

HANDEL CHOIR
OF BALTIMORE

ARIAN KHAEFI
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 18, 2014

Contact: Anne Wilson, Managing Director

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**HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE IS HOLDING AUDITIONS
FOR COMMUNITY SINGERS AUG 25 AND SEP 3, 5 AND 6**

(Baltimore, MD) Handel Choir of Baltimore is holding auditions for community singers for its 80th anniversary 2014–2015 concert season. Auditions take place August 25 and September 3, 5 and 6. Handel Choir is also seeking an alto for a paid professional chorister position and will hear candidates for this position on the same dates.

To schedule an audition, call **410.366.6544** and leave the singer's name and daytime phone number. For more information, see below, visit handelchoir.org or call **410.366.6544**.

Auditions by appointment only:

Mon Aug 25 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church
1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville-Timonium

Wed, Fri and Sat, Sept 3, 5 and 6 at Church of the Holy Comforter
130 West Seminary Avenue, Lutherville-Timonium

Wed Sep 3 from 7 to 10 p.m.; Fri Sep 5 from 7 to 10 p.m.; Sat Sep 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rehearsals are Monday nights from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Sept 2014–May 2015 at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church. Potential Choir members must be able to commit to the following subscription concert performances and their preceding rehearsals:

Sat and Sun Dec 13 & 14, 2014: **Handel's Messiah**

Sun Mar 1, 2015: **Wild Roses** [Lauridsen, Brahms, Poulenc, Górecki]

Sat Apr 25, 2015: **Distant Bells** [Pärt, Handel, Vivaldi]

Singers audition individually with the Artistic Director, Arian Khaefi. The singer should prepare a song or aria that effectively demonstrates vocal and musical ability. Singers will be asked to sing vocal exercises and will sight-read a relatively simple melody and rhythm to demonstrate musicianship skills. Each audition lasts approximately ten minutes.

(continued)

410.366.6544 C/O BROWN MEMORIAL WOODBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WWW.HANDELCHOIR.ORG FACEBOOK.COM/HANDELCHOIR
HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

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 the mid-Atlantic region and the West Coast, 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.

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 (press/media only) or anne@handelchoir.org.

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