

 **BACH CHOIR**
OF PITTSBURGH
2025-2026 Season

PRESENTS



CIRQUE du CINÉMA



Oscar Nods

Saturday, May 2 - 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 3 - 6:30 pm

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: THOMAS W. DOUGLAS

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BACH CHOIR
OF PITTSBURGH

2025-2026 SEASON



BACH CHOIR OF PITTSBURGH

Thomas W. Douglas
Artistic Director & Conductor

presents

“Oscar Nods”

A Concert of
Academy Award-Winning and Nominated Songs

Maria Becoates-Bey, guest vocalist

Jim Burns, piano

Scott Boni, saxophone

Pierce Cook, bass

Subha Das, drums

May 2, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

May 3, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Agnes & Joseph Katz Performing Arts Theater

ABOUT THE



Bach Choir of Pittsburgh (BCP) was founded in 1934 to exclusively perform works of Johann Sebastian Bach. The repertoire soon expanded to include other composers and has even included music commissioned by the Bach Choir. Under the leadership of Conductor and Artistic Director Thomas W. Douglas, the Choir continues to evolve, becoming more inclusive, innovative, and diverse. Today, the Choir performs choral works by composers from the Renaissance through the present.

Mission

The Bach Choir of Pittsburgh presents unique and moving interpretations of choral works to engage and captivate arts-loving audiences across the Pittsburgh region.

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BACH CHOIR
OF PITTSBURGH

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CONCERT SEASON



A celebration of the 22-year tenure of
Artistic Director Thomas W. Douglas

bachchoirpittsburgh.org

Third Movement (ch)

*We are the tribe
of wide horizon;*

The wind, our voice;

The sky, our poem;

Where all are one;

Where all are one;

There, all are one.



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Along with music of the British Isles, we are thrilled to feature the premiere of a newly-commissioned work, *Wander-Land: The Neighbor's Anthem*, by Michael Markowski with text by Andy Wilkinson.

PROGRAM

- 9 to 5 (*9 to 5*) Dolly Parton
arr. T. Douglas
- This is Me (*The Greatest Showman*) Benj Pasek & Justin Paul
arr. M Huff
Maria Becoates-Bey, soloist
- Moon River (*Breakfast at Tiffany's*) Henry Mancini & Johnny Mercer
arr. C. Warnick
- The Look of Love (*Casino Royale*) Burt Bacharach & Hal Davis
Albert Flasck, soloist
- The Christ Theme (*Ben Hur*) Miklos Rosza
- Shallow (*A Star is Born* [2018]) Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson,
Anthony Rossomando & Andrew Wyatt
Maria Becoates-Bey, soloist
- Under the Sea (*The Little Mermaid*) Alan Menken & Howard Ashman
arr. M. Kosarin
Ron Kludo, soloist
- Over the Rainbow (*The Wizard of Oz*) Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg
arr. G. Turner
- Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy (*Buck Private*) Don Raye & Hughie Prince
arr. E. Lojeski
Nicole Tascarella, Hannah Ezzeddine, Julie Galati, soloists
- Beauty and the Beast (*Beauty and the Beast*) Alan Menken & Howard Ashman
arr. T. Douglas
Ellen Stolpe and Nick Eustis, soloists

INTERMISSION

- My Heart Will Go On (*Titanic*) James Horner & Will Jennings
arr. A. Billingsley
Maria Beacotes-Bey, soloist
- The Rainbow Connection (*The Muppet Movie*) Paul Williams & Kenneth Ascher
arr. K. Shipway
- The Shadow of Your Smile (*The Sandpiper*) Johnny Mandel & Paul Webster
arr. G Gilpin
Matt Dooley, soloist
- Evergreen (*A Star is Born* [1976]) Paul Williams & Barbara Streisand
arr. M Hayes
Albert Flasck, soloist
- The Way We Were (*The Way We Were*) Marvin Hamlisch & Alan and Mary Bergman
arr. J. Ray

