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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Crescendo to Present Bach's Masterwork Motets in Landmark May Concert Series

LAKEVILLE, CT — Crescendo, the award-winning vocal ensemble, is proud to announce its upcoming concert series featuring Johann Sebastian Bach's motets, BWV 225 to 230. Widely regarded as the pinnacle of Baroque vocal music, these performances will take place on May 30 and 31, marking the culmination of a year-long intensive study by the ensemble's amateur and professional singers.

Bach took the traditional motet and elevated it into a more ambitious, multi-movement choral concerto, expanding the boundaries of the genre. Beyond their technical brilliance these motets explore the intersection of human nature and the divine, touching on universal themes of mercy, redemption, and spiritual guidance. The emotional depth of the music transcends time, speaking directly to our 21st-century audiences.

"Mastering these motets is a pinnacle achievement for any vocal ensemble," says Christine Gevert, Founding Artistic Director of Crescendo. "Bach captures the essence of our shared humanity with a relevance that transcends his 18th-century origins. Whether or not one shares his specific faith, the music translates spiritual concepts into a universal experience of beauty and comfort. These works are full of surprises that keep both the performers and the audience on the edge of their seats. After a year of intense preparation, we are honored to finally share this vision with our community."

Over the course of two days, the ensemble will perform the six celebrated motets, including the joyous "Lobet den Herrn" (Praise the Lord)—a work of intriguing origin that remains the only motet in the set whose attribution to Johann Sebastian Bach is occasionally debated. To offer a rich textural contrast, the program intersperses these vocal masterpieces with organ chorale preludes from Bach's monumental Clavierübung III. Throughout the performances, the artistic director will provide brief commentary to illuminate the profound spiritual and musical messages within the scores. In a unique immersive experience, the audience will also be invited to join the ensemble in singing select chorale melodies before they are fully realized in the motets.

The Performers: The concerts feature the Crescendo Vocal Ensemble, a 22-voice choir comprising dedicated amateurs and renowned early music specialists. The ensemble is anchored by featured professional soloists, including Johanna Marie Rose (New York City, founding member of "Anonymous 4"), tenor Pablo Bustos (Rochester, NY), bass Daniel Fridley (Boston, MA), and Hartford, CT-based vocalists Jennifer Tyo Oberto and Jermaine Woodard Jr. The instrumental accompaniment is provided by a basso continuo ensemble, featuring Baroque bassist Guinevere Conner (Boston, MA) alongside Christine Gevert on organ. The performances will be conducted by Gevert from the keyboard.

Event Details:

- **What:** Johann Sebastian Bach's Motets BWV 225–230.
May 30: BWV 227, 228, 230, organ chorale preludes BWV 672-674
May 31: BWV 225, 226, 229, 230, organ chorale prelude BWV 675
- **When:** May 30 & 31, both at 4:00 PM

- **Where:** Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, MA (May 30), and Trinity Church, 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lakeville, CT (May 31)
- **Tickets** range from \$15 to \$80, with a special discount available for those attending both performances. Patrons may purchase tickets in advance at crescendomusic.org or at the door beginning 45 minutes before each concert.

For more information or to schedule an interview with Christine Gevert, please contact Amy Eisen at crescendo@crescendomusic.org / 860-435-4866.

Support for the concerts has been provided to Crescendo by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature, and the NBT Bank.

About Crescendo:

Crescendo is a premier vocal and instrumental ensemble dedicated to bringing high-quality performances of early and contemporary music to the region through its unique blend of professional and amateur talent.



Crescendo Vocal Ensemble - Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA – Photo by Heidi Hoeller



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