



CAPELLA REGALIS MEN AND BOYS CHOIR



J.S. Bach

BWV 4 EASTER CANTATA

DIRECTED BY

Nick Halley

FEATURING

*Ensemble Regale
chamber orchestra*

FREE YOUTUBE BROADCAST

*Saturday, May 1, 2021
at 12:00 noon*

[YOUTUBE.COM/CAPELLAREGALIS](https://www.youtube.com/capellaregalis)



CAPELLA REGALIS MEN AND BOYS CHOIR

May 1, 2021

Dear Friends,

Two days before we went back into the recent lockdown here in Nova Scotia, the boys and men and members of Ensemble Regale were welcomed into Saint Mary's Basilica to record and film J.S. Bach's Easter Cantata, *Christ lag in Todesbanden*. We recorded the whole thing, the boys singing it entirely from memory (all in German) "live off the floor", in complete takes, so as to minimize the editing/mixing process.

It is a little miracle that we got this project in the can just before the latest Covid restrictions were put in place. But even before the lockdown became a likelihood, I was struck by the sense that we all, singers and players alike, felt extremely lucky recording music like this in the first place. I was impressed by the professional players' gratitude for the opportunity to dig into some serious Bach, especially with the young folk in the choir. Each and every one of them mentioned how much they enjoyed making music of this calibre with the boys *and* the men, young and old.

For me, watching all those characters singing away, from the six-year-old probationer to the septuagenarian in the back row, I feel quite a tug on my heart strings, and I'm pretty sure you will too. I am particularly moved by our 'young men', ages 13 – 19, who started in *Capella Regalis* as probationers, rose through the ranks to become senior boys, and when their voices changed joined the alto, tenor or bass sections. I have to say, these guys improve with age! They are real gentlemen who just get kinder, funnier, and more thoughtful the older they get. I'd like to take some credit for this, but it's in fact the nature of the choir to foster a culture of deep attentiveness to the music, and therefore to each other, and ultimately to the larger community.

The young men now outnumber the 'old' men. They look around and see where they've come from. They look around some more and see where they are going. They gain a sense of where they are and who they are. They feel part of a rather exuberant family. They have demonstrated extraordinary commitment through many years, and now they are inspiring others to do the same.

I hear from folks who despair about the future, who worry about a society comprising a generation fixated on social media. I do think a little social media goes a long way, but I'm also certain that the world is filled with vastly more interesting and enlivening possibilities. Our young people only need to be exposed to such possibilities. Offer them something much more powerful. Offer them Bach!

One of the comments on our YouTube channel this season came from a lay clerk (professional singer) at an English cathedral. He writes,

“It's hard to believe the choir didn't exist ten years ago! It's clear that a lot of time and effort has gone into this choir. The trebles have a quality that's rare these days.”

Well, *Capella Regalis* is actually in its eleventh year, but his point is still valid. And in spite of all the challenges that Covid sent our way during our eleventh year, we managed to keep up a reasonably regular rehearsal schedule (thanks to the arts space at St Andrew's United Church in Halifax), we accepted six new probationers into the program, and produced two new recordings. With no ticket income flowing into the coffers, we have spent our Covid year investing in the future. I am persuaded more than ever that *Capella Regalis* is here to stay; that it will continue to shape the lives of its members; and that it will continue to bring hope and joy to countless people throughout Nova Scotia and much further afield, for years to come.

It is thanks to you, our friends and supporters, that we are able not just to weather this storm but to plan and build for the next stage in the unfolding story of *Capella Regalis*. Your generosity makes such planning possible. It reinforces our hope and strengthens our resolve.



