

For Immediate Release

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**"Conversation Concert" with Bach's Cantata #132,
"Bereitet die Wege, bereitet die Bahn!"
(Prepare the Path, Prepare the Way!)
To Be Presented in Bethesda by ChorSymphonica**

ROCKVILLE, MD - *ChorSymphonica*, the outstanding Montgomery County-based classical ensemble, today announced its next "*Conversation Concert*" featuring Johann Sebastian Bach's cantata "Bereitet die Wege, bereitet die Bahn!" (*Prepare the Path, Prepare the Way!*) at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church, 9601 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda, MD 20814 on Sunday 30 June 2019, at 3:00 pm.

The performance features soloists [Melissa Jean Chávez](#) (soprano), [Janna Elesia Critz](#) (mezzo-soprano), [Joseph Regan](#) (tenor), and [William Heim](#) (bass-baritone). This virtuoso cantata, with stunning recitatives and extravagant and expressive arias, was originally composed for the last Sunday before Christmas, 1715. The concert also features Wes Nichols, oboe, Regino Madrid, violin, and Christopher Moehlenkamp, violoncello, members of ChorSymphonica's orchestra (this cantata has no chorus). In the beautiful and acoustically marvelous St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church in Bethesda, the soloists and musicians of ChorSymphonica and their conductor, [Richard Allen Roe](#), will guide the audience through each movement of this timeless cantata. The program will last approximately one hour. Co-Presented in the series "Sacred Music in a Sacred Space" with St. Jane Frances de Chantal. Admission is free, a \$20 free will donation is suggested. Free parking.

Bach's Cantata #132, "Bereitet die Wege, bereitet die Bahn!" (*Prepare the Path, Prepare the Way!*) is unique in his cantatas in that there is no chorus, only soloists. The cantata's text focuses on the need for preparing one's self for the celebration of Christmas, one of the major feasts of the year.

A "*Conversation Concert*" is a unique event, where soloists, chorus and orchestra are employed to illustrate points of a pre-performance lecture. Led by Conductor and Artistic Director Richard Allen Roe, this exploration of the musical and historical context of the programmed work makes the composer's efforts more accessible to our modern ears, and more relevant to our contemporary way of life. Following the introduction, which lasts approximately 20-30 minutes, the entire work is performed, uninterrupted.

This performance is made possible in part by a Small Organization Project Grant from The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, and by a Creativity Grant from the Maryland Start Arts Council, and by the Rockville Bach Academy, Inc.

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Named for the choral-orchestral repertoire that spans from the Renaissance to the modern era, ChorSymphonica (*formerly The Advent Project*) has delighted audiences with unique performances since 2011. Founded by conductor Richard Allen Roe, the group continues to offer traditional concerts and its unique “Conversation Concert” experiences in Montgomery County and the Greater Washington, DC area. ChorSymphonica inspires, educates, enlightens, and enriches Montgomery County and the Greater Washington, DC area with unique choral concerts, performed at the highest artistic standard. We further strive to promote appreciation for and understanding of our specialty repertoire through educational programming such as our Conversation Concerts.

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