

## Music in the Castle of Heaven

Daniel Taylor, *conductor* with Charles Daniels, *tenor* Rebecca Genge, *soprano* Peter Harvey, *baritone* Ryan McDonald, *countertenor* and the University of Toronto Schola Cantorum

Friday, January 24, 2020 7:30 pm Trinity College Chapel, 6 Hoskin Avenue

The Historical Performance area concerts are made possible in part by a generous gift from Ethel Harris.

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

#### PROGRAM

BWV 140 "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Intermission	
Concerto for Recorder and Flute "TWV52:e1" Largo-Allegro	G.F. Telemann (1681-1787)
Concerto "Op. 9 No. 2" Largo-Allegro Spiritoso-Leutement-Aria Cantabile	Charles Avison (1709-1770)
BWV 7 "Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam"	J. S. Bach

#### ARTISTS

Daniel Taylor, conductor

#### SCHOLA CANTORUM

#### Sopranos:

Frances Beg Saige Carlson Anna-Julia David Alexandra Delle Donne Maria Deng Jane Fingler Rebecca Genge Loren Graziano Salena Harriman Roanna Kitchen Clara Krause Camille Labonte Grace Liang Michaela O'Connor Kayla Ruiz Erica Simone Amanda Singh Emily Zixin Wang Sierra Ward-Bond Jennifer Wilson

#### Altos:

James Dyck Yelena Gavrilova Peter Koniers Nikki Puchkov Ryan McDonald Danielle Nicholson Elisabeth Ritthaler Karis Tees

Tenors: Nathan Gritter Arieh Sacke Jacob Thomas Nick Veltmeyer David Walsh

Basses: Wesley Hui Matthew Tissi MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR OF THE THEATRE OF EARLY MUSIC

Soprano: Teresa Mahon

Altos: Shane Hanson Jessica Wright

**Tenor:** Valdis Jevtetevs

Baritones: Adam Kuiack David Roth

# BWV 140 Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

For Whittaker it represents the 'glorious ripeness of Bach's maturity'...it is a cantata without weakness, without a dull bar. technically, emotionally and spiritually of the highest order'. Once again the autograph score is missing, though thankfully a full set of Bach's manuscript performing parts has survived. Judging by the number of manuscript copies of the score made in the half century after Bach's death, this cantata bucked the trend and held its place in the repertoire, as well as being among the first to appear in print, in 1847. The festive, expectant mood that he creates in his opening chorus is based on exploiting the inherent textural antiphony between his two 'choirs' of strings and double reeds and on extrapolating the full majesty of the French overture style, double-dotted in triple rhythm. From this a rising syncopated figure emerges, taken up later on by the altos as they lead off with their 'alleluia' figure and adopted by all the other singers. With its Gregorian origins, Philipp Nicolai's popular tune and poem (1599) form the bedrock of Bach's invention. As in a number of other cantatas, you sense that several time-frames are here being telescoped: an ageless appeal for watchfulness as 'the Bridegroom comes', an evocation of the historic Jerusalem, with the nightwatchmen doing their rounds, and the contemporary framework of Bach's Leipzig.

The mood returns in the other two chorale settings 'Zion hört die Wächter singen' (No. 4), with it's beguiling violin/viola obbligato and the plain but gorgeously satisfying finale chorale, 'Gloria sei dir gesungen'. Flanked by these public, pilar-like outbursts are two fine recitatives, one secco for tenor, the other accompagnato for bass, and two intimate duets for soprano and baritone drawing heavily on references to The Song of Solomon. The first of these is a slow siciliano in which the flickering lamps 'lit with burning oil' find perfect illustration in the arabesques of the violin solo. The second duet (No. 6), with its oboe obliggato, has a jauntier air.

At this crucial turning point in the Church year, there seems to be pagan mythology lying behind these mid-winter celebrations, of which Bach shows that he was aware. This is the darkest time of the year when the autumn-sown cereals lie dormant in appropriate state of what plan pathologists call 'vernalization'.

# BWV 7 Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam

It is a monumental piece, especially its opening choral fantasia, a stirring setting of Luther's baptismal hymn with the melody in the tenors over a French overture for two oboes d'amore, solo violin and strings, replete with grandiloguent baroque gestures to suggest both the processional entrance of Jesus and the powerful flooding of the River Jordan. Getting the tempo right is just one of the interpretive challenges - one that can accommodate the natural momentum for the violin barriolage representing the surging of the river, yet remain spacious enough for the rhetorical gestures to make maximum impact.