Flashdance...What a Feeling (*Flashdance*) Giorgio Moroder, Keith Forsly & Irene Cara
arr. K. Shaw
Nicole Tascarella, soloist

The Way You Look Tonight (*Swing Time*) Jerome Kern & Dorothy Fields
arr. P. Langford
Nicole Tascarella, Sarah Esslinger, Kaitlyn Carr, Hannah Ezzeddine,
Jon Erik Schreiber, Ron Kludo, Shebl Rosati, Matt Dooley, soloists

Let It Go (*Frozen*) Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez
Maria Becoates-Bey, soloist



The graphic features a stylized background of overlapping, curved lines in shades of light blue and grey, creating a sense of depth and movement. The Press Craft logo, consisting of a stylized 'P' made of three curved lines, is positioned above the company name. The text is centered and uses a clean, sans-serif font.

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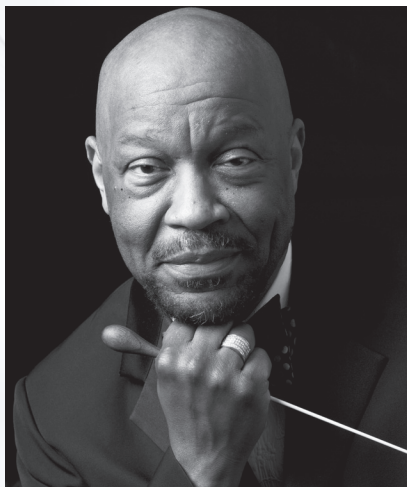
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DIRECTORS OF THE BACH CHOIR



THOMAS W. DOUGLAS Artistic Director

Thomas Douglas is a compelling and passionate conductor, having performed more than 250 opera, oratorio, orchestral and musical theater productions. As the Artistic Director of the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh he regularly receives accolades for innovative, creative, and dramatically provocative productions. He was also the music director of the Newton Symphony in Kansas. Career highlights include conducting Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* in Basel, Switzerland, Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, the Pittsburgh premiere

of the classic silent film *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, with live orchestra and chorus, the U.S. premiere of David Chesky's *The Agnostic*, the rousing *Carmina Burana Africana*, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Don Giovanni and a production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* in Malaysia.

Thomas works regularly as Musical Director at Music Theater Wichita where he has done many productions including *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Ragtime*, *Hairspray*, *The Full Monty*, *Miss Saigon*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Les Misérables*, among many others.

He has also conducted the Anchorage Opera, San Diego Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Des Moines Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Canton Symphony, Wichita Symphony, Dallas Symphony and the River City Brass Band. In addition, Thomas has conducted classical guitarist and Latin Grammy winner Berta Rojas, Tony winner Kelli O'Hara, and Leslie Odum Jr., Tony winner for his role in *Hamilton*.

Thomas has enjoyed the stage roles of Amonasro in Elton John's *Aida*, Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Balthazar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. He has been a vocal soloist with the River City Brass Band, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Symphony, Canton Symphony, and the Children's Festival Chorus. He sings frequently with jazz legend Joe Negri in his *Mass of Hope*. Thomas is the Director of Opera Studies and Choral Activities at Carnegie Mellon University. This is his 22nd season with the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh.



JON ERIK SCHREIBER
Associate Conductor

Jon Erik Schreiber is a teacher, singer and conductor with a background in vocal pedagogy, choral and solo song literature, and has experience in musical theater, folk and popular styles. After three decades directing high school choirs, church and community choirs, Jon Erik is grateful for the rich and varied experiences leading and collaborating with all sorts of musicians young and old, challenged and gifted, small groups and large. In addition to serving the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh as Associate Conductor, Jon Erik works for Pittsburgh Public Schools teaching music and directing vocal ensembles at Carrick and Allderdice High Schools. Above all, he is thankful for the opportunity to serve his family as a father and husband.



