

BALTIMORE BETTER *together*

*A Season of
Collaboration*
2023-2024

IGNITE THE
HORIZON!

MESSIAH

MADE IN
BALTIMORE, TOO

FROM BAROQUE TO BARNES

THE
HANDEL CHOIR
of BALTIMORE



Brian Bartoldus
Artistic Director

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of Baltimore.*



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HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE

2023-2024 SEASON

Brian Bartoldus *Artistic Director and Conductor*

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WELCOME!



If there is one thing choral singers can agree on, it's that music is better when made with friends. This spirit of collaboration drives our '23/'24 season: **Baltimore, Better Together**. Handel Choir is joining forces with some of the most talented musicians in our community to share the beauty of choral singing throughout our region. And, with a newly expanded four concert season, plus an appearance with the BSO, there are even more opportunities to hear our singers' melodious strains!

Our season curtain rises with **Ignite the Horizon!** – its title drawn from Lili Boulanger's fiery paean to the sun, *Hymne au Soleil*. Moving works by Janaček and Hailstork wed millenia-old prayers to Czech and Black American folk music, casting the spiritual in a deeply personal light. Handel Choir is thrilled to share the stage with Maryland State Boychoir and lauded Baltimore artists Devin Mercer and Eric Conway for this journey of hope, longing, and triumph.

Come revel in Handel's glorious music performed on Baroque instruments during our **Period-Perfect Messiah**. Our full vocal and orchestral forces will play old favorites and lesser-known gems, and of course your yearly dose of the Hallelujah Chorus. It's a perfect way to kick off the holiday season!

Need more Handelian cheer to keep away the winter chill? Handel Choir returns to the Meyerhoff this December for Baroque Christmas with the BSO. Conductor Patrick Quigley of Seraphic Fire fame will lead music that stirs the soul and pleases the heart.

Our love for Charm City is on full display in **Made in Baltimore, Too**, Handel Choir's celebration of the poets, composers, and musicians that make Baltimore great. Steinway artist and BSO pianist Lura Johnson exhibits her virtuosic artistry in works by Liszt and Grieg, as well as new work for chorus and piano by prize-winning composer Daniel Sabzghabaei.

The music of Bach and Handel provided crucial inspiration to Mozart, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Stravinsky—to name only a few! This May, Handel Choir teams up with vocal ensemble Third Practice to further this tradition of Baroque reimagining in **From Baroque to Barnes**. This program spotlights the Baroque's unique approach to stirring the passions, and how it sparked the creative imagination of Jasmine Barnes for her newest cantata.

To all the patrons, donors, and musicians who are so essential to our vocal artistry, thank you – we are so privileged to share our time and talents in this wonderful city we call home!

Brian Bartoldus
Artistic Director



**48th SEASON
2023-2024**

CONCERTS:

Sundays at 3:30 pm
Pre-concert talks at 2:30 pm

Grace Methodist Church
5407 N Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21210

**October 1
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**February 25
SuperBach Sunday**

**April 7
The French Connection**

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ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP



BRIAN BARTOLDUS

Brian Bartoldus has served as Artistic Director of Handel Choir of Baltimore since 2017. Active in the Baltimore/ Washington area for many years, he earned his DMA in choral conducting from the Yale School of Music, studying with Marguerite Brooks, Jeffrey Douma, and Simon Carrington. He studied composition, organ, and conducting at Shenandoah University, where his primary teachers included William Averitt, Steven Cooksey, and Robert Shafer. A skilled organist, Brian has been a featured soloist with the Frederick Symphony Orchestra and the Mount St. Mary's Camerata. He serves as the Music Director and Organist of Frederick Presbyterian Church, and is the Artistic Director Emeritus of the professional vocal ensemble Third Practice.



THOMAS HETRICK

Associate Conductor and Accompanist Thomas Hetrick has been keyboard specialist for Handel Choir of Baltimore since 1987, accompanying choral rehearsals and solo coachings, as well as playing continuo organ and harpsichord in performances. He earned a Master of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore in 1977 and has since distinguished himself in the Washington-Baltimore region as an organist, harpsichordist, pianist, conductor and vocal coach. He accompanies and coaches singers in opera and oratorio repertoire throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Currently, Tom is Organist/Choirmaster at Mount Calvary Roman Catholic Church in Baltimore.

