

HANDEL CHOIR
OF BALTIMORE

ARIAN KHAEFI
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& CONDUCTOR

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**SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR
HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE'S 82ND ANNUAL *MESSIAH***

(Baltimore, MD) Single tickets are now on sale for Handel Choir of Baltimore's 82nd annual performances of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah: An Oratorio*. The concerts take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 10, 2016, at Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 North Charles Street in Homeland (21210), and at 3 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2016, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church, 740 North Calvert Street in Mount Vernon (21202).

"It is a privilege to return to this work each year," said Arian Khaefi, Handel Choir's artistic director and conductor since 2013. "My connection to, and admiration of, this magnificent work continues to deepen. The more time I spend with Handel's work, the more intrigued I become by how much we all have yet to discover in these notes and rhythms."

Handel Choir performs Handel's *Messiah* with Handel Period Instrument Orchestra, an ensemble of period specialists from across the U.S., including Handel Choir's own Thomas Hetrick on harpsichord, and acclaimed soloists Brittany Renee Robinson, soprano; Christina Carr, mezzo-soprano; Patrick M. Cook, tenor; and Steven Eddy, bass-baritone. Jonathan Palevsky, program director of WBJC 91.5 FM, gives a pre-concert lecture one hour before each performance.

Tickets are \$47 for premium seating (front/center seating), \$37 for standard seating, and \$10 for students with I.D. and patrons 18 or younger (standard seating). Patrons save on single ticket prices with a three-concert subscription purchase. Single tickets and subscriptions are available now at www.handelchoir.org or by calling 667.206.4120. For more information, visit www.handelchoir.org or call 667.206.4120.

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HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

Handel Choir of Baltimore 2016–2017 SUBSCRIPTION SEASON

Handel's *Messiah* – two performances

7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 10, 2016

Grace United Methodist Church (Homeland)

5407 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21210

3 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2016

St. Ignatius Catholic Church (Mt. Vernon)

740 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Handel Choir of Baltimore and Handel Period Instrument Orchestra

Brittany Renee Robinson *soprano* Christina Carr *mezzo-soprano*

Patrick M. Cook *tenor* Steven Eddy *bass-baritone*

Thomas Hetrick *harpsichord*

Arian Khaefi *conductor*

TICKETS: \$47 premium (forward/center seating), \$37 standard, \$10 student with I.D.

Discount available with subscription purchase before December 13.

Farm to Table

7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 4, 2017

Second Presbyterian Church (Guilford)

4200 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Handel Choir of Baltimore

Edna Huang *bass clarinet*

Thomas Hetrick and Sonya Schumann *piano*

Arian Khaefi *conductor*

William Averitt *Afro-American Fragments*

Paul Crabtree *Five Romantic Miniatures (from The Simpsons)*

Shawn Crouch *Sleepless* Dale Trumbore *I Am Music*

Eric Whitacre *Alleluia* World premiere of work by Douglas Buchanan, and more

TICKETS: \$37 premium (forward/center seating), \$27 standard, \$10 student with I.D.

Discount available with subscription purchase before December 13.

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Handel Choir of Baltimore 2016–2017 SUBSCRIPTION SEASON (continued from page 2)

Soul Seeds

8 p.m. Saturday, April 29, 2017

Second Presbyterian Church

4200 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Handel Choir of Baltimore
Thomas Hetrick and Sonya Schumann *piano*
Arian Khaefi *conductor*

Samuel Barber *Reincarnations* Judd Greenstein *Lamenting*
Shawn Kirchner *Heavenly Home: Three American Songs* Jake Runestad *Come to the Woods*

TICKETS: \$37 premium (forward/center seating), \$27 standard, \$10 student with I.D.
Discount available with subscription purchase before December 13.

Handel Choir's 2016-2017 CONCERT DESCRIPTIONS (March and April 2017)

Farm to Table is inspired by the gastronomical movement that advocates sustainable food sourcing in restaurants and markets. It takes place 7:30 p.m. Saturday March 4, 2017 at Second Presbyterian Church in Guilford (4200 Saint Paul Street, 21218). *Farm to Table* offers an eclectic collection of standalone pieces by innovative choral composers working today: generous helpings from the bounty of American choral production, drawing on the traditions of the great composers while speaking to topics of contemporary relevance and a broad spectrum of experience.

