



The Global Bach Community

*Dedicated to linking and supporting
local Bach organizations worldwide.*

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Winter 2008

GBC Launches 24/7 Bach Internet Radio Station

By Ted Nason



The GBC recently launched an Internet Radio station known as 24/7 Bach. The first content to be featured is a monumental performance of Bach's complete organ works by Dr. Dennis Schmidt, former Artistic and Executive Director of The Bach Festival of Philadelphia. These pieces were performed in observance of Bach's tricentennial in 1985 at St. John's Cathedral in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Web listeners can find the 24/7 Bach page at Shoutcast.com or at the link on the GBC website at bach-net.org/podcast.html. Shoutcast.com is the most prominent of the new "do-it-yourself" internet radio sites (like [youtube](http://youtube.com) for video) which provide individuals and organizations the ability to post their radio stations independently. Sites like shoutcast.com represent an alternative to more established broadcasting stations like iTunes and Sky.fm, which are more stringent in their filtering of contributors' content and format.

The Bach 24/7 station competes with other classical radio stations such as organlive.com, the internet's oldest and largest audio station devoted to classical organ music. Their library currently holds

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GBC Welcomes New Member Organizations

By Heather Miller

Five new organizations have joined GBC, adding a diverse assortment of talent, interpretation and history to our community.

Bach Choir of Pittsburgh

www.bachchoirpittsburgh.org

Bringing 74 years of experience and entertainment, the critically acclaimed Bach Choir of Pittsburgh (BCP) has joined the Global Bach Community. For many decades the concert choir had a singular devotion to the study and performance of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Presently, they also perform a mixture of works by many world renowned Renaissance composers on up to the twenty-first century. Included in their repertoire are present works of locally and nationally known contemporary composers.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director, Thomas Douglas, the choir has received praise from critics and concert goers alike. The concert choir performs "tricky works not only with technical skill, but with spirit and seeming inspiration," states the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. They are dedicated to the training and education of musicians in the art of choral singing,

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**Letters to the Editor are Welcome.
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6800 tracks from more than 570 albums, recorded on pipe, digital and combination organs. Like the GBC's 24/7 Bach station and most other internet radio stations, organlive.com is free to the general public.



Dennis Schmidt's Bach organ performances have recently been cited on the Bach-cantatas.com website, in a listing of over 50 performances of Bach's complete organ works. This can be found at www.bach-cantatas.com/Organ-Complete.htm.

24/7 Bach also posted Jonathan Sternberg's complete series of Bach's cantatas, some of the first pieces he conducted, performed by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna Chamber Choir and Daniel Pinkham playing the harpsichord.

To further augment the playlist, we are adding selected content from the 155-CD set "Bach Edition: Complete Works", and will be expanding the repertoire continually to make 24/7 Bach a prominent site for Bach content on the internet.

GBC Meets at UMichigan

By Toni Vogel Carey, Secretary

The Global Bach Community held an open meeting during the lunch hour on Wednesday, to introduce people to the organization. The GBC was featured in The Diapason in May, 2006. Its mission is to foster a sense of community among Bach lovers, performers and scholars worldwide. Formed in 2000, in addition to individual members, about 20 Bach organizations now belong to the GBC, which recently awarded its first small grant, hopefully the first of many. The GBC Advisory Board includes Christoph Wolff and Helmuth Rilling; its Board of Directors includes Marilyn Mason and Richard Benedum.

The Global Bach Community

www.bach-net.org

Celebration of Marilyn Mason's 60 Years of Teaching

As part of the 47th University of Michigan Conference on Organ Music, two events were held on the evening of October 1, honoring Professor and University Organist Marilyn Mason, who has just established a unique U-M record by serving on its faculty for 60 years. Ms. Mason serves as the Vice President of the Global Bach Community.

First, a special celebration dinner was held in the ballroom of the U-M League, attended by 172 friends, students, and colleagues. There were 13 speakers altogether, but remarks—wide-ranging, humorous, and laudatory—were fast-paced and succinct. Before dinner, we heard from U-M Provost Teresa Sullivan, U-M Associate Vice President for Human Resources Laurita Thomas, and Rev. Lewis Towler (one of Marilyn's first students in 1947). After dinner, the speakers were Jim Wilkes (MC for the occasion), six of Marilyn's former students (Jim Hammann, Dennis Schmidt, Philip Burgess, James Abbington, James Wagner, and Gale Kramer), Earl V. Moore Emeritus Professor Glenn Watkins, and School of Music, Theatre & Dance Dean Christopher Kendall. International tributes were also read from former student Gordon Atkinson (of Melbourne, Australia), and the Winchester & District Association of Organists (England).

Dean James Wagner enthusiastically announced that the Ann Arbor AGO Chapter is establishing a Marilyn Mason Young Musicians Scholarship Fund, to help pre-college young people in their musical pursuits.

Christopher Kendall conveyed the splendid news that Marilyn Mason's will include provision for endowing the Marilyn Mason Professorship of Organ. Marilyn's cheery reply included her motto: "I have endured, and I have enjoyed." She was greeted by a standing ovation and "three cheers" for Marilyn, and thus ended the dinner.

