

California Bach Society Press Release

October 13 – 15, 2023

Johann Sebastian Bach: *Mass in B Minor*

Friday, October 13, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco

Saturday, October 14, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado, Palo Alto

Sunday, October 15, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church, 2330 Durant, Berkeley

Tickets: \$40 (discounts for advance purchase, seniors, students, and under 30). For the greatest discounts, please purchase tickets in advance at www.calbach.org. For COVID-19 protocols, consult www.calbach.org/covid. Doors open 30 minutes prior to each performance.

650-485-1097 | <http://www.calbach.org> | info@calbach.org

The first concerts of the California Bach Society's 53rd season showcase the "sublime" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*) sound of CBS in J.S. Bach's crowning masterpiece. A year before his death, Bach compiled and adapted some of his greatest musical writing—and composed new material—to create the *Mass in B Minor*, now considered among the most profoundly spiritual and beautiful works of art ever created.

For these performances, CBS features its first-ever collaboration with the renowned San Francisco Conservatory of Music, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. Several of our soloists are Conservatory graduates, the orchestra includes Conservatory string players and graduates, four Conservatory choral students will be joining the choir, and the San Francisco performance will take place in the Conservatory's spectacular Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall.

Soloists for the forthcoming CBS concerts are sopranos Victoria Fraser and Morgan Balfour, countertenor Kyle Sanchez Tingzon, tenors Edward Betts and David Siegel, and basses Adam Cole and Chung-Wai Soong. The choir and soloists will be accompanied by a full Baroque orchestra, including strings, flutes, oboes, bassoons, trumpets, timpani, and organ.

The California Bach Society, a 30-voice chamber chorus, was awarded "Best Choral Group" and "Best Early Music/Baroque Ensemble" for 2017-2018 by *San Francisco Classical Voice*, following a dazzling performance at the Berkeley Early Music Festival.

"The listener had the uncanny, elevating sense of hearing every voice devoted to a single purpose. It was, in the broadest sense of the term, a musically spiritual experience." — *SF Classical Voice*, 2017 (reviewing the CBS *St. Matthew Passion*)

Biographies:

To download photos and for longer biographies of soloists, please go to <http://www.calbach.org/press/>.

Founded in 1971, CBS has established a reputation for its interpretations of Renaissance and Baroque choral music. Leon Chisholm of *San Francisco Classical Voice* wrote: "In recent years, **the California Bach Society has become a prospector of Baroque gold**. Its concerts have brought forth exquisite, rarely heard works by forgotten masters from the lost frontier, to the delight of its audiences."

Artistic director **Dr. Paul Flight**—a noted choral conductor, teacher, and singer—is in his eighteenth season with the California Bach Society. A former member of the Waverly Consort, Theatre of Voices, Pomerium Musices, and the New York Collegium, he has brought a wealth of expertise to CBS. Critics have praised Dr. Flight's conducting acumen, stating: "**Flight has made of the choral group a professional ensemble capable of every expressive nuance and glorious ensemble sound.**"

Soprano **Victoria Fraser** has performed as a soloist and chorister in Europe and North America, notably with the Vocalensemble Frankfurt Dom, the Berwick Chamber Chorus at the Oregon Bach Festival, the Bachkantaten-Akademie in Germany, and in the CBS performances of the *St. John Passion*.

Australian soprano **Morgan Balfour** has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony in Bach's *Magnificat* and with American Bach Soloists as Céphise in Rameau's *Pygmalion*. She performed Bach's *Mass in B Minor* earlier this year with Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart.

Filipino countertenor **Kyle Sanchez Tingzon** has been praised for his "powerful countertenor" voice (*The Wall Street Journal*). His recent performances include work with American Bach Soloists, Philharmonia Baroque Chorale, and his soloist debut with Pacific Opera Project in the US premiere of Vivaldi's *Ercole su' l Termodonte*.

Tenor **Edward Betts** has sung with notable ensembles including American Bach Soloists, the San Francisco and Oakland Symphony Choruses, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra Chorale, Theatre of Voices, and Cantata Collective.

Tenor **David Taylor Siegel** performs with a wide variety of choral groups throughout the Bay Area, including Schola Cantorum San Francisco, the Chalice Consort, and CBS. Prior to that, he appeared with New York City-based choral ensembles such as the New Amsterdam Singers and the Dessooff Choirs.

Bass-baritone **Chung-Wai Soong** has sung with companies and ensembles in Australia and the US, including West Bay Opera, Victoria State Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Volti, American Bach Soloists, and Philharmonia Baroque.

An eleven-year member of the SF Symphony Chorus and currently in his 17th year with the Grace Cathedral Choir, bass **Adam Cole** has also sung, toured, and/or recorded professionally with American Bach Soloists, Philharmonia Baroque, Cappella SF, San Francisco Renaissance Voices, and CBS.

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