Soul Seeds highlights longer *a cappella* works by award-winning American composers on non-traditional texts. Handel Choir's third and final concert of the subscription season takes place at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 29, 2017, also at Second Presbyterian Church (4200 Saint Paul Street, 21218). Patrons will hear the writings of John Muir, translations of Gaelic poetry, a new take on Palestrina's settings of the Hebrew alphabet, and 19th-century American spirituals, set by Jake Runestad, Samuel Barber, Judd Greenstein, and Shawn Kirchner, respectively.

CRITICAL PRAISE FOR ARIAN KHAEFI AND HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE

“[S]ince Khaefi's arrival in 2013, the repertoire has expanded steadily and imaginatively, and so [have] the group's abilities,” said Tim Smith of *The Baltimore Sun* in his March 8, 2016 review. Reacting to Handel Choir's midwinter performance of *Path of Miracles*, Joby Talbot's 2005 work

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CRITICAL PRAISE FOR ARIAN KHAEFI AND HANDEL CHOIR (*continued from page 3*)

about the Camino de Santiago, Smith continued: “Khaefi had the singers burrowing into the notes, from the out-of-the-depths rumblings in the first movement on through exquisitely harmonized passages in the third. ... Another striking moment came in the final movement, when women’s voices wove hypnotic flurries atop slow-moving, chorale-like intoning by the men. Throughout, Khaefi paid attention to minute dynamic contrasts and the myriad harmonic subtleties of the score, all the while maintaining a firm pulse.”

Remarking on the Choir’s performance of Handel’s *Messiah* in December 2015, Smith wrote “The rewards began with the very able Handel Period Instrument Orchestra, providing a subtly colorful, expressive foundation. Tempos set by conductor Arian Khaefi provided momentum, but breathing room, too. There was a gracefulness to his phrase-sculpting. The choir maintained admirable clarity of diction, sensitivity to dynamics and, ..., cohesiveness of tone.”

“[Arian Khaefi’s] sensitive approach drew well-balanced, expressively nuanced singing from the chorus (and soloists within it),” said Smith in his April 2015 review of Handel Choir’s performance of Arvo Pärt’s *Berliner Messe* during the Choir’s *Distant Bells* concert. “[T]he sweetness of the sound and the legato phrasing ... cast quite a spell.”

BACKGROUND

Handel Choir of Baltimore is one of the Mid-Atlantic region’s top choral ensembles. Led by Artistic Director and Conductor Arian Khaefi, the ensemble brings together excellent singers (currently about 40) and players from across the Mid-Atlantic to perform repertoire ranging from early music to newly commissioned works by some of the field’s best current practitioners.

Handel Choir also actively promotes the artistic health and growth of the community through its collaborative work with other organizations, recently including Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem* with Camerata of University of Maryland Baltimore County, and performances with Children’s Chorus of Maryland, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Baroque Band, Harmonious Blacksmith, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and Peabody Early Music.

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BACKGROUND (continued from page 4)

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. Mr. Hetrick currently is organist and master of choirs at St. John's in the Village Church in Baltimore.

Artistic Director and Conductor Arian Khaefi has led Handel Choir since his appointment in spring of 2013. He is director of choral activities at Towson University, where he conducts the University Chorale and Men's and Women's Choruses, teaches applied lessons in conducting, and administers a choral program of six choirs. He holds D.M.A and M.M degrees in conducting from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and the University of California, Los Angeles, respectively.

Dr. Khaefi is in demand as a clinician, and his ensembles at Towson University have been invited to perform at prestigious concert halls across the East Coast, most recently including Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, MD, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C., and Carnegie Hall in New York City. He has prepared choruses for leading conductors including Leonard Slatkin, James Conlon, Alexander Treger, Peter Grunberg, Martin Katz, and Christopher Warren-Green. Khaefi's guest-conducting has taken him across the Mid-Atlantic, and he has presented lectures and master classes regionally, nationally and internationally.

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