Second, an organ recital by six of Marilyn's former students immediately followed in Hill Auditorium, with a large audience. Those performing were Jonathan Tuuk, Seth Nelson, Shin-Ae Chun, Herman Taylor, Joseph Galema, and Douglas Reed.

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and the study of choral literature and musical traditions.

BCP produces a three-program concert season in Allegheny County and the surrounding tri-state area. It holds semi-annual open auditions to fill choir positions. The organization also holds free and reduced admission engagements in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Bach Collegium-Fort Wayne

www.bachcollegium.org

Thirty-four voices and eighteen instrumentalists make up the unique sounds of the Bach Collegium based in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Collegium showcases Bach and Baroque period pieces under the direction of Artistic Director, Dr. Daniel G. Reuning.

This non-profit organization qualifies performers by audition only and prides itself in breaking the barriers of race, race, religion, economic status and culture.

The Collegium uniquely utilizes imported Baroque period instruments, creating sound and resonance much like Bach and his contemporaries would have produced.

The Bach Collegium's website states: "Bach's texts still speak directly to listeners and musicians today;" Bach touches us "with the cares and needs we all share and experience" expressed realistically and sensitively.

Bach Festival Society of Winter Park

www.bachfestivalflorida.org

The New York Times describes the performances of the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park as "one of the outstanding choral events in the country."

This accomplished organization is lead by Artistic Director and Conductor John V. Sinclair, who has gained considerable visibility conducting projects for the Walt Disney Corporation and participating in recordings for Warner Brothers. He has also conducted a principal mass at St. John's Basilica in Vatican City.

The Bach Festival Society is comprised of the Bach Festival Choir, a volunteer group of 160 singers and the Bach Festival Orchestra, showcasing devoted professional musicians of exceptional talent. Both groups have traveled internationally to perform in venues such as Smetana Hall in Prague, Royal Albert Hall in London, the Galway Cathedral in Ireland, and numerous cathedrals in Italy.

Junior Bach Festival

www.juniorbach.org

Completely comprised of musicians and vocalists under the age of 21, the Junior Bach Festival of Berkeley, California has become one of our newest members.

Founded in 1953, the organization performs at the Junior Bach Festival held every March, around March 21, Bach's birthday. The organization has an appointed Music Director, an elected board and is staffed completely by volunteers devoted to broadening opportunities for young musicians and sustaining Bach's works.

Junior Bach Festival instrumentalists are chosen in highly selective auditions. The choir conducts open auditions. This association also sponsors annual workshops in for teachers and students focused on Baroque style, relation of dance and ornamentation.

The Junior Bach Festival is supported entirely by contributions.

Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival

www.emu.edu/bach/

Celebrating its 15th year, the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival brings together instrumentalists and vocalists from all around the country for one week of Bach interpretation and appreciation.

Set on the campus of Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, the June festival is coordinated by flutist Mary Kay Adams and conducted and by Artistic Director, Kenneth Nafziger who is also a professor at the university.

The choir, orchestra and soloists are featured in three main concerts, daily noon performances, open rehearsals and related events.

The volunteer choir combines amateur and professional voices. The festival's orchestra is comprised of professionals from varied cultures and locations around the United States.

Marilyn Mason - 60 Years of Teaching...

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Welcoming and honoring remarks were made by Dean Kendall and organ faculty James Kibbie and Michele Johns. The evening concluded with a reply from Marilyn, who was thus deservedly honored as our First Lady of the Organ for a remarkable career at the U-M—one filled with enthusiasm, good humor, warmth of personality, and genuine concern for her students, both during their educations and in their subsequent careers. Paraphrasing Gordon Atkinson, we say: “Congratulations, Marilyn, on your magnificent achievement of 60 years at the University of Michigan from those who have been privileged to know you.”



**Marilyn Mason with the
Marilyn Mason Memorial Organ**

Jonathan Sternberg to Leave Helm at Bach Festival of Philadelphia

This will be Jonathan Sternberg’s final Festival as Artistic Director of The Bach Festival of Philadelphia. Under Mr. Sternberg’s creative artistic direction of five years, the Festival has successfully grown in both size and prominence, and presented superb performances of Bach by both household names and rising young stars.

Sternberg notes: “Since joining the Festival, I did my utmost to prepare and play programs which would interest people who wouldn’t normally attend classical concerts. This allowed us to build a new public for Bach’s music. Another important part of my mission was to look for young talented musicians from the area schools and give them a chance for exposure.”

The Bach Festival of Philadelphia has also announced Maestro Sternberg’s successor, Matthew Glandorf, who will become Artistic Director after this season. Mr. Glandorf will also continue as Artistic Director of The Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia and organist choirmaster of Saint Mark’s Church.

Sternberg comments: “I am very happy that this coming week will include all the major keyboard works by Bach and all of the Brandenburg concerti; a very rare occasion. Nobody gets tired of Bach’s music. A young child once told me that when he hears Bach, “it moves.” Indeed, his music is active, alive, and something is happening there all the time.”

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