



BACH CHOIR OF PITTSBURGH

For Immediate Release
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Bach Choir of Pittsburgh presents HOPE A Joyous Celebration of the Season

‘Welcome All and Make Good Cheer!’ sums up the spirit of the Bach Choir’s second concert in its 2017-2018 season journey from WAR to PEACE through music. Pittsburgh’s favorite Jazz artist, Etta Cox, joins the Choir for a celebration the joys of the season in a program that includes Benjamin Britten’s beloved *A Ceremony of Carols*, Leonard Bernstein’s lively *Chichester Psalms* and a selection of Gospel songs.

Chichester Psalms, composed in 1965 in response to the possibility of a peace settlement in the Middle East, endures as a visionary call for reconciliation and peace throughout the world. The work is classic Bernstein, jazzy and contemporary featuring modal melodies and unusual meters with echoes of West Side Story at its dramatic climax. By combining Hebrew text with Christian choral tradition, Bernstein was implicitly issuing a plea for peace in Israel during a turbulent time in the young country’s history – a hope that resonates with as much urgency today.

A Ceremony of Carols also was composed in response to conflict in 1942 as pacifist Britten was returning via steamer to England surrounded by the threat of submarine attack. Britten features arrangements of traditional and contemporary English carols, some in Latin and some in Middle English based on poems from the 15th and 16th centuries. A harp solo “Interlude” displays the versatility of the harp and unifies the entire work by including themes from various movements.

Etta Cox will sing Gospel favorites *Unto Us a Child is Born* and *He's All Over Me* with the choir and some solo selections.

Artistic Director **Thomas W. Douglas** says:

It's HOPE that keeps us going. Our November concert focused on the impact of WAR. Now we are embracing optimism as we continue our journey towards PEACE. Mindful that there are conflicts and problems here and around the world, we invite you to join us for HOPE, a musical celebration of the season, the joy we find in each other's company and the promise of things to come.

Concert information:

Who: **The Bach Choir of Pittsburgh**
 with special guest artist Etta Cox
 Thomas W. Douglas, Artistic Director

What: Chichester Psalms (1965)
 by Leonard Bernstein

A Ceremony of Carols (1942)
 by Benjamin Britten

Unto Us a Child is Born
 He's All Over Me
 Gospel Solos
 soloist Etta Cox

When: **Saturday, December 9th @ 8:00pm**
 Sunday, December 10th @ 4:00pm

Where: **St Agnes Center at Carlow University**

Tickets are available in advance at bachpgh.showclix.com or at 1-888-718-4253

And at the door on the day of performance.

Prices range from \$12.00-\$30.00

More info at www.BachChoirPgh.org

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