

BACH'S *ST JOHN PASSION* FEATURES
AMAZING MIX OF MUSICIANS

DETAILS BELOW!

Directed by Paul Halley
featuring
University of King's College Chapel Choir,
hand-picked orchestra Ensemble Regale,
and soloists

Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 4:00 PM
Saint John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg

Director Paul Halley and the University of King's College Chapel Choir are returning to J.S. Bach in their annual cycle of Baroque masterworks with two performances of Bach's *St John Passion* this April on the weekend before Easter. Bach's masterful representation of the Passion of Christ according to St John (premiered 1724) is musically extravagant, full of foreboding and intensity yet startling in its beauty. Read on to learn more about some of the musicians Halley is bringing together for these performances.

\$25 if reserved in advance through March 31, and \$30 thereafter. They are available from Musique Royale (902-634-9994), at Shop on the Corner in Lunenburg, and at the door. Student tickets are \$10, available at the door only.

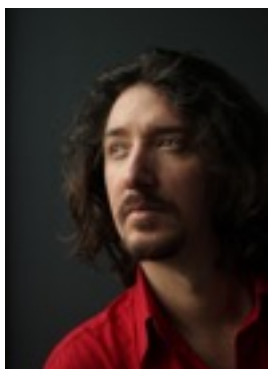
To inquire about tickets to a special fundraising Passion Dinner in Mahone Bay with the director and soloists the night before the Lunenburg performance, contact barbara.butler@ns.sympatico.ca



Matthew Anderson (Evangelist) – The Evangelist is the narrator of the Passion story, and one of the biggest solo roles one can get in the world of oratorio. Matthew comes to us from Boston's revered Emmanuel Music series, where a Bach cantata is sung every Sunday. Matthew is a two-time prizewinner in the American Bach Society Competition, and he has gained a reputation through performances across the United States as an accomplished interpreter of Bach's music, particularly as Evangelist in Bach's Passions. **Fun fact:** Matthew studied Classics at Harvard.

Matthew Cassils (bass arias soloist & Pilate) – Matthew is a Canadian baritone trained at McGill University and at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto. He has appeared as a soloist on opera and oratorio stages across Canada and on CBC Radio, and his work in lieder and art-song includes performances of the epic song-cycles for solo voice and orchestra by Mahler, *Songs of the Wayfarer* as well as *The Song of the Earth*. **Fun fact:** Matthew was the body

double for Mads Mikkelsen for all of the cooking scenes on the NBC show “Hannibal”. He has also completed the Canadian Ski Marathon three times.



Alexander Dobson (Jesus) – As described by *Opera Canada*, Alexander, “one of the most impressive Canadian baritones of this generation, is a wonderful actor and has a beautiful, rich and commanding voice, that is also as smooth as silk.” Alexander is known for his work in major operatic roles with L’Opera de Montréal and others, and in oratorio and recital work across Canada and internationally. **Fun fact:** Alexander’s solo debut was at twelve years old, as a treble soloist in the Canadian premiere of Lloyd Webber’s *Requiem* under conductor Elmer Iseler.



Philippe Gagné (tenor arias soloist) - A French Canadian tenor with a penchant for the Baroque repertoire, Philippe’s career has clearly taken off, with a schedule of performances with top early music ensembles across Canada and internationally, several European tours, competition prizes, and recordings for noted labels. Philippe’s was one of the creamy tenor voices, alongside that of Charles Daniels, featured in our performances of Monteverdi’s *Vespers of 1610* last April. **Fun fact:** Philippe received a JUNO award in 2016 for a recording he did with L’Harmonie des Saisons.

David Greenberg (concertmaster) – David is a Baroque violinist who also plays fiddle in the Cape Breton and 18th-century Scottish styles. He has recorded more than 75 CDs and has a great deal of experience teaching these genres. David does not like long biographies, so we will simply leave you with this **fun fact:** Paul Halley declared some time ago that after once performing a Bach masterwork with David at his left elbow expertly guiding the orchestra, he would never want to do it any other way.



Paul Halley (director & harpsichordist) – Paul is a keyboardist, composer, choir director, teacher, and performer with a musical life that has ranged from an organ scholarship at Cambridge University to collaborations with Russian folk singers in remote villages of the then-Soviet Union to directing the music program in the world’s largest gothic cathedral (New York City) to five Grammy Awards for his compositions and performances. The one constant has been a lifetime obsession with J.S. Bach. **Fun fact:** Paul studied development economics at University of Victoria and also medicine at Columbia University before finally recognising the call to be a musician as one worth heeding. (This is the composer who the *Cincinnati Enquirer* once proclaimed writes melodies “so tuneful Barry Manilow would become an ax murderer just for the chance to say ‘I wrote them.’”)



Grégoire Jeay (Baroque flute) – Grégoire is a regular member of many of Canada’s best early music ensembles, including Tafelmusik and La Nef. His playing has been described by music critics as “outstanding”, “gorgeous”, and “brilliant”. In addition to baroque music, Grégoire has done specialty work with musicians in the medieval, Irish, Arab-Andalusian, and Sephardic traditions. **Fun fact:** Grégoire is a composer, with many commissions and tv soundtracks to his name. His most recent project was a performance soundtrack for a Chinese circus.



Margaret Little (viola da gamba) – The ‘gamba’, as this instrument is called informally, is a string instrument developed in Spain in the mid to late 1400’s and heard mainly during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Margaret is hailed as “one of the best gambists on the early music scene today” (*La Scena Musicale*). Margaret has toured the world playing this instrument and appears on many recordings. She teaches baroque ensembles at the Université de Montréal. **Fun fact:** Margaret fell in love with the gamba at age eleven, having studied piano, violin, recorder, and guitar before then.



Janelle Lucyk (soprano arias soloist) – A young Canadian soprano with a voice that will stop you in your tracks, Janelle is a treasure we are lucky to have living in Halifax. By age 22 she had earned not only a music degree from the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles in Belgium but also a master’s degree in business management from Durham University in the U.K. (where in her spare time she sang in Durham’s top four choirs, played violin with the Durham University Symphony Orchestra, and starred in opera performances). **Fun fact:** Janelle is the only manager at Sherwin & Williams to have performed for the King and Queen of Belgium.



Daniel Taylor (alto arias soloist) – A Canadian star, Dan ranks among the best-known countertenors in the world. Dan is also recognized as Canada’s “most prolific recording artist”, with over 100 recordings on major record labels worldwide. He is a Sony Classical artist. He has performed with the world’s top orchestras and conductors in a simply stunning musical career. **Fun fact:** Dan is a graduate of the same men and boys church choir that trained Paul Halley (and a remarkable list of well-known Canadian musicians) – the St Matthew’s Choir of Men and Boys, Ottawa.



University of King's College Chapel Choir – This group of 24 students and graduates of King's College and Dalhousie has gained a reputation under director Paul Halley as one of the top vocal ensembles in Canada. They are kept busy singing multiple services in the King's College Chapel each week during term as well as an annual concert series featuring works both famous and unknown. The majority of singers in the choir are pursuing non-music academic degrees. **Fun fact:** The choir spends a weekend together on the South Shore every winter, where the pond

hockey games are long and ruthless and the impromptu dinner-time entertainment is the stuff of legend.