THE
HANDEL CHOIR
OF BALTIMORE



Handel Choir of Baltimore was founded by singers who performed Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in 1934. Interested in promoting and performing classical choral-orchestral music, the original members chose Handel as their namesake and *Messiah* for their first performance, inaugurating an annual performance tradition which has continued uninterrupted.

The Choir has presented masterpieces of the choral and choral-orchestral repertoire as well as music new to Baltimore audiences. Rather than performing in a fixed venue, the Choir is proud to present subscription concerts in a variety of concert halls, churches, and synagogues throughout the metropolitan area. Frequent informal performances during the year include concerts for retirement communities, civic events, and educational programs. The Handel Choir vocal ensemble is a community-based, semi-professional auditioned ensemble of roughly fifty singers, each of whom pays dues and purchases their own music for the privilege of singing.

The Handel Period Instrument Orchestra, employing the use of historical period instruments for performances of Baroque, Classical and Early Romantic music, was introduced in 2004 with the appointment of Melinda O'Neal as artistic director and conductor. In 2006 the Handel Choir formed the Chandos Singers, an ensemble named after the Duke of Chandos, one of Handel's earliest patrons when he moved to London from Germany. This ensemble includes singers selected from the larger Handel Choir membership.

In recent history, Handel Choir has performed with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and, under the direction of Maestro Brian Bartoldus, in 2022 sang for Chorus America to open their National Convention in Baltimore. In addition to its roots in the Baroque, the choir is committed to showcasing recent and emerging composers from in and around Baltimore, featured in our biennial "Made in Baltimore" events. The choir will celebrate its 90th season in 2024-25!

HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE

Soprano

Natalie Beglau-Pueyo
Linda F. Berman
Maria Blanca
Lara Bruckmann
Sarah Bruns
Alena Davidoff-Gore
Shoshana Davidoff-Gore
Theresa Dowdle
Elena Giannella
Heather Hostetler
Julia McCabe
Shana Oshiro
Soyoung Park
Ashley Powers
Sue Pumplin
LaToya Roker*

Altos

Marian C. Alessandroni
Virginia Arey
Laurie Bacon†*
Cheryl J. Campo

Shira Jamie Catelinet

Peggy Dawson
Alison Dyszel
Hannah Fritz
Emily Geiger
Leslie Greenwald†
Emily Hanson
Mary Beth Jorgensen
Nicole Mitchell
Julia Peled
Amy Sheridan†**
Hyesun Stuart

Tenor

Christopher Allison
Joshua Bornfield
Robert Burgard
James Callahan
David Fisher
Ryan Foreman
Patrick Klink
Catherine La Costa
John La Costa

Leroy Ludwick††

Aaron Paige
Benjamin Skerritt-Davis*

Bass

Ian Arthur
Timothy John Callahan
David Frieswyk
Henry S. Gibbons*
Kenneth M. Knight†
Tod Myers
Mark Oldenburg
David Pumplin
Steven J. Ralston†
Jason Rudy†
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‡Ensemble Manager
*Section Leader
** Librarian



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IGNITE THE HORIZON!

Handel Choir of Baltimore

Devin Mercer *tenor*
Eric Conway *piano*
Brian Bartoldus *conductor*
Thomas Hetrick *piano and organ*

Maryland State Boychoir

Stephen Holmes *conductor*

Saturday, October 28, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts
3400 Norman Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213




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*All 2023-2024 performances will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church
9120 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, Maryland*

Our 2023-2024 season is supported in part by grants from these organizations and the sustaining support of Preston and Nancy Athey.



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Handel Choir of Baltimore's 89th Season

George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

MESSIAH

1742

Handel Choir of Baltimore
Handel Period Instrument Orchestra

Abigail Raiford *soprano*
 Keith Wehmeier *countertenor*
 Matthew Newhouse *tenor*
 Dorian McCall *bass*
 Brian Bartoldus *conductor*

Saturday, December 9, 2023
7:30 pm

Grace United Methodist Church
 5407 North Charles Street
 Baltimore, MD 21210

Sunday, December 10, 2023
3:00 pm

Christ Lutheran Church
 701 South Charles Street
 Baltimore, MD 21230



Our 2023-2024 season is supported in part by grants from these organizations and the sustaining support of Preston and Nancy Athey.



