

## Christ Cathedral presents marathon of laid-back Bach

MARCH 25, 2010

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BACHanalia is back.

The six-hour musical marathon returns for a fourth year, with almost 75 musicians playing non-stop Bach every which-a-way from 5-11 p.m. Friday at downtown's Christ Church Cathedral.

"It's a celebration of all things Bach — his music and his genius," said Susan Dupont, chair of the Cathedral's Sacred Space for the City Arts Series, who came up with the idea for the free event.

"We call it BACHanaliabecause we will indeed be presenting some wild and wooly ways to hear Bach. It is a constant variety of music and players," she said, noting that most of the performances in the come-and-go setup are 5-10 minutes and none are more than 25 minutes.

It's the place to hear a classic Bach toccata on one of the finest organs in town, then moments later hear an "art whistler" whistle the melody from a Bach soprano aria. Expect some jazzy Bach with a sax or two, then a solo cello or violin.

"It's one event that draws some of Nashville's most talented and dedicated musicians together for one purpose — and that's to keep alive and enrich the tradition of the music of J.S. Bach," said Sam Levine, a perennial BACHanalia participant who will perform with John Pell.

Levine says it's amazing that in 2010 — 325 years after Bach was born — "Bach's music is still so vibrant and meaningful to us. It also provides the raw material for lots of different types of interpretation, including mine, which is really a jazz interpretation of his melody and his harmony."

The range of musicians and styles gives the event a "feel that you don't usually associate with a classical music concert," said Dupont.

And she says the event is perfect for families. "It is a great event for children because they don't have to sit still. In the past, families have enjoyed bringing their children to the front of the church to see the performers and instruments up close and personal."

The very informal free concert (jeans are fine) takes place in the gorgeous, acoustically wonderful sanctuary of Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) at 900 Broadway. The musicians all play for free (though they get a T-shirt and free food for participating).

"It really is a gift to the community. We just provide the venue and the party atmosphere," Dupont said.

In addition to Levine and Pell, artists include the Atlantic Ensemble, Austin Peay Clarinet Ensemble, Belmont Brass Quintet, Music City Baroque, Nashville Double Reed Ensemble, Nashville Saxophone Quartet, The Harp School, soprano Kelly Corcoran, organists Gregg Bunn, Jon Johnson, Polly Brecht, Mark Ring and Michael Velting, violinist Christian Teal, pianist Leah Bowes, cellist Sari Reist and many more. For a complete list and schedule of performances, see [www.christcathedral.org/sacredspace/upcomingconcerts](http://www.christcathedral.org/sacredspace/upcomingconcerts).

Food and drink will be available in the Parish Hall (\$4 for a bowl of soup and bread, \$1–2 for dessert, and a donation for a glass of wine). Music is piped in so you don't have to miss anything while you are eating and drinking.

Stay cheap!

Reach Ms. Cheap at 259-8282 or [mscheap@tennessean.com](mailto:mscheap@tennessean.com). Read her blog at [Tennessean.com/mscheap](http://Tennessean.com/mscheap).



**MS. CHEAP**

[mscheap@tennessean.com](mailto:mscheap@tennessean.com)

615-259-8282

Mary Hance's Ms. Cheap columns appear on Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. She is the author of "99 Things to Save Money in Your Household Budget."

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