

EMMANUEL MUSE



Bach: A Signature Season
Johann Sebastian Bach.

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EMMANUEL MUSIC ANNOUNCES ACTING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

John Harbison, for many years Principal Guest Conductor of Emmanuel Music, has accepted the position of Acting Artistic Director of Emmanuel Music and Acting Music Director of Emmanuel Church, where Emmanuel Music is Ensemble-in-Residence. Artistic Director Craig Smith died on November 14. Michael Beattie, Associate Conductor and Chorus Master, remains in place to assist Harbison.

“John is the ideal person to lead us through this difficult time and to keep alive the musical vision and legacy that Craig left behind,” said Joan Nordell, President of the Emmanuel Music board. “Bach and other great composers were at the heart of the long musical association and strong personal bond between John and Craig,” said Pat Krol, Executive Director of Emmanuel Music.

Harbison will collaborate with Beattie, Associate Conductor and Chorus Master, on completing the current season. Beattie will conduct the *St. John Passion* in March; Harbison will conduct the *Mass in B Minor* in April. They will share conducting of the remaining Sunday cantatas with guest conductors. A memorial concert is being planned for Craig Smith. It will take place in Emmanuel Church on his birthday, January 31.

Harbison and Beattie will also collaborate on implementing the 2008-2009 season, which will be presented as a tribute to Smith and follow the outline of his advance planning. That season will again feature the music of J.S. Bach and conclude the Schumann chamber series.

John Harbison is one of America's most distinguished composers. His principal compositions include four string quartets, five symphonies, the cantata *The Flight Into Egypt*, and three operas including *The Great Gatsby*. His music has been

performed by many of the world's leading ensembles, and more than 30 of his compositions have been recorded. Harbison has conducted many ensembles, among them the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, and the Handel and Haydn Society, and for many years has led Emmanuel Music performances of Bach cantatas, 17th-century motets, and new music.

A conductor, vocal coach, and accomplished keyboardist, Michael Beattie has often conducted weekly Bach cantatas at Emmanuel Church; he made his Emmanuel opera debut conducting Handel's *Ariodante*. Like Smith and Harbison, Beattie's range includes music from the baroque to the contemporary. He is a founding member of Favella Lyrica and the Baroque chamber ensemble Très and has premiered works by John Harbison, Andrew Imbrie, Earl Kim, and Andy Vores.

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