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*D*iscussing *BACH*

Issue 9 (June 2025)

Choral Total:
Church Cantatas After Bach

Editorial Introduction

Editors

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Choral Total: Church Cantatas After Bach

A discussion with Stephen A. Crist, Andrew Frampton, Gregor Richter, and Magdalena Auenmüller, moderated by Susan McCormick

Live from the Bachfest Leipzig 2024

Recorded on Saturday 15 June 2024



Welcome to this ninth issue of *Discussing Bach*, featuring an edited conversation about the development of the church cantata in the generation after Bach. It was recorded live at the Bachfest Leipzig in June 2024, as part of the Bach Network session on the 2024 festival theme, 'Choral Total' (styled as *CHORal TOTAL*).

As we noted in the Editorial Introduction to *Discussing Bach* 8, the festival theme has many allusions within its eleven letters, whether one reads it in German or English. For this session we took the theme to embrace the post-Bach development of the church cantata. In accordance with our usual practice, the live presentations in the video were unrehearsed, meaning that none of the panellists knew what the others would say beyond their overall topic. We invited the panellists to present a summary of their research on the cantata compositions of four composers from the generation after J.S. Bach: Stephen A. Crist focuses on

the output of Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713–1780), one of Bach's students; Andrew Frampton speaks on the cantatas by another Bach pupil, Johann Friedrich Agricola (1720–1774); Gregor Richter examines the cantata cycles by Georg Anton Benda (1722–1795); and Magdalena Auenmüller explores the cantata output by Bach's grandson Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst Bach (1759–1845). We wanted to include W.F.E. Bach in this session even though the music of both of his attested church cantatas is lost, because his surviving output illustrates the later development of cantata composition.

Once more we are indebted to Philipp Marx for stage-managing the recording and lighting in Leipzig, and to Larry Molinaro and John Harrington for expertly editing the video. We also thank the Bach-Archiv Leipzig for giving Bach Network this valuable platform at the Bachfest, and for granting us permission to use the audio materials. Most of the presenters are pursuing further work based on the research discussed here: as always, the *Discussing Bach* web page and YouTube channel will be kept updated with new publications on the topic as they appear.

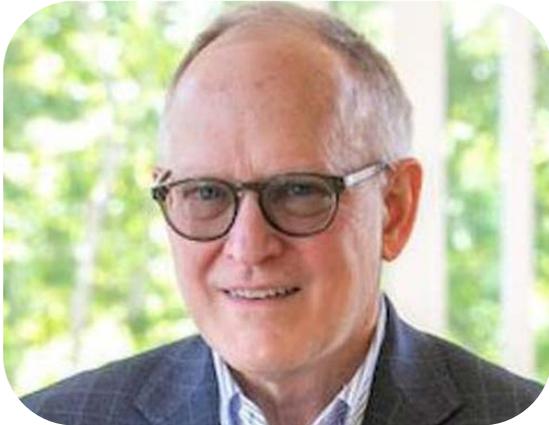
We look forward to curating a session at the 2025 Bachfest Leipzig on this year's festival theme of 'Transformation'. Our programme will include twelve international researchers sharing their expert knowledge on the theme of Transformation in three topic areas: 'Images, Emblems, and Forms'; 'Sources, Texts, and Contexts'; and 'Time, Politics, and Cultures'. In other words, there is a great deal of exciting material still to feature in future *Discussing Bach* issues.

We hope that you enjoy the presentations and discussion here, and that this wider context enriches your understanding of how Bach's church cantatas inspired others, including two of his most prominent students and his grandson, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Ruth Tatlow (Danderyd, Sweden)
Andrew Frampton (Oxford, UK)
Barbara M. Reul (Regina, Canada)

24 June 2025

Contributors



Stephen A. Crist is Professor of Music History and Chair of the Department of Music at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia (USA). He works largely in European music of the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries, with additional interests in jazz and hymnody. His recent and forthcoming books and editions are published by Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and A-R Editions.



Andrew Frampton is Lecturer in Music at St Catherine's College, University of Oxford, UK and Postdoctoral Research Associate at Newcastle University on the AHRC-funded project 'Music, Heritage, Place'. His numerous publications focus on J.S. Bach, Jan Dismas Zelenka, and their contemporaries. He serves on the Bach Network Council and was a featured contributor to the series *The Song Detectorists* on BBC Radio 3, broadcast in May 2025.



Gregor Richter studied musicology at the University of Leipzig, Germany. In 2023, he completed his doctorate at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale), Germany, with a thesis on Georg Anton Benda's church cantatas. He is currently a research fellow on the long-term project 'Forschungsportal BACH', which is being jointly realised by the Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig and the Bach-Archiv Leipzig.



