

BACH BIRTHDAY BASH!

--by Michael Barone

TCAGO members (and friends), in collaboration with Minnesota Public Radio, the Bach Society of Minnesota, and the National Lutheran Choir, and in ongoing observance of the AGO's "*International Year of the Organ*", present a day-long *Bach Birthday Bash* on **Saturday, March 21**, and you're invited!!

WHAT: (1) a sequence of five hour-long free concerts of music by (or about) that peerless Baroque master, **Johann Sebastian Bach**, in celebration of his 324th birthday (b. 3/21/1685), (2) a live hour-long broadcast by Minnesota Public Radio of the first of these concerts, and (3) a full concert performance of *Bach's Saint Matthew Passion*. Enjoy superb local musicians in performances on instruments by Noack, Kney, Skinner-Schantz, Mason & Hamlin, and Fisk.

WHEN: Saturday, March 21, 2009 (organ events from 9AM-5PM.; Passion at 7PM)

WHERE (and WHO):

9AM-10AM (live MPR broadcast): St. Mary's Chapel of the St. Paul Seminary (2160 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul); all Bach solo organ, chamber and vocal works; David P. Jenkins, Paul Boehnke, David Cherwien, Minnesota Bach Society and National Lutheran Choir ensembles

10:30-11:30AM: University of St. Thomas Chapel (Cleveland Avenue North at Ashland Avenue, Saint Paul); all Bach solo organ repertoire; Timothy Buendorf and James Callahan.

1-2PM: Church of St. John the Evangelist (60 Kent Street, Saint Paul); Bach and Liszt solo organ works and transcriptions of Vivaldi and Johann Ernst; Sharon Kleckner and James Frazier.

2:30-3:30PM: Unity Unitarian Church (732 Holly Avenue, Saint Paul); organ and piano solos by Bach and Rochberg; Kraig Windschitl and Richard Tostenson.

4-5PM: House of Hope Presbyterian Church (797 Summit Avenue, St. Paul); organ solos by Bach and Porter Heaps; Charles Echols and Aaron David Miller.

7-10:30PM: St. Olaf Catholic Church (215 S. 8th Street, Minneapolis); David Cherwien and National Lutheran Choir.

Listen to the radio broadcast (Classical MPR - KSJN-99.5FM) of the first program, or attend any or all of the free daytime concerts, presented in churches on or near Summit Avenue in Saint Paul.

In addition to featuring a variety of Bach's own original compositions for organ, these programs also will include several Bach transcriptions of instrumental concertos by Vivaldi and Prince Johann Ernest, plus transcriptions of Bach's music by other composers such as Frenchman Maurice Duruflé and Minnesotan Arthur Jennings, and several works by other composers...Franz Liszt, Porter Heaps, George Rochberg...inspired by Bach.

The final afternoon concert also features the **upper-midwest premiere** of a recently-discovered 'new' score by Bach, a youthful chorale-fantasia on the hymn "*Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns halt*". Previously only five measures of this fantasia were known, but thanks to musicologists at the Martin Luther University in Halle, Germany, the work in its entirety was rediscovered just last year, creating quite an international sensation. According to one of the MLU researchers, "the composition considerably enriches our knowledge of Bach's early oeuvre; the music world has gained a magnificent composition."

The **Bach Birthday Bash** concludes with a complete performance of J. S. Bach's *Passion According to Saint Matthew*, featuring the **National Lutheran Choir** and Orchestra in concert at St. Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis (admission charged; <http://nlca.com/st-matthew-passion>).

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Information About Instruments:

The five daytime concerts feature Bach's organ works played on instruments of remarkably varied 'personalities'. Fritz Noack built the 2-manual, 22-stop organ at the **St. Paul Seminary** in the year 2000. With fully mechanical key and stop actions, and also by tonal design, this represents the sort of instrument found in prosperous central German parish churches during Bach's time. Gabriel Kney's neo-classic 3-manual, 40-stop organ from 1987 at the **University of Saint Thomas**, also with mechanical playing action, was inspired by 18th century models in a more general way, and has electric stop controls.

The recently expanded 62-stop organ at **St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church** combines components from an early 20th century design by Robert Hope-Jones and the church's previous electro-pneumatic 1921 E. M. Skinner organ. Restoration and enlargement in 2008 was accomplished by the firm of Schantz. The organ now represents a blend of American Classic and Romantic tonal outlooks.

