"BACH TO SCHOOL"
Elementary School Lesson Plan
(Grades 3 – 6)

I. Introduction - Represent Bach Choir of Bethlehem

A. Historical data on Choir (in teaching packet)

1. When founded – 1898
2. Commitment to Bach's music over 100 years; Centennial in 1998
3. Commitment to high musical standards
4. Community choir – number of directors – 6

B. Present day data

1. Size – 95

2. Types of people who sing in choir (all volunteers, all walks of life): music teachers, ministers, piano teachers, business men & women, school principals, engineers, nurses, moms & dads, computer designers

3. Concert traditions in Bethlehem (use concert programs)

a. May Festival
b. Christmas concerts
c. Spring concert
d. Family Concert
e. Bach at Noon

4. Recordings – listened to worldwide – Many CDs: recorded a children's Christmas CD this past June

5. Use excerpts from Mr. Bach Comes to Call or the CD Bach - Life & Works by Will Wagner

II. Who is Johann Sebastian Bach?

A. Picture from Poster or the Student Booklet

1. Discuss appearance – intensity, wig
2. 1685-1750
3. Pennsylvania was founded in 1689, Bethlehem in 1742

B. Use timeline (see booklet)

1. All music was copied by hand – family job
2. As data is read on each year of timeline – students figure out his age and add one key word to the specific year

1685 - Born – in Eisenach, Germany

1695 – Orphan – both parents had died by the time he was 10; lived with older brothers and learned to play the organ, violin, harpsichord as well as to sing

1700 - Student– studied music at St. Michael's School in Germany

1703 – Organist, took a job as organist and choirmaster at Arnstadt

1705 – Nannygoat – called some of his students that because they weren't very good; he walked 260 miles just to hear a concert

1707 – Married Maria– had 7 children before she died 13 years later

1708 – Duke - **–** worked for the Duke of Weimar as a court musician **–** he had to compose music for all the parties and grand occasions; wrote Toccata in D (play excerpt from Phantom of the Opera); started to become famous

1714 – Director **–** became the director of the Duke's orchestra **–**had to compose one cantata per month (explain what a cantata is **–** listen to excerpt of your choice)

1717 – Wins hands down – wins a big harpsichord contest **–** other guy "chickens out" when he hears JSB practicing; **Prince -** JSB gets thrown in jail by the Duke because he wants to go to work for the Prince; composed all of the Brandenburg Concertos for the Prince (play excerpt)

1720 – Widower - Maria dies **–** 7 children **–** ages 1 to 12; he was away, came back for funeral, but she was already buried (no phones!)

1721 – Marries Anna– they had 13 children! 7 + 13 = 20 children **–** Bach had 20 children, 11 died as babies, no hospitals or medicine, no shots or vaccines

1723 – Cantor – moves to Leipzig to take a job at a big church; stayed there until he died. Bach composed one cantata per week; had to take care of the boys at school, began to lose his sight towards the end of his life (play excerpt Gloria from the Mass)

1750 – Died – operation on eyes failed **–** died from infection; three of his sons became composers and musicians; his wife was left poor and died in poverty 1830 **1830– 80 years later –** Mendelssohn rediscovered Bach's music and Bach became very famous

Closing:
Review his life
Discuss the excerpts used
Discuss concert manners from the insert in the student brochure
Discuss the student brochure: Choir Logo - window from Packer Chapel at Lehigh University; his portrait - can be colored; the Wordsearch
Discuss the upcoming Bach to School concerts
Discuss the free ticket opportunity - all students will receive a postcard with information about free tickets; encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity

Revised: Aug 2013