Nick Halley
Artistic Director

Capella Regalis is an educational outreach program of Musique Royale, a Canadian charity. The choir is a free program open to any boy who passes a basic audition. The choir relies on donations from individuals to maintain and grow its program. **There are many options to make a financial contribution to *Capella Regalis* and receive a tax receipt:**

1. Mail a cheque. **Cheques should be made payable to Musique Royale**, with ‘Capella Regalis’ in the memo line. Our mailing address is:
Capella Regalis
6350 Coburg Road
Halifax, NS B3H 2A1 Canada
2. Visit the ‘Contribute’ page on our website (capellaregalis.com/contribute) and follow the links to make an online payment by credit card or e-transfer. Both options will lead you to Musique Royale, so **please be sure to include a note that your donation is for Capella Regalis.**

CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN (BWV #4)
by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

I Sinfonia

II Verse One – Chorale

Christ lag in Todesbanden
Für unsre Sünd gegeben,
Er ist wieder erstanden
Und hat uns bracht das Leben;
Des wir sollen fröhlich sein,
Gott loben und ihm dankbar sein
Und singen halleluja,
Halleluja!

*Christ lay in death's bonds
given over for our sins,
He has risen again
and brought us life;
therefore we should be joyful,
praise God and be thankful to Him
and sing Hallelujah,
Hallelujah!*

III Verse Two – Sopranos & Altos

Den Tod niemand zwingen kunnt
Bei allen Menschenkindern,
Das macht' alles unsre Sünd,
Kein Unschuld war zu finden.
Davon kam der Tod so bald
Und nahm über uns Gewalt,
Hielt uns in seinem Reich gefangen.
Halleluja!

*No one could defeat death
among all humanity,
this was all because of our sins,
no innocence was to be found.
Therefore death came so soon
and took power over us,
held us captive in his kingdom.
Hallelujah!*

IV Verse Three – Tenors

Jesus Christus, Gottes Sohn,
An unser Statt ist kommen
Und hat die Sünde weggetan,
Damit dem Tod genommen
All sein Recht und sein Gewalt,
Da bleibet nichts denn Tods Gestalt,
Den Stach'l hat er verloren.
Halleluja!

*Jesus Christ, God's son,
has come in our place,
and has done away with sin,
thereby taking from death
all his rights and power,
nothing remains but death's form;
he has lost his sting.
Hallelujah!*

(cont. next page)

V Verse Four – Chorale

Es war ein wunderlicher Krieg,
Da Tod und Leben rungen,
Das Leben behielt den Sieg,
Es hat den Tod verschlungen.
Die Schrift hat verkündigt das,
Wie ein Tod den andern fraß,
Ein Spott aus dem Tod ist worden.
Halleluja!

*It was a strange battle,
that death and life waged,
life claimed the victory,
it devoured death.
The scripture had prophesied this,
how one death gobbled up the other,
a mockery has been made out of death.
Hallelujah!*

VI Verse Five – Basses

Hier ist das rechte Osterlamm,
Davon Gott hat geboten,
Das ist hoch an des Kreuzes Stamm
In heißer Lieb gebraten,
Das Blut zeichnet unsre Tür,
Das hält der Glaub dem Tode für,
Der Würger kann uns nicht mehr
schaden. Halleluja!

*Here is the true Easter-lamb,
offered up by God,
which was, high on the cross' stalk
roasted in hot love,
the blood marks our door,
faith holds it against death,
the strangler can no longer harm us.
Hallelujah!*

VII Verse Six – Sopranos & Tenors

So feiern wir das hohe Fest
Mit Herzensfreud und Wonne,
Das uns der Herre scheinen läßt,
Er ist selber die Sonne,
Der durch seiner Gnade Glanz
Erleuchtet unsre Herzen ganz,
Der Sünden Nacht ist verschwunden.
Halleluja!

*So we celebrate the high festival
with joy of heart and delight,
which the Lord radiates upon us,
He himself is the sun,
that through the splendor of his grace
illuminates our hearts completely,
the night of sin has disappeared.
Hallelujah!*

VIII Verse Seven – Chorale

Wir essen und leben wohl
In rechten Osterfladen,
Der alte Sauerteig nicht soll
Sein bei dem Wort der Gnaden,
Christus will die Koste sein
Und speisen die Seel allein,
Der Glaub will keins andern leben.
Halleluja!

