



# Bach's NOTES

The Louisville Bach Society

Louisville, Kentucky

Opus Fifty

October 2003

## Louisville Bach Society turns 40!

It may seem like only yesterday, but the Louisville Bach Society has come a long way since it gave its first performance almost 40 years ago. The chorus then had only 16 members. Today, the chorus stands at 75. That provides a lot of security for those of us who might feel exposed during those long difficult choral passages of a Bach cantata or motet.

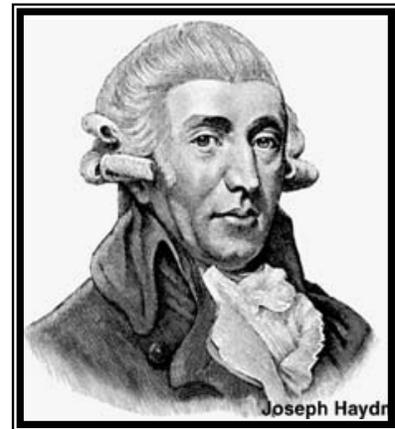
What has not changed in those 40 years is the quality of choral music that the Bach Society has been bringing to our region. Founder and Director Melvin Dickinson is today, just as passionate in his preparation as he ever was.

Appropriately, this 40th Anniversary Season will open with the epitome of

quality choral music, Franz Joseph Haydn's *The Creation*. This magnificent choral (and orchestral) work was Haydn's first oratorio with the libretto based on the biblical story and Milton's *Paradise Lost*. First performed in 1798, *The Creation* premiered in London's Covent Garden Theatre in 1800 to an audience already acclimated to great oratorios.

Director Melvin Dickinson has enlisted the talent of Louisville's premier tenor, Daniel Weeks. He joins Bach Society soprano Mary Redden and baritone Alexander Redden.

For this season opening concert, the Bach Society returns to St. Boniface Catholic Church, 531 E.



Liberty Street. We are pleased to have been invited back to this acoustically grandiose venue. The time for the concert is 3:00 P.M.

Unfortunately, our premier lecturer, Dr. John Hale, will be in Greece and will not be able to grace us with his intellectual presence. All is not lost, however. You will be treated to an afternoon of choral splendor that you have come to know and many have experienced for 40 years.



**President's  
Notes**  
Harvey Turner  
LBS President

**W**elcome back to Bach and the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> season of the Louisville Bach Society. My hope is that you and yours had a wonderful summer, and now have your sights set on a season of choral treats.

Our season starts with a bang as we perform Haydn's *Creation* this coming Sunday at St. Boniface Catholic Church. December 7<sup>th</sup> brings some thrilling choral music to Calvary Episcopal Church along with a December 19<sup>th</sup> visit to St. Patrick's Catholic Church for our annual *Messiah* performance. Holy Spirit

Catholic Church will host our February 15<sup>th</sup> concert which will feature Rutter's *Requiem*. And the greatest choral work of them all, Bach's *B Minor Mass* closes our season on April 18<sup>th</sup>, hosted again by Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Sprinkle in trips to Lexington, London (KY), Richmond, Frankfort and Hazard and what a 40<sup>th</sup> season we have!

Many thanks to those volunteers who spent several evenings with the Dickinsons dialing our faithful subscribers to ask for renewal of season tickets. We also thank those who made the extra effort of calling on their own time. We have not yet reached our goal for this 40<sup>th</sup> season, so if you have not yet subscribed, please do so. This season is not to be missed.

Many thanks to Thomas Powell, Board member and tenor chorister. He, Father Kent and the fine folks of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church again hosted our free summer concert in August. We had the largest audience ever for our summer concert. The acoustics are perfect for choral singing and we already look forward to returning next summer.

Thanks in advance to Bill Lincoln and Father Tim for hosting our performance

of Haydn's *Creation*. The staff and congregation of St. Boniface have always given a warm welcome to the Bach Society.

We look forward to having tenor Dan Weeks back for this performance. he will be joining Mary and Alex Redden as our solo trio. The rich atmosphere of St. Boniface will enhance the splendid sound of the trio, as well as the chorus and orchestra.