JAMES BURNS
Accompanist

James Burns is an active member of Pittsburgh’s musical community, performing with such groups as the Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater and the Mendelssohn Choir. As a pianist for the Civic Light Opera he has performed in over 100 musical theater productions. He has had the pleasure of bringing music to young students through his work with educational outreach programs for Gateway to Music and the Pittsburgh Opera. Jim holds piano performance degrees from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School, and a Masters degree in Sacred Music from Duquesne University. He is the organist at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Temple Emanuel.

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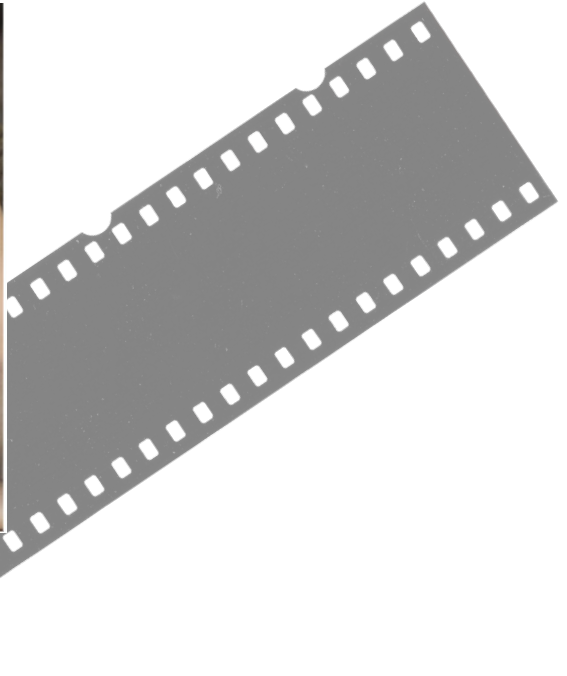
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GUEST VOCALIST

MARIA BECOATES-BEY

Actress and singer Maria Becoates-Bey is thrilled to be a soloist with the Bach Choir. Maria, a Pittsburgh native, performs regularly in the city as a featured soloist and has appeared in a wide range of stage and theatre productions. She was last seen in the City Theatre's production of *Fat Ham*. Maria has also performed in theater productions with the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, Pittsburgh Playhouse, Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre, and Kuntu Theater, among others. A Pittsburgh Post-Gazette "Performer of the Year", Maria's theater credits include *Intimate Apparel*, *Doubt*, *Vera Stark*, *Spunk*, *Crowns*, *Ida B. Wells*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hairspray*, *The Wiz*, *Dreamgirls*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Full Monty*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Beehive*, and many more. Her acting talents have landed her roles in films such as *Anything's Possible*, *The Haunting Hours*, *Renegade Force*, and *Iron Maze*. Maria is a graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts, where she earned a bachelor's degree in theatre arts with a concentration in musical theatre.



THE SINGERS OF THE BACH CHOIR

SOPRANOS

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Anastasia Anastasakis | Ceinwen King-Smith | Dale Teplitz |
| Minyoung Joanne Chung | Takako Kiyota-Petek | Christyann Trbovich |
| Sarah Esslinger* | Mary Kate Mannion | Andrea Walczak + |
| Sandra Gibson | Joanna Obuzor | Eve Yarrow |
| Avery Greenaway | Polly Swanson | Erica Fox Zabusky |
| Beth Jacobs* | Nicole Tascarella* | |

ALTOS

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Wendy Arons | Hannah Ezzeddine* | Joy McNally |
| Tybe Brett | Beverly Filtz | Shelly Parver Lenkner |
| Claudia Broman | Julie Galati* | Kathy Schlosser |
| Kaitlyn Carr* | Keren Gifford | Alison Schwartz+ |
| Joan Cosgrove | Abigail Johnson | LesMarie Singleton |
| Elizabeth Criss | Laura Lewis | Ellen Stolpe |
| Joan Devine | Nancy Long* | Tara Vargo |

