



T. Herbert Dimmock, Founder & Music Director

# 2023-2024 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 2023-24 Choir Calendar. Rehearsals begin the first week of September and conclude the first week of June, and occur on Sundays at 5 PM and occasional Tuesdays at 7 PM. First Sunday Concerts are held on the first Sunday of the month, October through June, at 4 PM (plus the occasional 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, December and June, the choir will meet the day of the performance for a warm-up and to rehearse with the orchestra. For our First Sunday concerts in February (4th) and April (7th & 14th), the choir will rehearse with the orchestra on the Saturday prior to the concert (Feb. 3rd & April 6th). See 2023-24 Choir Calendar for full details.

**Uniforms** for the October and June (and optional December) 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 **Bach *B Minor Mass* (February) & Handel *Israel in Egypt* (April) 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).

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

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).

### 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

#### Who we are:

In a world of growing disconnect through technology and social media, Bach in Baltimore is a place that fosters face to face connection. BinB strives to create music on the highest level while nurturing our growth as human beings. Through this choir, we've met some of the best people we know, cultivated friendships that have lasted for years, and ultimately found our family and a place to belong. Being able to make mistakes together and tap into vulnerable places within ourselves without fear or judgment is a rare thing in our work, and we cherish it greatly here at BinB. Here, we've learned to listen better and be more engaged in hearing people's stories, souls and voices. For many of us, singing in this choir has become integral to our wellbeing.

### **Statement of Culture and Values:**

We conduct ourselves with grace and caring – onstage and off.

We are, all of us, responsible to and for each other.

We encourage lift up and care for EVERY single singer.

We are humble and eager to learn.

We value diversity – in people, in music, and in thought.

We never fake things.

We work really hard, because we understand that what we are creating together is important.

We are thoughtful and reflective in our music making, and with each other ... always willing to go deeper.

We practice our music at home because the artistry of this group matters to us.

We work towards precision, beauty and unity of intent and then...

**WE SING WITH AN OPEN HEART.**

### **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:**

**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.

**Pay Annual Membership Fee** (Note: scholarships available, contact the Maestro): \$180.00. Payment is due via the Choir Corner by September 30. Alternatively, a singer may pay \$90 by September 30 and an additional \$90 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

