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The University of Dayton

News Release

BACH SOCIETY TO PRESENT
'MASS IN B MINOR'

DAYTON, Ohio, April 26, 1989--The Dayton Bach Society will close its 1988-89 season with a performance of J.S. Bach's "Mass in B Minor" on Sunday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3939 Stonebridge Road. Tickets for the performance will be \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for students and will be sold at the door.

"This concert closes the Bach Society's fifteenth season," said Richard Benedum, a University of Dayton music professor who is the founder and conductor of the chorus. "We could think of no better way to mark the occasion than to perform the 'Mass in B Minor,' the culmination of Bach's choral works and a piece which occupied him, off and on, for about 20 years. It is perhaps the most challenging piece in the entire choral repertoire and certainly one of the great treasures of Western music."

Soloists for the performance include sopranos Diane Gentner and Donna Reece, mezzo soprano Maria Ventura, tenor David Adams, baritone William Henry Caldwell and bass Thomas Sherwood. Members of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra will also perform.

Gentner is general manager of the Bach Society and the Dayton Boys' Choir. She teaches voice at Sinclair Community College and at Colonel White High School, the music magnet site of the Dayton Public Schools. Soprano Reece also sings at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Ventura holds a bachelor of music degree in vocal performance from the

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University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She was an artist-in-residence for the Dayton Opera Association's performance of "Aida," and has performance credits with the Kentucky Opera, Whitewater Opera, Florida Opera, L'Opera National in Brussels, Flanders Opera, Netherlands Opera and Opera Barga in Italy. She was a 1986-87 member of Cincinnati Opera's Young American Artists Program and has made frequent appearances in stage reviews at Cincinnati's Forest View Gardens Dinner Theatre.

Adams is head of the vocal performance area and a member of the voice faculty at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. He is widely respected for both his operatic and oratorio performances and sings the difficult Evangelist roles when the Bach Society performs the "St. John" and "St. Matthew Passions."

Caldwell, featured baritone, is head of the voice and choral programs at Central State University, and is a member and frequent soloist with the Bach Society. Sherwood is a former member and assistant conductor of the Vocal Arts Ensemble in Cincinnati as well as a private voice teacher.

The concert is underwritten by a grant from the Iddings Foundation. The Dayton Bach Society is a member of the Dayton Performing Arts Fund, and also receives support from the Ohio Arts Council.

Next season's performances by the Bach Society will include a program of Venetian polychoral music and a newly commissioned work by area composer Douglas McConnell; several performances at Christmas, including the annual "Messiah" sing-in; a program of music for chamber chorus; several Bach cantatas; and a concert version of parts two and three of Handel's "Messiah." Season tickets for next year may be ordered by calling (513) 254-4303.