

# *Bach* CANTATA SERIES

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UMD CHORAL ACTIVITIES

## *Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild*

### **BWV 79**

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Mark Helms, *conductor*  
Clare Lillig, *soprano*  
Jessica Harika, *mezzo-soprano*  
Craig Francis Smith, *baritone*

#### **Orchestra**

Lauren Elizabeth Palfreyman, *violin*  
Amir Hossein Norouz Nasser, *violin*  
Chi Lee, *viola*  
Wesley Hornpetrie, *cello*  
Daphne Henderson, *double bass*  
Nathaniel Wolff, *oboe*  
Stephanie Treat, *oboe*  
Gregory Miller, *horn*  
Justin Drew, *horn*  
Robert Rocheteau, *timpani*  
Theodore Guerrant, *organ*

**Tuesday, November 18, 2021 at 1:30pm**  
**Grand Pavilion, The Clarice**

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Join us for our next Bach Cantata on Thursday, January 20 at 12:30pm in the Gildenhorn Recital Hall.

## **BWV 79: “Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild”**

*Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild (BWV 79)* premiered in Leipzig on Reformation Day (October 31) in 1725. Appropriately for such a major festival day, Bach wrote a work that is full of energy and magnificence, with a grand opening chorus featuring a flurry of counterpoint paired with a fanfare for two high horns and timpani. Providing unity in the cantata, this fanfare returns in the third movement alongside the familiar hymn-tune known to us as “Now Thank We All Our God,” which was a regular part of the Reformation Day service each year in Leipzig. Through its bold and majestic music, the cantata along with its text reflect the confidence of Leipzig’s congregants that they are secure through the word of God.

### **1. Chorus**

Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild. Der Herr  
gibt Gnade und Ehre, er wird kein Gutes  
mangeln lassen den Frommen.

*(Psalm 84:12)*

God the Lord is sun and shield. The Lord  
gives grace and honor, He will allow no  
good to be lacking from the righteous.

### **2. Alto Aria**

Gott ist unsre Sonn und Schild!  
Darum rühmet dessen Güte  
Unser dankbares Gemüte,  
Die er für sein Häuflein hegt.  
Denn er will uns ferner schützen,  
Ob die Feinde Pfeile schnitzen  
Und ein Lästehund gleich billt.

God is our sun and shield!  
Therefore this goodness  
shall be praised by our grateful heart,  
which He protects like His little flock.  
For He will protect us from now on,  
although the enemy sharpens his arrows  
and a vicious hound already barks.

### **3. Chorale**

Nun danket alle Gott  
Mit Herzen, Mund und Händen,  
Der große Dinge tut  
An uns und allen Enden,  
Der uns von Mutterleib  
Und Kindesbeinen an  
Unzählig viel zugut  
Und noch itzund getan.

Now let everyone thank God  
with hearts, mouths, and hands,  
Who does great things  
for us and to all ends,  
Who has done for us from our mother's wombs  
and childhood on  
many uncountable good things  
and does so still today.



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#### 4. Bass Recitative

Gottlob, wir wissen  
Den rechten Weg zur Seligkeit;  
Denn, Jesu, du hast ihn uns durch dein Wort  
gewiesen,  
Drum bleibt dein Name jederzeit gepriesen.  
Weil aber viele noch  
Zu dieser Zeit  
An fremdem Joch  
Aus Blindheit ziehen müssen,  
Ach! so erbarme dich  
Auch ihrer gnädiglich,  
Daß sie den rechten Weg erkennen.  
Und dich bloß ihren Mittler nennen.

Praise God, we know  
the right way to blessedness;  
for, Jesus, You have revealed it to us  
through Your word,  
therefore Your name shall be praised for all time.  
Since, however, many yet  
at this time  
must labor under a foreign yoke  
out of blindness,  
ah! then have mercy  
also on them graciously,  
so that they recognize the right way  
and simply call You their Intercessor.

#### 5. Soprano/Bass Aria (Duet)

Gott, ach Gott, verlaß die Deinen  
Nimmermehr!  
Laß dein Wort uns helle scheinen;  
Obgleich sehr  
Wider uns die Feinde toben,  
So soll unser Mund dich loben.

God, ah God, abandon Your own ones  
never again!  
Let Your word shine brightly for us;  
although harshly  
against us the enemy rages,  
yet our mouths shall praise You.

#### 6. Chorale

Erhalt uns in der Wahrheit,  
Gib ewigliche Freiheit,  
Zu preisen deinen Namen  
Durch Jesum Christum. Amen.

Uphold us in the truth,  
grant eternal freedom,  
to praise Your name  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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