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Dayton Bach Society to Present First concert of the 1977-78 Season

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DAYTON, Ohio, September 30, 1977 --- The Dayton Bach Society will present its first concert of the 1977-78 season on Sunday, October 30, at 4:00 p.m. at Holy Angels Catholic Church, Brown and K Streets. The concert will feature Cantatas 104 and 131 of J.S. Bach, and six motets for mixed chorus of Anton Bruckner. Tickets are available through the University of Dayton Music Department, and will also be available at the door.

Soloists in the concert will be Ray Landis and Gary Taggart, baritones, and Glen Guiler, tenor. The chamber orchestra and chorus will be conducted by Richard Benedum, also a member of the University of Dayton music faculty.

Both the Bach cantatas are musical settings of psalms, according to Benedum. "Cantata 131 is a line-by-line paraphrase of Psalm 130; it also happens to be the earliest cantata in existence from Bach's pen, dating from 1706 to 1707." If other cantatas predate this one, they have been lost during the intervening years. "In several ways this is an unusual piece, not typical of the majority of Bach's later works," Benedum continued. "It features the full chorus much more extensively, and also runs together sections that would be individual movements in later cantatas or oratorios. The most amazing thing to me, however, is the beauty of the piece; for being presumably Bach's first cantata, there is not a single trace of anything less than compositional mastery." Cantata 104, also on the program, is a paraphrase of Psalm 23; throughout the work pastoral and shepherd-like imagery abound.

"The six motets of Bruckner," said Benedum, "are as different from the clean counterpoint of the Bach cantatas as night is from day. They are filled with the lush harmonies, chromatic movement, and full, majestic textures typical of other late Romantic composers. One cannot help but be swept away by their grandeur."

Other programs in the season for the Bach Society include a February 26 offering of Bach cantatas and motets by the contemporary German Hugo Distler; an April 16 program of Baroque vocal and instrumental chamber music; and a May 7 concert featuring a Bach solo cantata and the Mozart "Requiem."