



2021-2022 Choir Information & Covenant

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1. History:

Bach in Baltimore (aka The Bach Concert Series) is a nonprofit, community-based choral organization established in 1988 and incorporated in 2008. Originally located at First English Lutheran Church, the Series relocated to the larger Christ Lutheran Church at the Inner Harbor in fall 2006. Starting a new chapter in the wake of COVID-19, the Series is now in residence at The Center for the Arts, 3400 Norman Ave. Baltimore, 21213 in partnership with the Maryland State Boychoir.

Bach in Baltimore is an auditioned, all-volunteer ensemble of 40 to 50 avocational singers who sustain the organization's mission through superb singing and financial & logistical support. Concerts are held in some of the larger churches and synagogues in the greater Baltimore area, as well as local retirement communities. Details are on the 2021-22 Choir Calendar. Rehearsals begin the first week of September and conclude the last week of April, and occur on Sundays at 5 PM and occasional Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. First Sunday Concerts are held on the first Sunday of the month, October through June, at 4 PM (plus a Beyond Bach performance on a non-concurrent Sunday). There are also six to eight smaller community service concerts during the season, most in December, May, and June. Free parking is available at all sites that Bach in Baltimore uses.

2. Concert Information:

For our First Sunday concerts in October and May, the choir will meet at 2:15 PM for a warm-up and to rehearse with the orchestra. For our First Sunday concerts in December, February and March (as well as the Beyond Bach performance in late April), the choir will rehearse with the orchestra on the Saturday prior to the concert at 1:00 PM (see 2021-22 Choir Calendar for full details).

Uniforms for the October, December, and May performances include either:

Black trousers (or long black skirt) & black blouse (no sleeveless!) OR

Black trousers, white shirt, & red tie (may be purchased via the CHOIR CORNER).

For the **B Minor Mass, Elijah, & Brahms Requiem Concerts we wear formal clothes:**

Tuxedo, white shirt & black bow tie OR

Black trousers (or long black skirt) & black blouse (no sleeveless!).

Note: a black suit, white shirt and black bow tie is an acceptable alternative to a tux.

Those who wear a blouse are encouraged to wear conservative jewelry (such as pearls).

Concert etiquette dictates that **fragrances or other scented products never be worn** at concerts or rehearsals.

Wear comfortable shoes. (Your feet cannot be seen from the audience.)

Singers must place their music in a black folder (Bach in Baltimore has them available for purchase via the CHOIR CORNER if you need one).

For our **Community Service Concerts** (December, May and June) everyone will wear the Bach Clef T-Shirt with black trousers or black skirt.

3. Music

Much of our **music is available to (legally) download at no cost** via the **CHOIR CORNER** of our website. Large works in the public domain will be emailed to you as a .pdf. We encourage our singers to use an iPad/tablet in performance. You may also print out your music and place it in a binder, or, if you prefer, purchase a copy.

Excellent **on-line rehearsal aids** are available. You are urged to take full advantage of them as you prepare your music. Sites include:

choraltracks.com

Matthew Curtis vocal study tracks

choralia.net

cyberbass.com

rehearsalarts.com (charges a fee)

sightreadingfactory.com

We ask everyone to download and print out the following guide and remember to bring a pencil:

<http://symphonychorus.org/resources/In-Rehearsal-Hillis.pdf>

4. Covenant

Bach in Baltimore's Promises to You:

Employ a superb music director, hire a great rehearsal pianist, and contract excellent soloists and instrumentalists to support the choir in performances.

Promote Bach in Baltimore and the Bach Choir to help assure large, appreciative audiences.

Commit to generating all needed materials for successful concerts, including excellent facilities for rehearsals and performances, programs & program notes, concert equipment, orchestral scores and parts, music stands, and risers for the choir and soloists.

Keep the Bach Choir advised about schedules, musical needs, and financial expectations while creating a reasonable rehearsal schedule well in advance.

Secure funds to meet the costs of maintaining Bach in Baltimore and to keep the annual fee paid by Choir members as modest as possible.

Chorister's Promises to Bach in Baltimore:

COVID-19 Protocol for Rehearsals & Concerts:

Provide proof of vaccination at the first in-person rehearsal (not mandated to wear a mask or socially distance unless specified by law).

ALL SINGERS MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED. If for medical reasons, you cannot be vaccinated, contact the music director to discuss options.

Do NOT attend live rehearsals OR concerts if feeling unwell and/or have tested positive for COVID-19.

By participating as a member of the BIB Choir, you assume any risks associated with participating in group musical activities related to ongoing COVID-19 health and safety concerns.

Pre-rehearsal:

Purchase/download all music. Bring all music & a pencil to every rehearsal.

Attend all rehearsals. Warm-up voice prior to arrival and arrive early. An optional additional warm-up period will begin 10 minutes prior to the published start time of each rehearsal. A Choir member missing more than one rehearsal for any particular concert may perform only after permission is gained from the Music Director. When that situation arises, each singer is expected to speak with her/his/their section leader to begin the process of ascertaining if singing in the upcoming concert will be permitted. Each singer should become thoroughly familiar with her/his/their part so that attention can be directed toward the conductor and the ensemble rather than reading the musical score. Come to rehearsal free from outside distraction. If you are experiencing a communicable illness, please stay home to avoid infecting others.

Other Obligations of Membership:

Pay Annual Membership Fee (Note: scholarships available, contact the Maestro): \$150.00. Payment is due via the Choir Corner by September 30. Alternatively, a singer may pay \$75 by September 30 and an additional \$75 by January 1. Additionally, Bach in Baltimore is pleased to offer free membership (including all the music needed for the season) to anyone who makes a tax-deductible contribution of \$250 or more. Mindful of tax considerations, for many this is the most attractive option.

Assist with special events & concerts as you are able: e.g.: contribute items (for special events such as a silent auction), volunteer with set-up and take-down as appropriate, sell tickets to concerts, and purchase tickets to give away as gifts.

Actively promote Bach in Baltimore concerts and events. Post and share via social media accounts. Post announcements and fliers at your local library, place of employment, house of worship, and any other places that you frequent. Invite friends and family to concerts.

Search wisely. **Goodsearch.com** will donate up a penny for every online search you conduct. You need only sign in once and indicate that you wish for your purchase to be used to support the Bach Concert Series. Your price will not go up, and Bach in Baltimore will benefit.

