

Johann Sebastian Bach made his last major career move when he accepted the position of *Thomaskantor* in May of 1723. This concert will celebrate his first year in that new position, which was almost entirely consumed with the production of cantatas for the Sundays and Feast Days of the Lutheran liturgical calendar.

I am particularly excited about this concert, which will feature the bookends of that incredibly creative year. The concert will open with the great organ *Prelude and Fugue in C major*, BWV 547 (popularly known as the 9/8). It will be followed by the very first cantata composed for his new job, BWV 75. As one might expect, Bach produced an extremely impressive work of 14 movements (14 being the numerical sum of the letters B-A-C-H, with B=2, A=1, etc.), using forms that were in vogue a the time, but bringing them to unprecedented fruition.

The concert will conclude with the *Magnificat in E-flat*, BWV 243a, written for Vespers of Christmas Day. The original version of the well-knows work includes four interpolations particular for Christmas sung from the "Swallows Nest" gallery of the church. Our performance will use the original score with these additions sung by a second choir and instruments from the other side of the church.

This very special concert is not to be missed.