

For Immediate Release

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**ANTHONY BLAKE CLARK NAMED ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF
BACH VESPERS AT HOLY TRINITY IN NEW YORK CITY**

The Choral Conductor and Symphonic Director will Lead the 55th Season of the New York Bach Institution

New York, New York – September 14, 2022: Anthony Blake Clark has been named Artistic Director for Bach Vespers at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity on Central Park West and 65th Street in New York City. The dynamic choral conductor – known for his energetic style and eclectic programming – is Music Director of Baltimore Choral Arts, one of Maryland’s premier cultural institutions and Director of Choral Activities at the George Washington University’s Corcoran School of Art and Design. The versatile director and composer is equally at home conducting Baroque, Renaissance, Classical and modern works.

“Blake is a gifted storyteller who brings great energy and joy to the words and music of Johann Sebastian Bach,” said the Reverend Timothy Weisman, Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity. “Blake’s artistic vision honors the historic Bach and interprets Bach for 21st century audiences.”

“Bach speaks to our human experience,” said Mr. Clark. “I’m passionate about the man and his music, and I’m excited to collaborate with the musicians and members of Holy Trinity to bring his story to life through Bach Vespers and shape the next chapter of this unique music ministry.”

Bach Vespers has presented the work of J.S. Bach and his contemporaries within the context of a Lutheran liturgy for nearly 55 years. Mr. Clark is the sixth conductor to lead the iconic series at Holy Trinity. Mr. Clark will direct this season’s program “Playing with Fire” that includes ten of J.S. Bach’s major choral works. His first appearance with Bach Vespers will take place on Sunday, November 13th when he will conduct J.S. Bach BWV 26 *Ach wie flüchtig, ach wie nichtig*.

“Together, we’ll encounter the historic Bach and explore his musical and physical worlds,” said Mr. Clark. “We’ll also illuminate Bach’s world through modern choral works that enhance our understanding of his message.”

Mr. Clark conducts orchestras and choirs and works with professional and amateur ensembles in the USA and Europe. During his tenure with Baltimore Choral Arts, he has consistently received top reviews both for work at the podium in his subscription concerts and his preparation of choruses for performances

with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, and the Peabody Preparatory Orchestra.

Mr. Clark is passionate about teaching and conducts the University Singers and Women's Ensemble at George Washington University. With his university choirs, he has led performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington National Cathedral, and the Music Center at Strathmore. An active composer and arranger, Mr. Clark has had his scores performed in the Washington D.C. area, London, Oxford, Texas and at Prague's Dvorak National Museum Concert Hall.

Bach Vespers Schedule for Season 55

- **October 30, 2022** J.S. Bach BWV 80 *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*
- **November 13, 2022** J.S. Bach BWV 26 *Ach wie flüchtig, ach wie nichtig* (Blake Clark conducting debut)
- **November 27, 2022** J.S. Bach BWV 62 *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*
- **December 11, 2022** J.S. Bach BWV 243 *Magnificat in D Major*
- **January 8th, 2023** J.S. Bach BWV 1 *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*
- **February 12, 2023** J.S. Bach BWV 126 *Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort*
- **March 12th, 2023** Bach Choral Sing featuring organist Bruce Neswick
- **Sunday, April 2, 2023** (Palm Sunday) J.S. Bach BWV 245 *Johannespassion, Part I*
- **April 7, 2023** (Good Friday) J.S. Bach BWV 245 *Johannespassion, Part II*
- **April 9th, 2023** (Easter Sunday) J.B Bach BWV 249 *Easter Oratorio*

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity is located at the corner of West 65th Street and Central Park West in Manhattan, just down the street from [Lincoln Center](#) and directly adjacent to Central Park. It is a member of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(ELCA\)](#) and is recognized by Lutherans Concerned as a [Reconciling in Christ](#) Congregation, welcoming all people in Christ's name regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, gender, class or other possible exclusionary distinctions.

With its signature copper spire (flèche), rose window and red entry doors on Central Park West, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has been a very visible and prominent part of New York's Upper West Side community for over a century. The present church building was completed in 1904. Holy Trinity was founded in 1868 but later built at the current location when it outgrew its sanctuary downtown, on West 21st Street (a building no longer exists.)

Holy Trinity is widely known for its Bach Vespers series, begun in 1968 by then-organist John Weaver, the first instance in America where the cantatas of Bach could be heard on their appointed day in the context of the liturgical calendar. Cantatas, as well as other appropriate music are performed by leading Early Music vocalists and instrumentalists from late Fall through Easter.

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