*We eat and live well
on the true Easter bread,
the old leaven shall not
exist next to the word of grace,
Christ will be our food
and nourish the soul alone,
faith will live in no other way.
Hallelujah!*

Source: "Christ lag in Todesbanden" Hymn, Martin Luther, 1524, trans. Pamela Dellal

PERFORMERS

Nick Halley, Director

Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir

SENIOR CHOIR BOYS

Sergio Astan, *senior chorister*
Wyn Burkhart, *senior chorister*
Donald Edwin Gibson, *junior chorister*
Owen Landry, *regular chorister*
Augustin Timo Monge, *senior chorister*
Daniel Sneddon, *senior chorister*
Lucas Tang, *junior chorister*

PROBATIONERS PROGRAM

Gerasimos Delorey
Niko Delorey
Gavin Hilchey
Lochlan Sachdev
Jonah Sneddon
Derek Tang

Ensemble Regale

VIOLIN I

Kirsty Money, *concertmaster*
Karen Langille
Charna Matsushige

VIOLIN II

Jennifer Jones
Anne Simons

MEN (* = former boy chorister)

ALTOS

Scott Beard
Peter Dietz*
Hendrik Fisher
Chase MacIntyre*

TENORS

Paul Rogers
Samuel Swain*
Luc Therien*
Jamie Whitley
Peter Wilkinson
Atticus North Wright*

BASSES

Simon Blake
Shaylan Burkhart
Dylan Chang*
Carter McElman*
Gabriel O'Brien*
Sean Sneddon*

VIOLA

Étienne Chénard
Alex Bates

CELLO

Hilary Brown

BASS

Max Kasper

CONTINUO ORGAN

Paul Halley

CAPELLA REGALIS MEN & BOYS CHOIR ADMINISTRATION

Nick Halley, *artistic director*

Gabriel O'Brien, *assistant artistic director*

Paul Halley, *accompanist & musical mentor*

Dominique Saulnier, *special assistant to the probationers program*

Vanessa Halley, *managing director*

Hannah Griffin, *assistant managing director*

Barbara Butler, *board chair*

RECORDING CREDITS

This performance was audio- and video-recorded on April 20, 2021 in Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada for presentation on the Capella Regalis website and YouTube channel.

Audio recording, mixing & mastering by John D. S. Adams / Stonehouse Sound.

Audio production by John D. S. Adams, Nick Halley, Paul Halley, and Vanessa Halley.

Video recording & editing by Picnic Studios: Eliote Schuler & Justin Pickens.

Video production by Nick Halley, Vanessa Halley, and Picnic Studios.

Production assistance by John D. S. Adams and Glenn Patscha.

Poster & program cover graphic design by Co. & Co.

Still photography by Béatrice Schuler.

Stage crew: Andrew Beninger & Simon Blake.

THANK YOU

To Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica, Very Rev. Paul A. Morris (Rector), Joanne Wanamaker (Assistant to the Rector), and John Simpson (Sacristan) for their warm welcome and support of this project.

To Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer of Health, and his office.

To All the donors who have supported Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir during this challenging 2020–21 season.

We acknowledge with gratitude the support of Arts Nova Scotia for this project.



PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir, founded in Nova Scotia by Nick Halley in 2010, aims to build upon the best aspects of the European cathedral choral tradition and to revitalize this method of music training in Canada. The choir is free and open to any boy who passes a basic audition. The choir regularly sings Evensongs in the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax, as part of the Cathedral's "Sundays at Four" series. In addition, the choir performs concerts throughout Nova Scotia and beyond in a busy September – June season. The choir has released three CDs (2019, 2017 & 2014), completed four tours of Nova Scotia from Yarmouth to Glace Bay as well as a tour of Prince Edward Island, performed at the invitation of the Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia, sung on prime time radio for CBC programs, and has collaborated with and received performance invitations from musicians and presenting organizations across Canada. In addition to services and concerts, the boys of Capella Regalis enjoy a summer choir camp in the last week of August and other enriching outings and experiences.

