

# Passion & Joy

**Johann Sebastian Bach**

Psalm 115: Der Herr denket an us

**Dieterich Buxtehude**

Jesu, meine Freude

**Johann Pachelbel**

Christ lag in Todesbanden

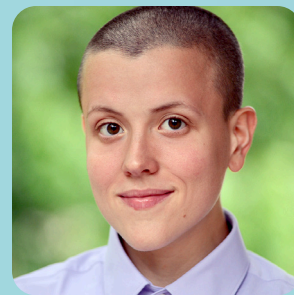
**Johann Theile**

Saint Matthew Passion

This program of soulful and moving compositions by four of the German Baroque's most masterful composers begins with a 10-part setting of **Christ lag in Todesbanden** by Johann Pachelbel. Its seven movements unfold the deep richness of the composer's reflections on the Easter text that Bach would later use for one of his earliest cantatas. And from the pen of one of Bach's favorite composers, Dieterich Buxtehude, comes a bittersweet setting of the famous Eastertide chorale, **Jesu, meine Freude**, that would have been a great inspiration to Bach when he composed his own motet setting of the same verses several decades later. One of Bach's earliest surviving cantatas, **Der Herr denket an uns** (Psalm 115: "The Lord is mindful of us") is a joyful celebration of gratitude and blessedness that was probably composed to celebrate the wedding of the minister who had officiated at Bach's marriage to Maria Barbara about a year earlier. The Passion-themed orbit of this program finds its greatest resonance in a truly hypnotic and almost trance-inducing setting of the **Saint Matthew Passion** by Johann Theile. From its first movement to its last, Theile's music mesmerizes the listener and grippingly captivates that attention until the final note.



Nola Richardson  
soprano



Elijah McCormack  
male soprano



Jay Carter  
countertenor



Mark Bonney  
tenor



Curtis Streetman  
bass



Jeffrey Thomas  
conductor

Friday March 25 2022 8:00 p.m. • Belvedere  
Saturday March 26 2022 7:00 p.m. • Berkeley  
Sunday March 27 2022 4:00 p.m. • San Francisco  
Monday March 28 2022 7:00 p.m. • Davis

TICKETS: [americanbach.org/tix](https://americanbach.org/tix) (800) 595-4TIX (-4849)