In No 2, an aria for bass and continuo ('Mark and hear. ve children of men'), Bach does the preacher's job for him to perfection, with varied inflection, lengths and stresses - and a dash of humour (was there a particular Leipzig cleric whose mannerisms and delivery were being parodied here?). A tenor recitative (No. 3) prepares us for Christ's teaching, in an aria (No. 4) which describes, through its pair of soaring violins, the circling flight of the Holv Spirit as a dove. The bass returns with an accompagnato (No. 5) to remind the listener that Christ's passion and resurrection were the inspiration behind the conversion

and baptism of the heathen. This leads to an unusual, terse aria (No. 6) for alto (with the two oboes d'amore doubling the violins) exhorting mankind to be cleansed by faith and baptism and not to 'perish in the pit of hell'. That seems to be a theological kernel of what is otherwise a rather depressing doctrinal dismissal of the benefits of good works and a blameless life. Johann Walther's tune, heard in the opening chorale fantasia, then returns with Luther's baptismal words about faith alone being capable of understanding 'the power of the blood of Christ.'

© John Eliot Gardiner 2004

From a journal written in the course of the Bach Cantata Pilgrimage

Charles Daniels, Peter Harvey and Daniel Taylor were soloists on recording for DG Archiv and SDG capturing live performances of the Bach Cantata Pilgrimage

#### BIOGRAPHIES

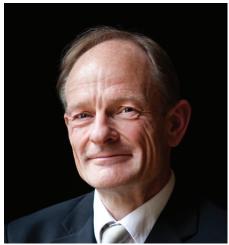


Photo credit: Annelies van der Vegt

#### **Charles Daniels**

The tenor Charles Daniels is best known as an interpreter of Baroque music, but his narrative gifts have been praised for music as diverse as Machaut Virelais from the 1360s and Graham Treacher's *Divine Madness* (2016). He was born in Salisbury and studied at King's College Cambridge and under Edward Brooks at the Royal College of Music.

His extensive discography includes Bach's *Matthäus-Passion* with the Bach-Stiftung, Monteverdi *L'Orfeo* with Andrew Parrott, Handel *Messiah* and Schütz' *Christmas Story* with the Gabrieli Consort, Wojciech Kilar's *Missa Pro Pace* with the Warsaw Philharmonic, much Purcell and Bach, and more intimate discs such as Senfl *Tenorlied* with Fretwork, *Heracleitus* with the Bridge Quartet, Lambert airs with Fred Jacobs.

Recent concert appearances include Lawes songs with Les Voix Humaines in Utrecht, St Matthew Passion semi-staged in the York Early Music Festival, Handel Chandos Anthems in their original setting of the Canons Estate church, domestic music of Bach for the Nederlandse Bach Vereniging, previously unheard Vivaldi in Venice with La Serenissima and the Academy of Ancient Music's radical look at Purcell *King Arthur*.

He is delighted to collaborate frequently with Canadian musicians and besides these concerts, future projects include the St Matthew Passion in Halifax N.S. and a tour of an ornithologically themed programme with Les Voix Humaines.

Charles' completion of Purcell's Ode Arise my Muse was performed in Montreal in 2009 and his reconstructions of Gesualdo's Sacrae Cantiones à6 have been performed in Amsterdam's Muziekgebouw. He is married with two daughters and is an avid cyclist.



#### Rebecca Genge

Rebecca Genge is a Toronto-based soprano, originally from Victoria, BC. She performs frequently in both cities, with ensembles such as Theatre of Early Music, the Trinity Choir, University of Toronto's Schola Cantorum, the Elora Singers, the Pacific Baroque Orchestra and the Victoria Baroque Players. In 2017 she made her operatic debut as Papagena in The Magic Flute with Pacific Opera Victoria and returned to the company as Jano in Janacek's Jenufa in October. As an avid choral singer, she has been a part of several recordings including Trinity Choir's Four Thousand Winter for SONY, on which she is a featured soloist. Upcoming engagements include her debut with the Grand Philharmonic Choir. Rebecca studies with Mary Morrison and Daniel Taylor and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Historical Performance at the University of Toronto.



Peter Harvey

Photo credit: Kim Hardy

Peter Harvey arrived at Magdalen College, Oxford to study French and German, and though he soon afterwards changed course to music, his love of languages has always remained at the heart of his singing. He went on to study at the Guildhall School of Music, where he won prizes in a number of international singing competitions. He has made well over a hundred recordings in repertoire spanning eight centuries, with an emphasis on music from the High Baroque. He works regularly with the English Baroque Soloists and Monteverdi Choir, directed by John Eliot Gardiner, Gabrieli Consort and Paul McCreesh, King's Consort, Netherlands Bach Society, Purcell Quartet and London Baroque, as well as appearing with The Sixteen and Harry Christophers, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** 

and BBC Symphony. A fluent French speaker, he works and records with La Chapelle Royale/ Collegium Vocale Ghent and Philippe Herreweghe, Les Talens Lyriques and Christophe Rousset and Le Concert Spirituel and Hervé Niguet. His long association with Michel Corboz, has taken him throughout France, Switzerland and Japan. Other conductors he has worked with include Ivan Fischer, Gustav Leonhardt, Colin Davis, Kent Nagano, Herbert Blomstedt, Masaaki Suzuki, Ton Koopman and Bernard Haitink (with the Boston Symphony Orchestra). He founded and directs the Magdalena Consort, which focuses on the vocal music of J.S. Bach and they have given performances in Spain, Germany and the UK.



