

# *Bach* CANTATA SERIES

UMD CHORAL ACTIVITIES

## *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit*

**BWV 106**

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Amy Broadbent, *conductor*

Helen Mann, *soprano*  
Mihika Kulkarni, *alto*  
Jacob Mitchell, *tenor*  
Joshua Bates, *baritone*

William Gu, *viola*  
Emily Doveala, *cello*  
Samuel Lam, *cello*  
Danielle Kim, *flute*  
Erica Spear, *flute*  
Theodore Guerrant, *organ*

**Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 1:30pm**  
**Grand Pavilion, The Clarice**

Join us for our next Bach Cantata on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 1:30pm in the Grand Pavilion.

## **BWV 106: “Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit”**

*Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* (BWV 106), also known as *Actus tragicus*, is a poignant outpouring of grief and consolation; doubts and hope; resolve and joy. Written in 1708 in Mühlhausen, this funeral cantata by the young J.S. Bach foretells his matchless skill as a composer and gives us a glimpse of raw emotion as one of his first forays into the cantata genre. Listen for the haunting soprano solo (with a mystical full measure of rest written in), the plaintive alto aria, the contemplative tenor aria, the resolved and joyful bass solos, masterful choral music, and a heart-rending instrumental opening sonatina. This seamless cantata embodies a universe where death and life go hand in hand, and where our capacity to feel both deep sorrow and hopeful joy makes us uniquely human.

### **1. Orchestra Sonatina**

#### **2a. Chorus**

Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit.

In ihm leben, weben und sind wir,  
solange er will.

In ihm sterben wir zur rechten Zeit,  
wenn er will.

God's time is the very best time.

In Him we live, move and are,  
so long as he wills.

In Him we die at the right time,  
when He wills.

#### **2b. Tenor Arioso**

Ach, Herr, lehre uns bedenken,  
daß wir sterben müssen,  
auf daß wir klug werden.

Ah, Lord, teach us to think  
that we must die  
so that we become wise.

#### **2c. Bass Aria**

Bestelle dein Haus;  
denn du wirst sterben  
und nicht lebendig bleiben.

Put your house in order  
for you will die  
and not remain living.

#### **2d. Chorus with Soprano Solo**

Es ist der alte Bund:

Mensch, du mußt sterben!

Ja, komm, Herr Jesu, komm!

It is the old covenant:

Man, you must die!

Yes, come, Lord Jesus, come!

#### **3a. Alto Aria**

In deine Hände befehl ich meinen Geist;  
du hast mich erlöset, Herr, du getreuer Gott.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, Lord, you faithful  
God.



### 3b. Bass Arioso & Chorale

Heute wirst du mit mir im Paradies sein.  
Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin  
In Gottes Willen,  
Getrost ist mir mein Herz und Sinn,  
Sanft und stille.  
Wie Gott mir verheißen hat:  
Der Tod ist mein Schlaf geworden.

Today you will be with me in paradise.  
With peace and joy I travel there  
in God's will,  
my heart and mind are confident,  
peaceful and calm.  
As God has promised me:  
death has become my sleep.

### 4. Chorus

Glorie, Lob, Ehr und Herrlichkeit  
Sei dir, Gott Vater und Sohn bereit,  
Dem heiligen Geist mit Namen!  
Die göttlich Kraft  
Mach uns sieghaft  
Durch Jesum Christum, Amen.

Glory, praise, honor and majesty  
be given to you God, Father and Son,  
to the Holy Spirit by name!  
God's strength  
make us victorious  
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Translation by Francis Browne