The 1965 Noack organ of 31 stops at **Unity Unitarian Church** was the modern first 3-manual mechanical-action organ to be installed in the Midwest. The 97-rank C. B. Fisk organ at **House of Hope Presbyterian Church**, that firm's first 4-manual organ, is an historically-based eclectic design with a commanding and distinctive voice.

Program Details - Musical Content:

I. 9AM-10AM - St. Mary Chapel of the Saint Paul Seminary

J. S. BACH: Toccata & Fugue in D-minor, BWV 565

BACH: 4 Diverse Chorale-preludes:

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 698 (fr Kirnberger Collection)

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 604 (fr Orgelbüchlein)

Allein Gott in der Höh, BWV 717

Vor deinen Thron tret ich, BWV 668

BACH: Prelude & Fugue in G, BWV 541

--David P. Jenkins, organ

BACH: Trio Sonata in G, BWV 1038

--Bach Society of Minnesota Chamber Ensemble (Maria Schultz-Carlson, violin; Immanuel Davis, flute; Julie Elhard, cello; Paul Boehnke, harpsichord)

BACH: Aria and Chorale, fr *Saint Matthew Passion*, BWV 244

Aria, Erbarme Dich - Have mercy, Lord

Chorale, Bin ich gleich von dir gewichen - Thou I now have forsaken thee

--National Lutheran Choir and Instrumental Ensemble/David Cherwien, director

II. 10:30-11:30AM - St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, University of St. Thomas

BACH: Fantasy in G, BWV 571

BACH: 4 *Orgelbüchlein* Chorale-preludes:

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist, BWV 614

Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wendt, BWV 632

Durch Adams fall, BWV 637

Prelude & Fugue in B-minor, BWV 544

--Dr. James P. Callahan, organist

BACH: Chorale-prelude, *An Wasserflüssen Babylon*, BWV 653 (fr. *Leipzig Chorales*)

BACH: Chorale Partita, *Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig*, BWV 768

--Timothy Buendorf, organist

III. 1PM-2PM - Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist

ANTONIO VIVALDI (arr. Bach): Concerto in A-minor, Op. 3, no. 8 (BWV 593)

J. S. BACH: Canzona in D-minor, BWV 588

BACH: Chorale-prelude, *Komm, süßer Tod* (arr. Virgil Fox)

--Sharon Kleckner, organist

PRINCE JOHANN ERNST (arr. Bach): Concerto in C, BWV 595

BACH: Chorale-prelude (arr. Maurice Duruflé): *Jesu, joy of man's desiring*, fr Cantata No. 147

BACH: Air in D (trans. ?), fr Orchestral Suite No. 3, BWV 1068

FRANZ LISZT: Prelude & Fugue on B-A-C-H

--James Frazier, organist

IV. 2:30PM-3:30PM - Unity Unitarian Church

J. S. BACH: Keyboard Toccata in D, BWV 9??

GEORGE ROCHBERG: *Nach Bach*

--Richard Tostenson, piano

J. S. BACH: Trio Sonata No. 3 in D-minor, BWV 527

BACH: 4 *Orgelbüchlein* Chorale-preludes

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 618

Erstanden ist der heil'ge Christ, BWV 628

Erschienen ist der herrliche Tag, BWV 629

Christ ist erstanden (3 verses), BWV 627

--Kraig Windschitl, organist

V. 4PM-5PM - House of Hope Presbyterian Church

J. S. BACH: Prelude in E-flat, BWV 552a

BACH: 3 *Orgelbüchlein* Chorale-preludes

Hilf, Gott, dass mir's gelinge, BWV 624

Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund', BWV 621

Christus, de runs selig macht, BWV 620,

BACH: Chorale-prelude (arr. Arthur Jennings): *Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott*, BWV 721

PORTER HEAPS: *Swinging Bach*

BACH: Chorale-prelude, *O Mensch, beweine' dein' Sünde gross*, BWV 622

BACH: Fugue in E-flat, BWV 552b

--Charles Echols, organist

BACH (arr. Kirnberger): Sinfonia fr Cantata No. 29 (*We thank thee, Lord, we thank thee*)

BACH: Chorale-Fantasy, *Wo gott der Herr nicht bei uns halt*, S. 1128 (Minnesota premiere)

BACH: Passacaglia & Fugue in C-minor, S. 582

--Aaron David Miller, organist