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CALIFORNIA BACH SOCIETY,  
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF PAUL FLIGHT,  
PERFORMS CANTATAS BY BUXTEHUDE AND BACH

with soprano Rita Lilly and a baroque ensemble of recorders, oboes, strings and continuo

Dietrich Buxtehude: *Nimm von uns, Herr, du treuer Gott*  
Johann Sebastian Bach: *Der Herr denket an uns* (BWV 196)  
& *Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot* (BWV 39)

Friday April 25, 2008, 8pm at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco  
Saturday, April 26, 2008, 8pm at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Palo Alto  
Sunday, April 27, 2008, 4pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley

Doors open 30 minutes prior to each performance  
Tickets: General \$25 / Senior \$18 / Student \$10  
(415) 262-0272 / <http://www.calbach.org>

**“Virtuoso pageantry” and “vocal fancy”**

*San Francisco Classical Voice,  
on California Bach Society's February 2008 concerts*

**Palo Alto, March 31, 2008** -- In the fall of 1705, a young and still unmarried Johann Sebastian Bach took a leave of absence from the New Church in Arnstadt to walk almost 300 miles north. His destination was Lübeck, city of organ master Dietrich Buxtehude.

Celebrating the two composers, California Bach Society presents Buxtehude's cantata *Nimm von uns, Herr, du treuer Gott* together with Bach's *Der Herr denket an uns* (BWV 196), and *Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot* (BWV 39). Soprano Rita Lilly, and a baroque ensemble of recorders, oboes, strings and continuo will join the 25-voice chamber chorus.

For his trip to Lübeck, Bach requested a four-week leave, but stayed away almost four months, and probably had intended to do so all along. He needed the time to walk there and back, study and copy several volumes of Buxtehude's organ music, and learn more about the building, voicing, and other technical operations of organs. Rain, ice cold wind, even some snow must have plagued him on his way there, and certainly on his way back at the end of January 1706. Most likely he picked such an unfavorable travel season because he planned to attend Buxtehude's Abendmusik (Evening music) concerts. These always happened in the five weeks before Christmas, and were widely famous at the time.

After returning to Arnstadt, Bach was questioned but not fired. At the hearing, he was reprimanded for playing such complicated organ preludes that the congregation could not recognize the hymn they were to sing. Interestingly enough, Buxtehude's church in Lübeck had faced the same problem, and the ministers hung signboards to announce the hymn numbers. Without a doubt the encounter with Buxtehude and his music has influenced Bach's genius for masterful organ preludes.

### **Biographies**

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Soprano **Rita Lilly** moved to the Bay Area from New York almost 5 years ago. She is a graduate of the Crane School of Music in New York and has performed in the United States and abroad in concert, oratorio and opera in such venues as Alice Tully and Carnegie Recital Hall in New York. Specializing in the performance of early music, she was the soprano soloist with the renowned Waverly Consort for 9 years where she performed over 70 concerts annually and was heard on many live radio broadcasts. Since moving to the Bay Area, Ms. Lilly has sung with the American Bach Soloists, Magnificat, Baroque Choral Guild, concerts at MusicSources, opera at Mills College and San Francisco Opera. She can be heard on numerous recordings with the Waverly Consort, American Boychoir, and the American Classical Orchestra.

Artistic Director **Dr. Paul Flight** is a noted choral conductor, teacher and singer. He is in his eighth season as principal conductor of the Madison Early Music Festival (Wisconsin), where he has directed masterworks by Bach, Telemann, Vivaldi, Purcell, and Francisco Guerrero. Paul has twice been a Visiting Associate Professor at the University of California at Berkeley, directing the University's top choral ensembles. He conducted the operatic double-bill production of Gustav Holst's *Savitri* and Darius Milhaud's *Les malheurs d'Orphée* at Mills College, and he has conducted productions of Telemann's *Der geduldige Socrates* and Handel's *Acis and Galatea* for the San Francisco Early Music Society. He is Artistic Director of two additional Bay Area ensembles: Chora Nova, and The Haydn Singers, a chamber choir he founded in 2005 dedicated to the performance of music by Haydn, Mozart, and their contemporaries. Paul received his doctorate from Indiana University, where he studied conducting with Robert Porco. His research focused on the Venetian composer Giovanni Croce (1557-1609) and he has recorded a program featuring the music of Croce for "Harmonia," a nationally syndicated

radio show. An articulate musician, Paul recently appeared as a guest on KALW radio's performing arts program, "My Favorite Things," and has lectured on music history and musical form as a visiting professor at Mills College.

**California Bach Society** has established a reputation for its historically informed interpretations of Renaissance and Baroque choral music. Throughout its 36-year history, CBS has performed with such early music luminaries as Magnificat and members of the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. CBS was a featured concert presenter at the 2000 Berkeley Early Music Festival. In 2003, CBS joined the world-renowned Kronos Quartet in the Bay Area premiere of Terry Riley's Sun Rings at the San Francisco Jazz Festival. San Francisco Classical Voice has praised the chorus for its "elegant affecting performance" and noted that the choir sang with "serene confidence...delicate nobility...[and] effervescent grace."