

HANDEL CHOIR  
OF BALTIMORE



ARIAN KHAEFI  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
& CONDUCTOR

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## **HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE ANNOUNCES 80TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON 2014–2015 SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW**

(Baltimore, MD) Handel Choir of Baltimore celebrates its 80th anniversary in the 2014–2015 concert season with great choral and choral-orchestral works by masters Vivaldi, Pärt (also celebrating his 80th birthday in 2015!), Górecki, Brahms and Lauridsen, along with the Choir's 80th annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah*. "We're pulling out all the stops for a season of beautiful and challenging repertoire that will tantalize your senses, bring a tear or two to your eye, and leave you smiling!" says Artistic Director and Conductor Arian Khaefi, now in his second year at the helm of the ensemble. Season subscriptions are available now at [www.handelchoir.org](http://www.handelchoir.org) or by calling 410.366.6544: \$115 Premium (preferred seating) / \$88 Standard / \$25 Student with ID.

The Choir's 80th anniversary performances of *Messiah* take place 8 p.m. Saturday December 13 and 3 p.m. Sunday December 14 at St. Ignatius Church in Mount Vernon and Church of the Redeemer in Homeland, respectively. Handel Choir presents Baltimore's only *Messiah* performed with period instrument orchestra. Guest artists: Handel Period Instrument Orchestra, Laura Choi Stuart *soprano*, Monica Reinagel *alto*, Brian Giebler *tenor*, Steven Combs *bass*.

At 4 p.m. Sunday March 1, 2015, at Second Presbyterian Church in Guilford, Handel Choir offers *Wild Roses*, a bouquet of rare winter blossoms: Brahms' *Žigeunerlieder (Gypsy Songs)*, Górecki's *Szeroka Woda (Broad Waters)*, Lauridsen's *Midwinter Songs*, and selections from Poulenc's *Sept Chansons (Seven Songs)*.

Handel Choir's third and final subscription concert is a journey with a leitmotif: bells, ringing out from the past into the present day. *Distant Bells* takes place 8 p.m. Saturday April 25, 2015, at St. Ignatius Church, and begins with Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, written during the composer's sojourn in Rome. Then on to Venice, where Vivaldi wrote his most beloved *Gloria*. The finale, Arvo Pärt's *Berliner Messe*, is a prime example of tintinnabuli (Latin for "bells"), Pärt's compositional technique that transformed the conventions of chant into a revolutionary contemporary idiom.  
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HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

Guest artists: Handel Period Instrument Orchestra, Emily Noël *soprano*, Sarah Berger *soprano*, Sarah Davis *mezzo soprano*, Jason Rylander *tenor*, Brendan Curran *bass*.

Subscriptions to Handel Choir's three-concert 80th anniversary series are available now at [www.handelchoir.org](http://www.handelchoir.org) or by calling 410.366.6544. Premium subscriptions (preferred seating) are \$115 (\$16 savings over single ticket prices); standard subscriptions are \$88 (\$13 savings). Full-time students with valid ID are invited to subscribe for the season for the special price of \$25 (standard seating).

All ticket-holders are invited to attend a pre-concert lecture one hour before each concert performance. In addition to its subscription series, the Choir performs Concerts in the Community. For more information, see details below, visit [www.handelchoir.org](http://www.handelchoir.org), or call 410.366.6544.

### CRITICAL PRAISE FOR ARIAN KHAEFI'S FIRST SEASON (2013–2014)

Handel Choir's first performance of *Messiah* under Khaefi in December 2013 offered "well-balanced sound and admirable clarity" according to Tim Smith of *The Baltimore Sun* (December 17, 2013). In April of this year, Smith declared the Choir's performance of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* "an artistic milestone" for the group, noting Khaefi's "keen attention to dynamic shading and his fine sense of phrase-sculpting" throughout the difficult *a cappella* work, sung in Church Slavonic. Smith also credited the Choir for its "clarity and cohesiveness of articulation" and "admirable warmth of expression."