MADE IN BALTIMORE, TOO

Handel Choir of Baltimore

Lura Johnson *piano*

Keith Snipes *baritone*

Brian Bartoldus *conductor*

Saturday, March 9, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church

5407 North Charles Street

Baltimore, MD 21210



15th Season

Opera BALTIMORE

Rigoletto
Oct 20 | Oct 22

Opera Baltimore Gala
Feb 3

Eugene Onegin
Feb 28 | Mar 1 | Mar 3

The Impresario
Apr 10 | 12 | 14



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2023-2024 Signature Events

Sunday, October 1, 2023 - 4:00 PM
Kick-Off Concert

December 10, 16, and 17, 2023 - 4:00 PM
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, February 25, 2024 - 3:00 PM
African American Celebration Concert

Sunday, April 21, 2024 - 4:00 PM
Spring Concert

Saturday, May 18, 2024 - 7:30 PM
Baltimore Boychoir Festival Concert

*Visit our social media pages & our website to learn more about these events!
Tickets may be purchased at marylandstateboychoir.org/tickets*

Contact Us

410.554.8644
info@marylandstateboychoir.org

The Maryland State Boychoir
Center for the Arts
3400 Norman Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21213

Artistic Director
Stephen Holmes

Assistant Director
Joseph Shortall



Our 2023-2024 season is supported in part by grants from these organizations and the sustaining support of Preston and Nancy Athey.



Handel Choir of Baltimore's 89th Season

FROM BAROQUE TO BARNES

Handel Choir of Baltimore Handel Period Instrument Chamber Ensemble Third Practice

Katelyn Jackson *soprano*
Shauna Kreidler Michels *soprano*
Joshua Bornfield *tenor*
Daryl Yoder *bass*
Brian Bartoldus *conductor*

**Saturday, May 11, 2024
7:30 p.m.**

*Second Presbyterian Church
4200 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21218*





In Memoria

CYNTHIA LEVERING

Board Member, 2010-2022

Dedicated mother, grandmother and Friend of Handel Choir



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Note this does not constitute tax advice - you should consult your tax and/or financial advisor to determine how this applies to your personal situation.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Dear Musical Friends,

Welcome to our the 89th season! Since 1935, Handel Choir of Baltimore has brought exceptional music to audiences in and around our wonderful city. From the beginning, Handel Choir has been a choir of Baltimore, a mainstay of the community reaching from the Great Depression through to the present day. We are so happy to be here, and to extend our welcome to all of you, our audience and our greatest source of support.

This season the choir emphasizes its connections to the greater Baltimore community through a series of collaborative concerts: with the Maryland State

Boychoir, the chamber ensemble Third Practice, and newly commissioned works by Baltimore-born composer Jasmine Barnes and the winner of our first Emerging Composers Competition, Daniel Sabzghabaei. Sabzghabaei's work will set to music the poetry of Baltimore's own Frances Harper, among the most important abolitionist writers of the nineteenth century. All that, plus an entire concert celebrating Baltimore music and musicians, featuring Baltimore Symphony Orchestra principal pianist Lura Johnson, and our annual period-perfect *Messiah*, too!

As we head toward our 90th season, we are thrilled to emphasize our longstanding place in the Baltimore community, and also to be building new connections to carry us forward. Please consider supporting us with a donation of any size as we plan an exciting anniversary-year celebration. Your contributions help us continue the work we love – the singing we know you, our audience, love as well.

I value Handel Choir in part because it so enthusiastically straddles the old and the new: the baroque and the cutting-edge. Our singers appreciate tradition, and they also enjoy the challenge of new works and new sounds. Thank you for joining us as we continue this journey. We are truly delighted to have you with us.

Jason Rudy
 President, Board of Trustees



Celebrating Those Who Bring Harmony to Our Communities

Venable proudly supports the
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and we offer our best wishes for
a successful 2023-2024 season.

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