



News

Bach Choir of Pittsburgh presents Shakespeare: If Music Be the Food of Love

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(Pittsburgh - October 22, 2019) "As divine a rendering of Shakespeare's words in song as can be imagined" aptly describes the opening of Ralph Vaughn Williams' "Serenade to Music". On Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 9 and 10, the **Bach Choir of Pittsburgh** presents Shakespeare's immortal words set to some of the most beautiful music in the choral repertoire, including works infrequently performed – a rare treat!

The opening concert of the BCP's **85th season** is set in one of Pittsburgh's hidden gems, the Hicks Chapel on the idyllic East End campus of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The comely space with curved balconies offers just a hint of Shakespearean theater.

Opening with Ralph Vaughn Williams' hauntingly beautiful "Serenade to Music", the concert features well-known verses from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets set to the music of composers ranging from Verdi, Rossini and Schuman to Vaughn Williams, Sondheim, the lively jazz of George Shearing, and contemporary composers.

Bach Choir Artistic Director **Thomas W. Douglas** says: "It makes sense that exceptional musicians would use Shakespeare's exceptional text to set. Skill meets skill, beauty and inspiration meet beauty and inspiration."

"Serenade to Music" is based on a poetic discussion of the music of the spheres in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, Act V, Scene I:

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!

Here will we sit and let the sounds of music

Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night

Become the touches of sweet harmony.



The 80 voices of the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh perform under the baton of maestro **Thomas W. Douglas**, the Bach Choir's compelling and passionate artistic director since 2003. Soloists include **Nancy Hanna Long**, **Jon Erik Schreiber**, **Nicole Tascarella**, **Kim Campbell** and the **Core Singers of the Bach Choir**. **James Burns**, pianist, and **Dan Morrison**, bass, accompany the choir.

Concert information

Who: The Bach Choir of Pittsburgh led by Thomas W. Douglas, Artistic Director

What: Shakespeare: If Music Be the Food of Love

When: Saturday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Nov. 10 at 4 pm

Where: Hicks Chapel, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 N. Highland Ave, Pittsburgh, PA (East Liberty) 15206.

Tickets \$12-\$35 are available in advance [online](#) via Showclix and at the door on the day of performance. More info at www.BachChoirPgh.org

The 85th Season Continues

The critically-acclaimed Bach Choir of Pittsburgh presents unique and moving interpretations of choral works to engage and captivate arts-loving audiences. The choir's 85th season continues with two more concerts in 2020.

- **Langston Hughes: Harlem's Jazz Poet**, Feb. 8 and 9, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 250 North Highland Ave., Pittsburgh 15206
- **Mary Shelley: Frankenstein Re-imagined**, April 18 and 19, The Oaks Theater, Oakmont 15139

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