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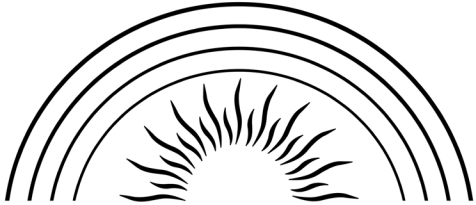
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| Christopher Bogart | Ron Kludo+ | Jon Erik Schreiber* |
| Peter Carras | Robby Ray | Rob Schwartz |
| Aren Framil | | |

BASSES

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| David Allan | Stephen Fuegi | Jim Storch |
| Matt Dooley*+ | Connor Henderson | Paul Tellers |
| Nicholas Eustis | Wolfgang Kilian | Theo Towns |
| Albert Flasck | George Libby | Carter Wellons |
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MEET THE BAND

SCOTT BONI Sax

Scott Boni is a saxophonist from Washington, PA. His relationship to the city of Pittsburgh was formed through a childhood involvement with the arts. As a member of the Children's Festival Chorus, he performed at many venues around the city. "I believe my experience with CFC laid the foundation for my path into music as an adult. When we rehearsed and performed it was very focused and intense. We had fun, but we were expected to act like young professionals. It was a wonderful experience and I have no doubt that all of the singing I did helps me every time I play the saxophone."

Studying at Boston's Berklee College of Music, he was exposed to creative ideas by classmates and teachers from around the world. "That was truly life-changing for me. It helped me grow both personally and musically. I'm thankful to be performing here in Pittsburgh. I'm busy working with both old and new friends. That's one of the great gifts found through the arts – the relationships you make. Pittsburgh has such an incredible jazz history and it's both humbling and inspiring to be working in the current scene." Scott is employed as a realtor and enjoys exploring Pittsburgh's history through books, films and antiques.

PIERCE COOK Bass

Pierce Cook serves the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra (TRYPO) as the Symphonette conductor, conducts Tutti Strings, and is a coach for Youth Chamber Connection (YC²). Pierce is also the proud director of orchestras at Mellon Middle School in Mt. Lebanon, redesignated in 2021 as a Don Eichhorn Pennsylvania School to Watch.

Additionally, as an educator, Pierce has provided private lessons out of his home studio since 2005 and served as the Bass Coach for Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2022 Mr. Cook teamed up with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra to host several "Beethoven in Your Neighborhood" Library Project events. In 2023 he conducted the PMEA District 1 String Fest, in 2024 he conducted the PMEA District 5 Junior High Honors Orchestra, and in April of 2026 conducted the first PMEA District 5 Elementary String Fest. He currently serves as conductor for the annual Music with a Twist Summer Festival, and as the K-12 representative for PADEASTA.

Outside of teaching, Pierce serves as the bassist for Gary Racan and the Studio E Band, and as a volunteer firefighter/EMT in Dormont and Green Tree.

SUBHA DAS Drums

Subha Das is a Pittsburgh-based professional percussionist/music educator. He received a Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance from Duquesne University, and studied orchestral percussion with Gerry Unger and Stanley Leonard (former members, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra). Subha also studied drum set with the legendary Dr. John Wilson, Mike Tomaro, Lenny Rodgers, Jay Ashby and Steve Rucker (Bee Gees). He performed with Mike Stern, The New York Voices, and Michael Abene, and was awarded outstanding soloist at the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival (1999).

Mr. Das has built a very successful career for himself, being one of the most in-demand percussionists and private instructors in the Pittsburgh area. In 1998, he joined the staff of the award-winning Mount Lebanon Percussion program, where he holds the title of principal assistant director. He also is a member of Steel City Calypso (Caribbean jazz and global fusion music) and was a founding member of the Olga Watkins Band (2003-2021, Soul, Blues and R&B). In 2019, he was named an educational artist for Remo Percussion.

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NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

By Bach Choir member Michael Friedrich

The first Oscar for Best Original Song was awarded in 1934 just seven years after the first feature length “talkie”. Thomas Douglas selected 14 winners plus 4 nominees that we hope our audiences will enjoy. The audience will recognize many of the outstanding composers, song writers and performers that produced these songs. The songs express universal themes of love, hope for a better future, and overcoming challenges.

