

HANDEL CHOIR
OF BALTIMORE

ARIAN KHAEFI
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& CONDUCTOR

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW FOR HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE'S
2016-2017 CONCERT SEASON**

Choir to perform 82nd annual *Messiah*, highlight 20th- and 21st-century composers

(Baltimore, MD) Handel Choir of Baltimore presents its 82nd subscription concert season on the theme of “Strong roots, new growth”: Handel’s *Messiah* with period style orchestra and acclaimed soloists on December 10 and 11, 2016; a “fresh, sustainably sourced” concert called *Farm to Table* on March 4, 2017; and four longer American works based on non-traditional texts in *Soul Seeds* on April 29, 2017.

“Handel Choir is deeply committed to the music of the past. Now more than ever before, and particularly in Baltimore, we are experiencing a tremendous blossoming of new music, and of young artists experimenting with sound, harmony, and texture,” said Artistic Director and Conductor Arian Khaefi, who is entering his fourth season with the ensemble. “There is a palpable energy in the musical world, and it’s generated by collaboration between living artists who can speak for, and of, their work with one another. This season, Handel Choir is going to be right in the heart of this conversation.” Featured composers include Samuel Barber, Jake Runestad, Eric Whitacre, William Averitt, Paul Crabtree, Shawn Kirchner, Shawn Crouch and Judd Greenstein.

Patrons save on single ticket prices by purchasing a subscription before December 13, 2016.

Subscriptions are \$110 for premium tickets (\$121 for single tickets; seating in forward/center rows of the venue), \$85 for standard tickets (\$91 for single tickets), and \$25 for students with ID (\$30 for single tickets). Subscriptions are available now at www.handelchoir.org or by calling **667.206.4120**.

Concert details begin next page and are available online at www.handelchoir.org.

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

Handel Choir of Baltimore 2016–2017 SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS (continued from page 1)

Handel's *Messiah* – two performances

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

Grace United Methodist Church (Homeland), 5407 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21212

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*

Arian Khaefi *conductor*

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

Discounted tickets available now with subscription purchase.

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

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 ID

Discounted tickets available now with subscription purchase.

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Handel Choir of Baltimore 2016–2017 SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS (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

Arian Khaefi *conductor*

Samuel Barber *Reincarnations*

Judd Greenstein *Lamenting*

Shawn Kirchner *Three American Songs*

Jake Runestad *Come to the Woods*

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

Discounted tickets available now with subscription purchase.

Handel Choir's 2016-2017 SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT SEASON

Handel Choir of Baltimore performs **Handel's *Messiah*** at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 10, at Grace United Methodist Church in Homeland (5407 North Charles Street, 21212), and at 3 p.m. Sunday, December 11, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Mt. Vernon (740 North Calvert Street, 21202). Handel Choir presents Charm City's only *Messiah* performed with period style orchestra, and is delighted to feature acclaimed guest soloists **Brittany Renee Robinson**, soprano; **Christina Carr**, mezzo-soprano; **Patrick M. Cook**, tenor; and **Steven Eddy**, bass-baritone.

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).

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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.

Subscriptions to Handel Choir's 2016-2017 three-concert series are available now at www.handelchoir.org or by calling **667.206.4120**. A premium subscription is \$110 (vs. single premium ticket prices of \$121), while a standard subscription is \$85 (vs. single ticket prices of \$91). Full-time students with valid ID are invited to subscribe for \$25 (\$5 savings for the year on \$10 student priced tickets).

In addition to its subscription series, the Choir performs **Concerts in the Community**, including a **Free Fall Baltimore** concert Sunday October 16, 2016 at the Baltimore Museum of Art. For more information, visit www.handelchoir.org, or call **667.206.4120**.

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 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 Handel Choir's 81st annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* in December of 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.”

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“[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.

Arian Khaefi was named Artistic Director and Conductor of Handel Choir of Baltimore in 2013. He serves as 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.

Before coming to Baltimore, 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. He has prepared choruses for leading conductors including Peter Grunberg, Martin Katz, Christopher Warren-Green, Leonard Slatkin, and James Conlon. Khaefi’s guest conducting has taken him across the Mid-Atlantic, and he has presented lectures and master classes both nationally and internationally. 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, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and Carnegie Hall in New York City.

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His primary conducting teachers include Jerry Blackstone, Donald Neuen, Paul Salamunovich, and Paul Rardin. He has received additional mentoring from Peter Phillips, Ragnar Bohlin, David Hayes, Jacques Lacombe, and Neal Stulberg. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

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