The word volunteer can never be understated in the sense that the Bach Society thrives on it. Our chorus is all volunteer and has already made a trip to Lexington to perform in September. As I mentioned earlier, several out of town trips are planned in celebration of this 40<sup>th</sup> season. Our Board has worked hard to find new support through patronage and advertising. Thanks in particular go to Jodie Goldberg, who heads the advertising committee and constructs the program books. Our ushers and ticket takers are important as well. Special kudos go to our business manager, Brench Boden, our Treasurer Jim Barnes, who takes care of our finances and Bob Myers, who puts together our "Bach's Notes" and acts as LBS secretary.

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***Bach's Notes***

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## Foreign exchange student, Jonas Rothe, gets a taste of Kentucky: German style!

by Anita Streeeter

As astonishing as it may seem, Jonas Rothe, an exchange student from Dresden, Germany, landed in the perfect spot - next door to the Dickinsons. For the next nine months he will be soaking up American culture as a junior at Ballard High School, and best yet – singing with the Bach Society for the 2003 – 2004 season!

Jonas needed little encouragement to join the Bach Society, as he has been singing in one of the finest choirs in Germany since the age of 8. Since then, he has been singing the great works of choral literature and touring the world.

Jonas interest in music began in the first grade when he started piano. In the third grade he started singing in school. Hardly a routine choral experience, Jonas' school choir is the world-famous Dresdner Kreuzchor. After winning a place in the choir, choristers rehearse daily for two hours to prepare for a Vesper Service on Saturday evening and a choral service on Sunday Morning

at the Kreuzkirche.

The choir is made up of 140 members – 80 of whom are part of the touring choir. In addition to studying an instrument (piano or violin), the boys have to keep up their grades, as once they are high school age, they must be admitted to the gymnasium – college preparatory track at the school, to stay in the choir.

Jonas is very enthusiastic about the many great works he has performed over his past eight years in the choir; however the camaraderie and the opportunity to travel seem to have equal allure for him. It was a trip to the United States in 1999 that made him want to return to spend an entire year at a high school. In particular he enjoyed Americans' easygoing and spontaneous nature. Because the trip to the states was longer than the customary trips to cities in Europe, the choir had prepared three entirely different programs that were presented in Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York, and



Chicago.

Jonas has performed many of the great works of Bach, including the *St. Matthew* and *St. John Passions*, the *B Minor Mass*, many cantatas, and motets; as well as works by Bruckner, Rheinberger, Schuetz, and Mozart. He is enthusiastic about them all. His favorite? *Carmina Burana*. The drama of the work itself, coupled with the fact that the production was open to non-professionals, made for a massive undertaking and overwhelmingly exciting experience.

Although he loves choral music and singing in the Kreuzchor, Jonas has already had the thrill of being a soloist. In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade he became the head of the choir's alto section, singing many of the solos. That same year he landed a role as the Third Boy in

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I am sure I have forgotten someone when it comes to saying “Thanks” but let’s not forget the Dickinsons. Their contributions for 40 years continue to this day. Their musical and administrative imprint has held strong for all these years. Dedication and love of making excellent music is the way I would characterize it. “Thanks be to God” for the talent and contributions of Melvin and Margaret Dickinson to this musical community and the Louisville Bach Society. Without them, 40 years of wonderful music making would not be realized.

Lastly, thanks to all you who support the Bach Society, and who have done so for these 40 years. Without your support, it would not have been as successful. I Hope to see you at St. Boniface on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. *HAT*

**Coming Sunday,  
Dec. 7**

Verdi, Bruckner, Bach, Handel,  
and Scheidt

**Calvary Episcopal Church**  
821 S. Fourth St.

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**Handel: *Messiah***

Friday, December 19  
St. Patrick Catholic Church

Discount tickets for LBS  
members—Call 585-BACH

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Mozart’s *Magic Flute*, a part he has played *11 times* with the Berlin Komische Oper and the Dresden Staatsoper. His other operatic role was as the Shepherd in Puccini’s *Tosca* in Dresden. He is now smitten by opera, is studying voice (and trumpet in his spare time), and would love to be an opera singer. So far – no roles yet as a bass—it’s just a matter of time!

*Anita Streeter is a long-time member of the Louisville Bach Society Chorus, singing in the soprano section. Anita has served on the LBS board of directors and is currently Managing Director of the Walden Theater*



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