

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VCS MEDIA CONTACT:

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VALLEJO CHORAL SOCIETY set to perform J.S. BACH'S ST. MATTHEW PASSION

Conducted by DEREK TAM, with renowned SOLOISTS and ORCHESTRA

— Saturday, April 29, 7 PM, St. Dominic's, Benicia

— Sunday, April 30, 4 PM, Empress Theatre, Vallejo

One of the greatest masterpieces of Baroque music, the *St. Matthew Passion* sacred oratorio by Johann Sebastian Bach is at once monumental and intimate, deeply sorrowful and powerful as it tells the story of the last days of Jesus.

Celebrated tenor **Steven Brennfleck** sings the narrator role of *Evangelist*, joined by baritone **Constantine Novotny** singing the role of *Jesus*. Countertenor Daniel Cromeenes and soprano Bethany Hill complete the quartet of guests soloists. Instrumentalists include renowned Cantata Collective oboist Marc Schachman and bassist Kristin Zoernig.

Vallejo Choral Society, now 50-singers strong, prepares Bach's monumental masterwork under the artistic leadership of early music specialist **Derek Tam**. Not only is the perennial community chorus busy rehearsing the Bach work, but also fundraising to mount this ambitious production. The group hosted a March gala that included a performance of Central and South American choral music. Also in March, the chorus held its Spring Vocal Workshop, a master class with distinguished Bach specialist Magen Solomon of SF Bach Choir.

Concert Details:

Work: Bach *St. Matthew Passion*

Tickets: \$35 in advance, \$40 at door; Students are free: www.vallejochoral.org

Saturday, April 29, 7 PM, St. Dominic's Church, 475 E I St, Benicia

Sunday, April 30, 4 PM, Empress Theatre, 330 Virginia St, Vallejo

The performance duration is approximately 3 hours.

About VCS: In its 105th season, Vallejo Choral Society keeps its extended choral community united, inspired, singing, and learning through innovative programming.

During the height of the COVID Pandemic, the community chorus launched unique 12-week virtual programs that culminated in livestreamed concerts of Bach and Handel masterworks. In December 2021, the Choral Society made a triumphant return to live performances with concerts featuring Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, followed by a rousing season finale featuring Orff's *Carmina Burana*, set poetically among rows of whisky barrels at a Mare Island distillery.

Vallejo Choral Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit performing arts organization whose mission is to foster a vibrant, diverse, and interactive choral community, educate its singers and audiences, and extend its reach to youth. In 2022, VCS launched the Campanelli Youth Chorus after-school class for students throughout Solano County. VCS offers scholarships to high school and college students and offers free concert tickets to children and students.