The Way You Look Tonight (*Swing Time*, 1936) The music was composed by Jerome Kern with lyrics by Dorothy Fields. Kern wrote more than 700 songs in his lifetime. Memorable pieces include “Ol’ Man River”, “Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man”, and “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes.”

Swing Time was the sixth of ten dance musicals that starred Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Fred plays a gambler who falls in love with Ginger who plays a dance instructor. “The Way You Look Tonight” quickly became a jazz standard, recorded by many famous artists including Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and Tony Bennett.

Over the Rainbow (*The Wizard of Oz*, 1939) Harold Arlen composed the music for many of the songs in *The Wizard of Oz*. He was also a major contributor to the American Songbook including “Blues in the Night”, “Stormy Weather”, “It’s Only a Paper Moon”, and “Let’s Fall in Love.”

Judy Garland played the role of Dorothy in the film. “Over the Rainbow” became her signature for the rest of her highly successful singing (and acting) career.

Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy (*Buck Privates*, 1941) This musical military comedy launched the movie careers of the comedy team, Abbott and Costello. The Andrews Sisters performed four numbers including “Boogie” in the film. They recorded over 600 songs with 46 reaching Top 10 status. They also appeared in more films (17) than any other singing group.

Christ Theme (*Ben Hur*, 1959) Miklos Rozsa composed and conducted the film score for *Ben Hur*. Charlton Heston starred as the title character in this religious epic film that tells the story of a Jewish prince who witnesses Christ’s ministry and crucifixion. The “Christ Theme” is played whenever Jesus appears in the story.

Moon River (*Breakfast at Tiffany’s*, 1961) Audrey Hepburn, as Holly Golightly, sings “Moon River” as she sits on a fire escape while her lover listens. Pittsburgh-area native Henry Mancini composed the music, and Johnny Mercer wrote the lyrics which he based on his childhood in Savannah, GA.

The Shadow of Your Smile (*The Sandpiper*, 1965) Known also as the “Love Theme from *The Sandpiper*,” was written by Johnny Mandel and Paul Francis Webster. Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton starred in this third film of their eleven films together. The film explores the relationship between a private school headmaster and a free-spirited artist in the 1960s. It was filmed at various locations in Big Sur, CA.

The Look of Love (*Casino Royale*, 1967) The film is a spy parody loosely based on the James Bond novel of the same name by Ian Fleming.

Burt Bacharach and Hal David wrote the song which was performed by Dusty Springfield for the film. Bacharach and David wrote hundreds of popular songs beginning in the 1950s. Most of their hits were sung by Dionne Warwick. Bacharach's top hits included "This Guy's in Love with You", "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head", "Close to You", and "That's What Friends Are For."

The Way We Were (*The Way Were*, 1973) The film stars Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford in a romance that recounts their days in college and troubled married life.

The song was written by the Bergmans and Marvin Hamlisch and sung by Barbra Streisand. Hamlisch is one of a handful of people to win Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards. He was the primary conductor the Pittsburgh Pops from 1995 until his death in 2012. Other notable works include the music for *A Chorus Line*, *The Sting*, and several Woody Allen films.

Evergreen (*A Star Is Born*, 1976) Barbra Streisand not only performed the song but cowrote *Evergreen* with Paul Williams. She became the first woman to win Best Original Song as a composer. The film stars Barbra Streisand as an aspiring singer and Kris Kristofferson as a rock and roll star. *A Star Is Born* has seen several adaptations, including a 1954 version starring Judy Garland and James Mason, and a 2018 release starring Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper.

Rainbow Connection (*The Muppet Movie*, 1979) "Rainbow Connection" was performed by Jim Henson as Kermit the Frog during the film's opening number, where we see Kermit sitting alone on a log in a swamp, playing the song on his banjo. The song establishes his dream of "making millions of people happy", which motivates his journey to Hollywood. Paul Williams and Ken Ascher, who collaborated on "A Star Was Born," wrote the songs for *The Muppet Movie*.