### 80TH ANNIVERSARY 2014–2015 SEASON CONCERT DETAILS

#### HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

8 p.m. Saturday, December 13, 2014 at St. Ignatius Church  
740 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

3 p.m. Sunday, December 14, 2014 at Church of the Redeemer  
5603 North Charles Street (at Melrose Avenue), Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Handel Choir of Baltimore and Handel Period Instrument Orchestra

Laura Choi Stuart *soprano*

Monica Reinagel *alto*

Brian Giebler *tenor*

Arian Khaefi *conductor*

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HANDEL'S *MESSIAH* (continued from page 2)

TICKETS: \$47 premium (preferred seating) /\$37 standard /\$10 student with ID.

Tickets available now with subscription purchase. Single tickets available Monday October 6, 2014.

*WILD ROSES*

4 p.m. Sunday March 1, 2015 at Second Presbyterian Church

4200 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore 21218

Handel Choir of Baltimore

Thomas Hetrick *piano*

Arian Khaefi *conductor*

Brahms *Zigeunerlieder* (*Gypsy Songs*)

Górecki *Szeroka Woda* (*Broad Waters*)

Lauridsen *Midwinter Songs*

Poulenc *Sept Chansons* (*Seven Songs*) (selections)

TICKETS: \$37 premium (preferred seating) /\$27 standard /\$10 student with ID

Tickets available now with subscription purchase. Single tickets available January 5, 2015.

*DISTANT BELLS*

8 p.m. Saturday, April 25, 2015 at St. Ignatius Catholic Church

740 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Handel Choir of Baltimore and Handel Period Instrument Orchestra

Emily Noel *soprano*

Sarah Berger *soprano*

Sarah Davis *mezzo soprano*

Jason Rylander *tenor*

Brendan Curran *bass*

Handel *Dixit Dominus*

Vivaldi *Gloria*

Pärt *Berliner Messe*

TICKETS: \$47 premium /\$37 standard /\$10 student with ID.

Tickets available now with subscription purchase. Single tickets available January 5, 2015.

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CONCERTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Holiday Season Concert for Charlestown Retirement Community

3 p.m. Sunday December 7, 2014 in Catonsville

Concert for Fairhaven Retirement Community

7:30 p.m. Tuesday April 7, 2015 in Sykesville

Additional concerts to be announced.

BACKGROUND

**Handel Choir of Baltimore** is an oratorio society of auditioned singers, currently about 40, with an 80-year history of performing choral and choral-orchestral repertory. In addition to celebrating its uninterrupted annual tradition of performing Handel's *Messiah*, Handel Choir takes pride in presenting a wide range of music and in performing throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area. Handel Choir presents baroque, classical and early romantic works with period instrument orchestras, as well as modern and contemporary repertoire and commissioned works. Handel Choir's collaborations include a spring 2013 performance of Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem* with Camerata of University of Maryland Baltimore County and performances with Baltimore Baroque Band, Harmonious Blacksmith, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Peabody Early Music and American Opera Theater. Handel Choir also maintains an active schedule of performances and projects in the community, performing for civic events, educational programs, concert series and retirement communities. The 2014–2015 concert season is Handel Choir's 80th and includes the Choir's 80th annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

**Arian Khaefi** was named Artistic Director and Conductor of Handel Choir of Baltimore 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 five ensembles. Prior to coming to Towson University in 2012, Khaefi served as Conductor of the Windsor Classic Chorale in Windsor, Ontario, and as Assistant Conductor of the University Choral Society at the University of Michigan.

Khaefi has presented clinics and workshops in Maryland, New York and California, and is sought after as a guest conductor and teacher of conducting. His primary teachers have been Jerry Blackstone and Donald Neuen. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of California, Los Angeles.

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BACKGROUND (continued from page 4)

**Handel Period Instrument Orchestra**, comprised of period instrument musicians from across the country, performs in Handel Choir's baroque, classical and early romantic music concerts. The orchestra was introduced in 2004 by Artistic Director and Conductor emeritus Melinda O'Neal in partnership with concertmaster Christof Richter. Tim Smith of *The Baltimore Sun* has noted the "combination of transparency and warmth in the orchestra's sound...provid[ing] a dynamic foundation for the vocalists."

For more information or additional materials, or to request an interview with Artistic Director and Conductor Arian Khaefi, contact Managing Director Anne Wilson at 410.294.8074 or [anne@handelchoir.org](mailto:anne@handelchoir.org).

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