

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE ANNOUNCES 2018–2019 SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT SEASON

Subscription tickets available August 1, 2018

(Baltimore, MD) Handel Choir celebrates transcendence in music during the 2018-19 season, under the leadership of their newly appointed Artistic Director and Conductor Brian Bartoldus. The three-concert subscription series includes works by Bach and Handel, Britten's enchanting cantata *Rejoice in the Lamb*, as well as one of Sir John Tavener's final works. The season will also include the Choir's 84th annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah: An Oratorio*.

"I'm overjoyed to be working with musicians of such passion, skill and dedication," said Bartoldus. "So much of our programming this year focuses on lifting us above our everyday lives. I trust the Handel Choir and our collaborators will not only rise to perform these works with integrity, but also connect with audience members in a way that will not soon be forgotten."

Handel Choir performs *Messiah* with a period instrument orchestra at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 15, 2018, and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at Grace United Methodist Church in the Homeland neighborhood of Baltimore and at St Mark Catholic Church in Catonsville, respectively. Noted among the acclaimed soloists is soprano Sherezade Panthaki, praised for her "full, luxuriously toned upper register" (*Los Angeles Times*) and "mining deep emotion from the subtle shaping of lines" (*The New York Times*).

On March 10, 2019, Peabody organist Jeremy Filsell joins the Handel Choir for *Heav'nly Harmony*, a tribute to the splendor of English verse. At the program's core is Richard Rodney Bennett's *The Glory and the Dream*, a virtuosic setting for organ and choir of Wordsworth's *Intimations of Immortality*. Other highlights include classics of the British choral repertoire, including Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, as well as lesser-known works, such as Handel's first version of *As Pants the Hart*.

*Lux Aeterna*, Handel Choir's final subscription concert, presents diverse views of the metaphysical. J.S. Bach's *Christ lag in Todesbanden* tells of a grand battle between life and death, while Tawnie Olson's *Incantation* is a postmodern benediction informed by the folk imagery of her native Canada. The second half of the program features the music of John Tavener, including *Song for Athene*, famed for its performance at Princess Diana's funeral. The funeral anthem sets the tone for *Requiem Fragments*, heralded by *The Telegraph* as "the composer's late masterpiece" and praised by *The Guardian* as reaching "a level of sheer sonic beauty rarely achieved in contemporary music." This deeply intimate work blends excerpts of Christian and Hindu prayers, spread over three choruses, into one comforting whole.

A pre-concert lecture takes place one hour before each subscription concert and is open to all ticket-holders.

Season subscriptions will be available August 1, 2018: **\$110** for premium seating (front rows or center front rows of the venue) and **\$85** for standard seating. Full-time students with I.D. are invited to subscribe for \$25.

Subscription Concert Season details are below. Contact Managing Director Cynthia Bell for high-resolution photos or other information/materials, at [cbell@handelchoir.org](mailto:cbell@handelchoir.org) or 667.206.4120.

## **2018-2019 SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT SEASON**

### **Handel *Messiah***

7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 15, 2018

Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles Street, Baltimore 21212

3:00 p.m., Sunday, December 16, 2018

Saint Mark Catholic Church, 30 Melvin Avenue, Catonsville 21228

The baroque master's beloved oratorio – our 84th year!  
Handel Choir and Handel Period Instrument Orchestra  
Sherezade Panthaki *soprano*  
Mikah Meyer *countertenor*  
Allan Palacios Chan *tenor*  
Phillip Collister *bass*  
Brian Bartoldus *conductor*

\$47/\$37/\$10 student with ID

Reduced ticket price available with a season subscription.

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### **Heav'nly Harmony**

4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 10, 2019

The Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N. Charles Street, Baltimore 21210

Handel Choir and organist Jeremy Filsell celebrate English poets and the music that brings their deft and subtle verse to life! Highlights include Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Handel's first setting of Psalm 42.

PANUFNIK Heav'nly Harmony  
BENNETT The Glory and the Dream  
FINZI My Spirit Sang All Day  
STANFORD The Blue Bird  
HANDEL As Pants the Hart (HWV 251a)

BRITTEN Rejoice in the Lamb  
PARRY Blest Pair of Sirens  
Handel Choir of Baltimore  
Jeremy Filsell *organ*  
Brian Bartoldus *conductor*

\$37/\$27/\$10 student with ID  
Reduced ticket price available with a season subscription.

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### **Lux Aeterna: Songs of Comfort and Hope**

4:00 p.m., Sunday April 28, 2019  
The Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N. Charles Street, Baltimore 21210

Our spring concert offers diverse meditations on the immortal. Life and death battle in J.S. Bach's Easter cantata, while Sir John Tavener's posthumous masterwork Requiem Fragments offers a luminous vision of the afterlife.

BRUCKNER Os justi  
OLSON Incantation  
BACH Christ lag in Todesbanden (BWV 4)  
TAVENER Song for Athene  
TAVENER Requiem Fragments  
PARKER Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal  
Handel Choir of Baltimore and guest artists  
Brian Bartoldus *conductor*

\$42/\$32/\$10 student with ID  
Reduced ticket price available with a season subscription.

To subscribe by phone, call 667.206.4120. Go to [www.handelchoir.org](http://www.handelchoir.org) for a printable mail-in order form which will be available August 1, 2018.

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