



BACH SOCIETY OF DAYTON

BACH SOCIETY OF DAYTON DELIGHTS AUDIENCES WITH COLLABORATIONS

The Bach Society of Dayton has been around in its current form since 2002. The choral group has 70 volunteer singers.

BY HANNAH POTURALSKI | HPOTURALSKI@BIZJOURNALS.COM

A Dayton musical arts organization is growing its membership and reaching new and younger audiences. ¶ The Bach Society of Dayton also continues the region's collaborative spirit, partnering with more than half a dozen other organizations to delight audiences. ¶ The Bach Society has been around in its current form since 2002. The choral group features around 70 all-volunteer singers. The group is led by music director David Crean and board president Steve Makovec.



David Crean, music director of the Bach Society of Dayton.

The group has many local collaborations to include dancers, orchestra, pianists or other organ accompaniment.

"We pride ourselves in collaboration," Makovec said. "It's a delight from the audience perspective."

Partner organizations include Dayton Contemporary Dance Co., Central State, University of Dayton, Gem City Ballet, Human Race Theatre and Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. Crean said the group also pays for soloists and musicians to join that have skills outside of the choral group.

"There is a spirit of collaboration that permeates Dayton," Crean said.

The group also has a long-standing tradition for its December holiday show to showcase singers from the Kettering Children's Choir. Last May, it was also joined by students from Stivers School for the Arts.

The Bach Society holds its performances at Kettering Adventist Church.

"It's a purpose-filled facility with music in mind," Makovec said. "One of their central ministries is music."

The group also continues to maintain a live stream online of all its performances — something that began during Covid-19 and

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◀ BACH SOCIETY OF DAYTON

Office address: 126 N. Main St., Suite 210, Dayton

Founded: 2002

Operating budget: \$140,000

Employees: 3 contract employees

Volunteers: 70

Attendees: 1,300

2023-24 season shows: October, December, March and May

2023-24 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

OCT. 22, 4 P.M.

Songs of Ecstatic Praise (An afternoon of exaltation with J.S. Bach, Benjamin Britten, John Rutter, featuring the Oakwood Brass.)

DEC. 3, 4 P.M.

Sweet Sounds of the Holidays (Bells ringing, children singing and an invitation to raise your voice with the Bach Society, featuring Kettering Children's Choir and Kettering Advent Ringers.)

MARCH 3, 2024, 4 P.M.

Along the Silk Road (Music from one of the most influential commerce routes in history, featuring Turkish soloist Latif Bolat; Armenian composer Vahram Sargsyan; the UD World Music Choir and UD Gamelan Percussion Ensemble; and two young composers.)

MAY 12, 2024, 4 P.M.

Mozart's Mass in C Minor (A revered, sacred masterpiece and quintessential Classical Period work.)

has been successful.

"We went 18 months with no concerts; we asked are we going to come back from this?" Makovec said, who's been with the group over 20 years.

Crean said all of the Bach Society's 70 singers are volunteers who auditioned.

"We're an amateur chorus that aspires to professionalism," Crean said. "We provide ourselves at performing at a professional level."

Makovec said since the pandemic, the audience levels have returned 75%.

"We have plenty of room to grow," he said. "For some we're a hidden gem and we'd like to be less hidden."

The Bach Society is prioritizing reaching new and younger audiences, finding young

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



HANNAH POTURALSKI | DBJ

TECHNOLOGY-INSPIRED MURAL DEBUTS IN DOWNTOWN

BY HANNAH POTURALSKI
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A new mural with a zany scientific twist is taking on life in one of downtown Dayton's largest office towers.

The theme is Imagination, Inspiration and Innovation for a new technology-inspired mural inside Stratacache Tower.

"Most of the time people know exactly what they want," said artist Erica Arndts who was commissioned for the piece. "Sometimes I can give creative input."

But for Stratacache CEO Chris Riegel he knew exactly what he had in mind for the tech-inspired mural. The software company is a global name in digital signage.

In chronological order from left, the mural features famous tech inventors from around the world. These include Thomas Edison (light bulb); Nikola Tesla (alternating current electricity); Philo Farnsworth (television); Norman Borlaug (industrial wheat); William Shockley (transistor); Roger Easton (GPS) and Vinton Cerf and Robert Kahn (internet).

The mural finishes with motifs of robots, spaceships and satellites to indicate "where we're going," Arndts said.

"It's been a great history lesson for me," Arndts said.

The mural also includes a series of books by authors including Ayn Rand, George Orwell, Carl Sagan, H.G. Wells and others. The books are mostly science-fiction related and depict future worlds that the 21st century has nearly reached - such as flying cars.

Arndts, 38, a fine artist and muralist, is originally from Centerville. She's lived all over from California, Georgia, Mexico and Florida.

"I have so much work here," Arndts said, who plans to move back to the Dayton region. "Six-plus months a year I'm in Dayton for work."

Arndts, who has a past career in fashion designing, has been into painting and drawing since she was a child.

She recently completed a private Snoopy mural for a couple in Vandalia. She also completed a Christ-centered mural for Good Shepherd Ministries in Dayton.

"It makes buildings more intriguing to look at," Arndts said.

Work on the lobby mural in Stratacache Tower began Sept. 8 and was completed in a matter of weeks. This is her third mural on Dayton's largest office tower, with more projects to come.

▲ A new technology-inspired mural in the lobby of Stratacache Tower by artist Erica Arndts.



Erica Arndts, artist and muralist.



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RoseMusicCenter.com

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- Children's Activities
- Pet Adoptions
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- & MORE!

2PM - 6PM CAR SHOW

7PM MOVIE Raiders Of The Lost Ark, PG

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ARTS & CULTURE

Monthly section about Dayton arts and entertainment scene.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

members, marketing more and spreading the word on social media.

"I'd like to see us more physically present at community events," Crean said. "We're in Kettering and the south area. I'd love for us to make inroads in northwest Dayton and Troy."

The Bach Society strives to provide an approachable and family-friendly environment, especially for those who are new to classical music and choral music. Most Bach Society events include a pre-concert talk with experts explaining the works.

"We're pretty firmly in the classical repertoire," Crean said. "In the last couple years we've been purposeful to do new original works where young composers create the music."

To help with this, the Bach Society hosts an annual Young Composers Competition. Two winners will be featured in the March 2024 show. Submissions are due by Nov. 1.

"Part of our mission is to nurture the next generation of choral singing," Makovec said. "It's a purposeful decision on our part."



Steve Makovec, president of the board of directors for Bach Society of Dayton.

► A past *Love in Bloom* show by Bach Society of Dayton featuring soprano soloist Ryu-Kyung Kim.



BACH SOCIETY OF DAYTON

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