



Pennsylvania  
Historical & Museum  
Commission

## Ephrata Cloister

632 West Main Street  
Ephrata, Pennsylvania 17522  
(717) 733-6600

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Contact:

Michael Showalter  
Phone: (717) 733-6600  
Email: [RA-EphrataCloister@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EphrataCloister@pa.gov)

## Rare Musical Performance

### Ephrata Cloister Chorus Presents Their Spring Concert on May 20

EPHRATA, PA. – The harmony of the voices of the Ephrata Cloister Chorus filled the 1741 meeting house of the Historic Ephrata Cloister, 632 West Main Street, Ephrata, during their first concert of the season on Saturday, May 12. The chorus plans to give an encore performance at the Bangor Episcopal Church, Churchtown, PA on Sunday, May 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Under the direction of Dr. Daryl Hollinger, the Ephrata Cloister Chorus performs original music composed by former celibate members of the Cloister along with other early American music. For this concert the chorus will feature a rarely performed selection titled *Missa Octava* by Renaissance composer Hans Leo Hassler, as well as premier the spiritual *Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land*, arranged by Dr. Hollinger.

The all-volunteer chorus, an educational program supported by the Ephrata Cloister Associates, will split into a double choir for the concert; one choir responding to the other. “This double choir emulates the choir style of the late Renaissance period that Hans Leo Hassler would be familiar with,” explains Dr. Hollinger.

“Many German composers began to emulate this style of writing for separated choirs. Certainly this heritage was known among the musicians in the Moravian and Ephrata communities. The unique Ephrata piece, *Singet dem Herrn* based on Psalm 98, is also written in the separated choir style.”

A free-will offering will be collected at the concert; suggested donation is \$10.00 to \$15.00 per person.

To take a piece of history home with you, make sure to stop at the Museum Store at the Ephrata Cloister, 632 West Main Street, Ephrata, where the chorus sells a selection of their CDs. Their soon-to-be released third CD titled *The Song of the Turtle Dove: A Celebration of America's Musical Heritage*, will be available in the coming weeks.

For more information about this and other upcoming events through the Historic Ephrata Cloister, please visit their website at [www.EphrataCloister.org](http://www.EphrataCloister.org) or find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HistoricEphrataCloister](http://www.facebook.com/HistoricEphrataCloister).

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**Caption:** The Ephrata Cloister Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Daryl Hollinger, performs music once composed at the Historic Ephrata Cloister, along with selections of other early American music. (Photograph Courtesy of Dennis Studio, Denver, PA)