Magdalena Auenmüller studied musicology and music pedagogy in Leipzig, Germany. Based at the Bach-Archiv Leipzig, she compiled a thematic-systematic catalogue of the works of Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst Bach (Carus-Verlag, 2019) as part of the 'Bach-Repertorium' project (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig). She is currently a research assistant on the project 'Forschungsportal BACH' at the Bach-Archiv Leipzig.

Further reading and listening

Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst Bach: Thematisch-systematisches Verzeichnis der musikalischen Werke (BR-WFEB), *Bach-Repertorium VII*, ed. Magdalena Strobel (Carus-Verlag, 2019).

Penelope Cave and Wiebke Thormählen (eds.), *Johann Ludwig Krebs: Endorsed by Bach* (Peacock Press, forthcoming).

Stephen A. Crist, 'Recovering the Cantatas of Johann Ludwig Krebs', *BACH: Journal of the Riemenschneider Bach Institute* 55 (2024), 261–283.

Andrew Frampton, 'Johann Friedrich Agricola (1720–1774): A Critical Study and Catalogue of the Musical Sources' (DPhil thesis, University of Oxford, 2021).

Johann Ludwig Krebs, *Complete Vocal Works*, ed. Stephen A. Crist, *Recent Researches in the Music of the Baroque Era* (A-R Editions, 2025).

Gregor Richter, 'Die Bach-Familie und ihre Beziehungen zu den Kapellmeistern der Gothaer Hofkapelle. Eine Spurensuche durch das 17. und 18. Jahrhundert', in Knut Kreuch and Alexander Krünes (eds.), "*Der Anfang zur Musik ...*" – *Bach im Gothaer Land* (Gotha e.V., 2021), 181–196.

Gregor Richter, 'Zur süddeutschen Überlieferung von Georg Anton Bendas Münter-Jahrgang', in Joachim Kremer, Norbert Haag, and Sabine Holtz (eds.), *Die Kantate im deutschen Südwesten. Quellen, Repertoire und Überlieferung 1700–1770*, *Stuttgarter Musikwissenschaftliche Schriften* 6 (Schott, 2021), 125–145.

Johann Friedrich Agricola: Die Hirten bei der Krippe – Three Christmas Cantatas, Kölner Akademie, dir. Michael Alexander Willens, CPO 777921-2, 2014.

Johann Friedrich Agricola, Gottfried August Homilius: Die Auferstehung des Erlösers – Easter Cantatas, Kölner Akademie, dir. Michael Alexander Willens, CPO 555332-2, 2020.

Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst Bach: Columbus; Cantatas & Sinfonias, Rheinische Kantorei, Das Kleine Konzert, dir. Hermann Max, CPO 999672-2, 2000.

Johann Ludwig Krebs: Das Orchester- und Kantatenwerk, Merseburger Hofmusik, Collegium Vocale Leipzig, dir. Michael Schönheit, Querstand VKJKI306, 2013.

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With thanks to the Bach-Archiv Leipzig

About Bach Network and *Discussing Bach*

[Bach Network](#) was founded in 2004 to create a forum to talk about Bach's music. Early conversations evolved into [Dialogue Meetings](#), which became Bach Network's primary in-person means of discussion. From these meetings came our online journal *Understanding Bach*, where the fruit of new research discussions could be studied and enjoyed. What was missing from the written journal articles was the immediacy of the dialogue conversation and questions. This is where *Discussing Bach* enters the picture.

Discussing Bach is a multimedia, web-based publication that supersedes Bach Network's open access journal [Understanding Bach](#) (2006–17). Featuring scholars engaged in ground-breaking research, each issue of [Discussing Bach](#) comprises:

- Editorial Introduction;
- Link to the live video discussion with optional subtitles;
- Authorised Transcript of the live discussion;
- Further reading and listening;
- Topic-specific articles may also be published as part of the issue.

Citation style: Each of the above components will require a different citation style. Please follow carefully the instructions given in your preferred style guide.

Copyright: Bach Network holds the copyright to the discussion to protect the intellectual copyright of the researchers' ideas, some of which will be unpublished at the time of recording. Authorised subtitles are provided to facilitate accurate citation.

Future issues: The aim of *Discussing Bach* is to stimulate discussion of new research insights. Scholars are selected to contribute because of the impact of their latest research discoveries, as well as their peer-reviewed publications, whether already in press or under contract, and/or because they are sponsored by a competitive research programme.

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Meetings in 2025

'Bach Network in Dialogue: Transformation', Bachfest Leipzig 2025, Saturday 21 June, 14:00–17:00

Bach Network at the Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music, Birmingham, UK, Wednesday 16 July–Sunday 20 July 2025

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