



BACH CHRISTMAS CANTATAS

December 6 | First Unitarian Church, Worcester
*In collaboration with Music Worcester
as part of The Complete Bach*

Program

Cantata 32

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

LIPKENS, BUCKLAND REISNER, GREGORY, BERGER, FALK, VARGA,
WATSON, RIVER, ANDERSON, MCFERRIN

Cantata 151

KRAUS, LIPKENS, BUCKLAND REISNER, GREGORY, BERGER, FALK, VARGA,
WATSON, RIVER, ANDERSON, MCFERRIN

Cantata 132

LIPKENS, BUCKLAND REISNER, GREGORY, BERGER, FALK, VARGA,
WATSON, RIVER, ANDERSON, MCFERRIN

WCMS Musicians

Tracy Kraus, flute • Krista Buckland Reisner, violin
Rohan Gregory, violin • Mark Berger, viola
Ariana Falk, cello

Guest Soloists

Kirsten Watson, soprano • Krista River, mezzo-soprano
Matthew Anderson, tenor • David McFerrin, baritone

Guest Instrumentalists

Kirsten Lipkens, oboe • Nathan Varga, double bass
John McKean, chamber organ

TEXT TRANSLATIONS

BWV 32 - Liebster Jesu, mein Verlangen

1. Aria

Dearest Jesus, my desire,
tell me, where can I find you?
Shall I lose you so soon
and no longer sense you near
me?

Ah! My treasure, bring me joy,
let me embrace you with
greatest delight.

2. Recitative

*How is it, that you sought me?
Do you not know, that I must be
about
my Father's business?*

3. Aria

Here, in my Father's place,
a troubled spirit finds me.
There you can surely find
me and join your heart to mine,
since this is known as my
dwelling.

4. Recitative

Ah! Holy and great God,
thus I will
then here with you
seek certain comfort and help.
– If you will renounce earthly
toys
and enter this dwelling alone,
then you can remain both here
and there. –
How lovely, indeed, is your
dwelling,
Lord, mighty Sabaoth;

my spirit longs
for that which only in your
courts sparkles.

My body and soul rejoice
in the living God:

Ah! Jesus, my breast loves only
you forever.

– Thus you can be happy,
when heart and spirit are known
as enflamed with love for me. –
Ah! This word, that now already
wrests my heart out of Babel's
borders,
I hold fast in my soul devotedly.

5. Aria

Now all trouble disappears,
now crying and pain dissolve.
Now I will not leave you,
– and I also will constantly
embrace you. –

Now my heart is content

– and can say, full of joy: –
Now all trouble disappears,
now crying and pain dissolve!

6. Chorale

My God, open the gates
of such grace and goodness to
me,
let me, at all times, and in all
places,
taste your sweetness!
Love me and urge me onward,
so that I, as well as I can,
might embrace you again and
love you,
and indeed now nevermore be
troubled.

BWV 151 - Süßer Trost, mein Jesus kömmt

Aria

Sweet comfort, my Jesus comes,
Jesus now is born!
Heart and soul rejoice,
for my dearest God has
now destined me for heaven.

2. Recitative

Rejoice then, my heart,
for now the pain ebbs
which has oppressed you for so
long.

God has sent his dearest Son,
whom he values as high and
precious,
into this world.

He leaves the heavenly throne
and would now deliver the
whole world
from its chains of slavery
and servitude.

O wonderful deed!

God is made man and on earth
wishes
to be lowlier than us and much
poorer.

3. Aria

In Jesus' humbleness I can find
comfort,
in his poverty, riches.

This same miserable state
acquaints me with pure
salvation and well-being.
Indeed, his wonder-working
hand
will weave a wreath of blessing
for me.

4. Recitative

O precious Son of God,
now you have opened heaven
to me;

and through your lowliness
have brought us the light of
blessedness.

Since you now, all alone,
have left the stronghold and
throne of the Father
out of love for us,
in our turn we would
therefore hold you fast within
our hearts.

5. Chorale

Today he opens the door again
to lovely paradise;
the cherub no longer stands
before it;
praise, honor, and glory be to
God!

BWV 132 - Bereitete die Wege, bereitet die Bahn!

1. Aria

Prepare the paths, prepare the
road!

Prepare the paths,
and make the flagstones
in faith and life
completely level for the Highest,
Messiah approaches!

2. Recitative

If your wish to be called God's
child and Christ's brother,
your heart and mouth must
freely acknowledge him.
Yes, human, your entire life
must give witness of your faith!

Should Christ's word and
teaching
also be sealed through your
blood,
then give yourself willingly to it!
For this is the Christian's crown
and honor.
Meanwhile, my heart, prepare
even today the road of faith for
the Lord,
and sweep away the hills and
the heights,
which stand in his way!
Roll away the heavy boulders of
sin,
take your Savior to yourself,
so that he may unite himself to
you in faith!

3. Aria

Who are you? Ask your
conscience,
from which, without hypocrisy,
whether you, O human, are false
or true,
you must hear the just
pronouncement.
Who are you? Ask the law,
it will tell you, who you are,
a child of wrath in Satan's trap,
a false and hypocritical Christian.

4. Recitative

I will, my God, freely and openly
acknowledge you,
Until now I have not rightly
perceived you.
Although mouth and lips called
you Lord and Father,

yet my heart was turned away
from you.
I have denied you with my life!
How can you give me good
testimony?
When, Jesus, through your bath
of spirit and water
you purified me from my sins,
indeed I promised you firm
loyalty forever;
ah! but alas! The covenant of
baptism is broken.
I regret my infidelity!
Ah, God, have mercy on me,
ah, help, so that with unchanged
loyalty
I might continually renew the
bond of grace in faith!

5. Aria

Christ's members, ah, consider,
what the Savior has bestowed
on you
through the pure bath of
baptism!
Through the spring of blood and
water
your garments will become
bright,
which are stained from sin.
Christ gave as new garments
crimson robes, white silk,
these are the trappings of the
Christian.

*- Text translations by Pamela
Dellal*