9 to 5 (*9 to 5*, 1980) Dolly Parton composed and performed "9 to 5". Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, and Dolly Parton star in this story about working women who live out their fantasies of getting even with their sexist boss played by Dabney Coleman.

Flashdance... What a Feeling (*Flashdance*, 1983) *Flashdance* was sung by Irene Cara who also sang the title song in the movie *Fame*. The film was shot in Pittsburgh and Los Angeles. Pittsburgh locations included the Smithfield Street Bridge, Duquesne Incline and Carnegie Music Hall where Jennifer Beals auditions for the fictional dance conservatory. The Pittsburgh premiere was the last film shown at the Warner Theatre on Fifth Avenue.

Shallow (*A Star is Born*, 2018 remake) was composed by Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson, Anthony Rossomando, & Andrew Wyatt. Performed by Brad Cooper and Lady Gaga in the film. The song won the Oscar for Best Original song in 2018. It also won BAFTA, Grammy, and Golden Globe Best Original Song awards.

Under the Sea (*The Little Mermaid*, 1989) Samuel Wright was the voice of Sebastian (a crab), who sings "Under the Sea" to convince Ariel (a teenage

mermaid) to remain in the sea. Ariel dreams of becoming human and falls in love with a prince named Eric. The calypso style music and lyrics were written by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman who collaborated on other Disney films.

Beauty and the Beast (*Beauty and the Beast*, 1991) Alan Menken and Howard Ashman also collaborated on this song. Angela Lansbury, as Mrs. Potts, sang “Beauty and the Beast” for the film. The song is heard during the ballroom sequence between Belle and the Beast. Celine Dion and Peabo Bryson later recorded the song.

My Heart Will Go On (*Titanic*, 1997) The music and lyrics were composed and written by James Horner and Will Jennings, and Celine Dion performed the song. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet star as members of different social classes who fall in love during the ill-fated voyage of the RMS Titanic in 1912.

Let It Go (*Frozen*, 2013) The animated musical, *Frozen*, is loosely based on the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale, “The Snow Queen.” The song was sung by Idina Menzel, who provides the voice for Queen Elsa. The husband and wife team of Kristen Anderson and Robert Lopez wrote the song.

This Is Me (*The Greatest Showman*, 2017) “This Is Me” was sung by Keala Settle and fellow actors in the highly fictionalized film about P. T. Barnum and his famous circus. Keala leads the song at a pivotal point in the film when she and the other members of the freak show take a stand after being excluded from a party at the Barnum mansion.

Mike Friedrich has enjoyed singing with the BCP for 28 years. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1974 with a BS in Chemical Engineering, where he was also a member of the marching band. Mike retired from his career last year and currently lives in Mt. Lebanon with his wife, Joyce.



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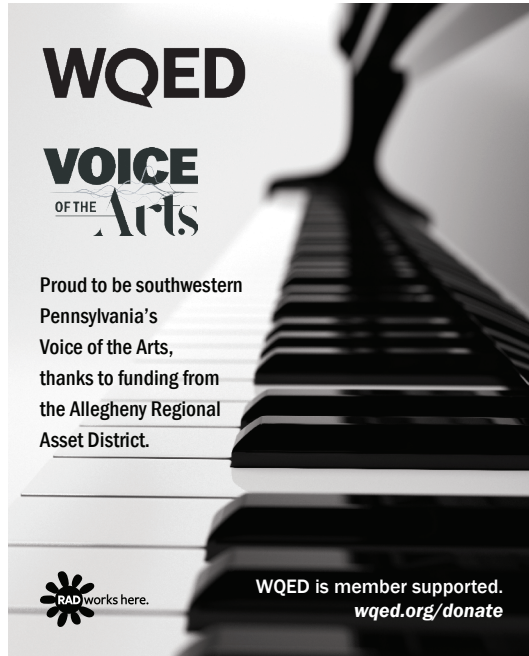
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