Capella Regalis is a registered Nova Scotia non-profit society and an educational outreach program of Musique Royale, a music presenting charity in Nova Scotia. For the choir's schedule of events and more information, visit www.capellaregalis.com.

Nick Halley is a drummer, keyboardist, composer, and conductor. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir. He is the founder and Director of The King's Chorus, a choral society for members of the King's and Dalhousie University communities in Halifax. Nick is also the Assistant Director of the acclaimed University of King's College Chapel Choir directed by his father, Paul Halley, and Assistant Director of Music at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax.

In 2012, Nick was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contribution to Canada and Nova Scotia through the arts, particularly for his work with Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir. Nick was the Host of the CBC's national program *Choral Concert* in 2013-14.

As a drummer and world percussionist, Nick performs and records internationally with a wide range of musicians including American musical icon James Taylor, the late Oscar Castro-Neves, Dinuk Wijeratne, Sandeep Das, Chris Norman, Old Man Luedecke, Suzie LeBlanc, Paul Halley, and Viradouro Escola de Samba. He has taught at Boxwood Festival, Aldeburgh Festival, Interlochen Summer Festival, LAMP, and in other workshop venues around the world. For more information, visit www.nickhalley.com.

Paul Halley is a Grammy Award-winning composer, choral conductor, and organist. He is Director of Music of The University of King's College Chapel Choir and of The Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A recording of recent choral works by Paul Halley, entitled *In The Wide Awe And Wisdom*, was released in the fall of 2017 on the Pelagosmusic label: www.pelagosmusic.com.

Born in England, Paul Halley was raised in Ottawa, Canada where he received his early musical training as a chorister and assistant organist with The Men and Boys Choir of St. Matthew's Anglican Church. At age sixteen, he was made an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. Awarded the organ scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, Halley received his M.A. with prizes in composition and performance, and was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, winning first

prize in the College examinations. Following four years post-graduate work as a church musician and teacher in Montreal, QC, Jamaica, W.I., and Victoria, BC, Halley was appointed Organist and Choirmaster at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City where he served for twelve years from 1977-1989. During his tenure at the Cathedral, Halley collaborated with The Paul Winter Consort, contributing as principal writer and keyboardist on multiple Grammy Award-winning albums released in the 1980's and 1990's.

Following his departure from the Cathedral in 1989, Halley settled in rural Connecticut and founded the children's choir, *Chorus Angelicus*, and the adult ensemble, *Gaudeamus*. In 1999, Halley became Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington, CT where he inaugurated a Choral and Organ Scholars program in conjunction with Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music. In 2007, Halley relocated to Halifax, Nova Scotia to become Director of Music at both the University of King's College, and St. George's Anglican Church (to 2011), as well as University Musician at Atlantic School of Theology (to 2015). In 2015 Halley became Director of Music at The Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax.

Halley's choral and instrumental compositions are distributed internationally by Pelagos Incorporated (www.pelagosmusic.com), the recording, music publishing, and arts management company which he established with his wife, Meg Race in 1998. Halley's compositions have been commissioned or licensed by such organizations as Sony Entertainment, John Williams and the Boston Pops Orchestra, CBC, The Toronto Symphony, and Canadian Brass. In addition to a regular output of liturgical music, Halley composes three to four new, commissioned works per year.

Kirsty Money is a multi-instrumentalist originally from Victoria BC, living in Halifax NS. She is a first violinist with Symphony Nova Scotia, as well as a Baroque violinist/violist and nyckelharapist. She holds three performance degrees: Licentiate from the Royal Schools of Music (UK), BMus (McGill University) and MMus (University of Western Ontario). Her interest in different styles of music has led her to collaborate with numerous artists from Canada, the US, the UK and Scandinavia. She has collaborated with Paul and Nick Halley and their choirs in various capacities for more than ten years.

To learn more about the choir and help make future performances possible, please visit
www.capellaregalis.com