**Ryan McDonald** 

A recent Encouragement Award winner from Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition, counter

tenor Ryan McDonald has been seen on stage as Athamas in Handel's Semele, First Witch in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Cobweb in Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream, the Spirit in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, L'enfant in Ravel's L'enfant et les sortileges, Cupid in John Blow's Venus and Adonis and Jack in Sondheim's Into the Woods. In concert Ryan has been a featured soloist in Orff's Carmina Burana. Mozart's Requiem, Bach's B Minor Mass with the London Handel Orchestra and Handel's Messiah with the Schola Cantorum. He can be heard on Sony's Junonominated series with the Trinity Choir: Four Thousand Winter. The Tree of Life and The Path to Paradise as well multiple discs for the ATMA label. Ryan studies with Daniel Taylor and Mary Morrison. Ryan, along with other gueer artists, recently launched their own opera company focusing specifically on presenting queer theatre, by queer artists for queer audiences. Ryan led the reimagined production of Purcell's Dido and Belinda as the titular character. Dido.

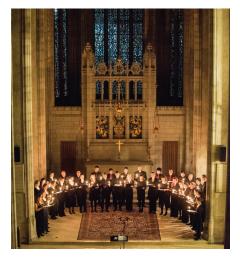


#### **Daniel Taylor**

"Beauty of his voice will stop you in your tracks" (*Gramophone Magazine*, UK)

A Sony Classical artist, conductor/ countertenor Daniel Taylor is soughtafter for his portrayals on the opera and concert stage, on CD/DVD and in film. Appearing on more than 120 recordings, his projects have been recognized by a Grammy as well as with the Juno, Opus and ADISQ prizes. Daniel has appeared at Glyndebourne, Rome Opera, Welsh National, Canadian Opera, Opera North, in Munich and at the New York Metropolitan Opera. He has joined leading orchestras including the San Francisco, Los Angeles, St. Louis, London, Lisbon, Cleveland, the New York Philharmonic, Gothenburg, Scottish National. Daniel has performed for Canadian Prime Ministers, for the Queen of England, for the King and Queen of Sweden and for the King and Queen of Spain; he recently

sang at the investiture ceremony of Her Excellency Governor General of Canada Julie Payette at the Senate's Red Chamber for an estimated audience of 5 million. His devotion to sacred music has been recognized by the award of the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Daniel has appeared with the Dahlai Lama, Salman Rushdie, Ryuiichi Sakamoto, Dame Emma Kirkby, Jonathan Miller, Cecilia Bartoli, Joyce Didonato and Gerald Finley, as well as actors Ralph Fiennes, Jeremy Irons, Malcolm McDowell and Chris Noth. Daniel Taylor was recently named Head Vocal Consultant and Chorus Master at the Opera Atelier, and is Head of Historical Performance and Associate Professor, Early Music, Opera and Voice Studies, at the University of Toronto.



# The University of Toronto Schola Cantorum

The University of Toronto Schola Cantorum aims to present the brilliant early choral and instrumental repertoire from across the centuries to a new audience. The group's interpretations strive to recreate the original performances of musical works interpretations led by the energy and insights of the gifted students themselves — in the belief that historical performance ideals and knowledge of the old world are essential for creating music anew. The Schola Cantorum includes students from all levels of study (bachelor in music, master in music and doctoral candidates), with students representing many voice studios in the Faculty. Canada has many university choral ensembles, however the Schola Cantorum is the only large-scale group using period instruments and historically informed performance practices to reveal the beauty of Baroque and early repertoire. In 2012, the Schola Cantorum made its inaugural performance with the famed Tallis Scholars. The ensemble also performed and toured central Canada presenting Handel's Coronation Anthems and recorded early German works including Buxtehude's Jesu meines Lebens Leben. The ensemble also appeared in concert touring with the Gabrieli Consort, presented Purcell's *Dido* and Aeneas on four evenings to capacity audiences, offered a reenactment of the coronation ceremony of King George II and

made their debut at the Stratford Summer Music Festival. The group presented Heinrich Schütz's threemovement *Musikalische Exequien* in concert, accompanied by the Theatre of Early Music orchestra.

The Toronto Star wrote: "St. Paul's Basilica at Queen & Power was packed with eager listeners, attracted no doubt by Tallis Scholars' wonderful discography, but also perhaps aware of the new kids in town, Taylor's two ensembles that shared the program and are now also recording for Sony... Tonight felt like a kind of affirmation of permanence in the face of change and disorder in the world."

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### Up next for Historical Performance:

The Rachmaninoff Vespers – Slavic Chants Fri Feb 28, 2020 at 7:30 pm St. Anne's Anglican Church, 270 Gladstone Avenue

with the Clarion Choir Steven Fox, *conductor* 

Tickets: \$30, \$20 senior, \$10 student 416-408-0208 | music.utoronto.ca

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