki
Artistic Director, Bach Collegium Fort Wayne



Franklin Electric





Sarah Shafer

2024-2025 Season

Concert I: In Peace and Joy **Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 4 pm** **Zion Lutheran Church, 2313 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne**

Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*
Daniel McGrew, *tenor*
Edward Vogel, *baritone*

J.S. Bach: *Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich den*, BWV 157
J.S. Bach: *Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht*, BWV 55
J. Brahms: *Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen*, Op. 74, No. 1 [a cappella]
J.S. Bach: *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin*, BWV 125



Daniel McGrew

Messiah Sing-Along **Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 2 pm** **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.



Edward Vogel

Concert II: Toll the bells: Death and Resurrection **Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 4 pm** **Trinity Lutheran Church, 1636 St. Mary's Ave., Fort Wayne**

Sarah Shafer, *soprano*
Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*
Jonathan Busarow, *tenor*
Keith Brautigam, *baritone*

J.S. Bach: *Herr, wie du willst, so schick's mit mir*, BWV 73
J.S. Bach: *Komm, du süße Todesstunde*, BWV 161
A. Bruckner: *Motets; selection* [a cappella]
Zwei Totenlieder, No. 1, WAB 47
Vexilla regis, WAB 51
Zwei Totenlieder, No. 2, WAB 48
J.S. Bach: *Christus, der ist mein Leben*, BWV 95



Ashlee Bickley



Brad Tatum

Concert III: Word and Sacrament **Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 4 pm** **Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 917 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft. Wayne**

Sarah Shafer, *soprano*
Ashlee Bickley, *mezzo-soprano*
Mark Vogel, *tenor*
Edward Vogel, *baritone*

J.S. Bach: *Wer da gläubet und getauft wird*, BWV 37
J.S. Bach: *Alles nur nach Gottes Willen*, BWV 72
U.W.v. Wassenaer: *Concerto armonico III in A major* [instrumental]
M. Duruflé: *Tantum ergo*, Op. 10, No. 4 [a cappella]
T. Kverno: *Corpus Christi Carol* [a cappella]
J.S. Bach: *Mein liebster Jesu ist verloren*, BWV 154



Leighann Daihl Ragusa

