

HANDEL CHOIR
OF BALTIMORE

ARIAN KHAEFI
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct 26, 2015

Contact: Anne Wilson, Managing Director
anne@handelchoir.org Ofc 667.206.4120

**SINGLE TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*
PRESENTED BY HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE**

(Baltimore, MD) Single tickets are now on sale for **Handel Choir of Baltimore's** 81st annual performances of **George Frideric Handel's *Messiah: An Oratorio***. The two concerts take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 12, 2015, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, December 13, 2015, at Grace United Methodist Church in Homeland. Tickets are **\$47** for premium seating (front rows of each venue), **\$37** for standard seating (behind premium), and **\$10** for students with I.D. and patrons 18 or younger (standard seating). Patrons save up to 18% off single ticket prices with a 3-concert subscription purchase. Single tickets and subscriptions are available now at www.handelchoir.org or by calling **667.206.4120**.

"It's a new adventure every year" said Artistic Director and Conductor Arian Khaefi, now in his third season with the ensemble. "*Messiah* is more beautiful, challenging, and rewarding each year we perform it ... There is no crevice of this piece that doesn't hold some fascination, and I look forward to diving in with our stellar cast of internationally acclaimed soloists and performers this year!"

Handel Choir performs Handel's *Messiah* with **Handel Period Instrument Orchestra**, an ensemble of period specialists from across the U.S., and acclaimed soloists **Karen Vuong** *soprano*, **Carla Jablonski** *mezzo-soprano*, **Ian McEuen** *tenor* and **Andrew Pardini** *bass-baritone*. **Jonathan Palevsky**, program director of **WBJC 91.5 FM**, gives a pre-concert lecture one hour before each performance.

For more information, see details below, visit www.handelchoir.org, or call **667.206.4120**.

(continued)

6200 NORTH CHARLES STREET BALTIMORE, MD 21212
667.206.4120 PHONE 667.206.4121 FAX
INFO@HANDELCHOIR.ORG WWW.HANDELCHOIR.ORG FACEBOOK.COM/HANDELCHOIR
HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

(continued from page 1)

Handel Choir of Baltimore 2015-2016 Concert Season

Handel's *MESSIAH* – two performances

7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 12, 2015

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 811 Cathedral St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201

3 p.m. Sunday, December 13, 2015

Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Maryland 21212

Handel Choir of Baltimore and Handel Period Instrument Orchestra

Karen Vuong *soprano*

Carla Jablonski *mezzo-soprano*

Ian McEuen *tenor*

Andrew Pardini *bass-baritone*

Arian Khaefi *conductor*

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

Up to 18% discount available off single ticket prices with 3-concert subscription purchase:

\$100 premium (save \$21), \$75 standard (save \$16), and \$25 student with I.D. (save \$5).

Joby Talbot's *PATH OF MIRACLES*

2 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2016

Baltimore Basilica, 409 Cathedral St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Handel Choir of Baltimore

Arian Khaefi *conductor*

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

Discount available now with subscription purchase.

(continued next page)

(continued from page 2)

THE HEART'S AGE

7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7, 2016

Second Presbyterian Church, 4200 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Handel Choir of Baltimore and the Lyric and Concert Choirs of the Children's Chorus of Maryland

Thomas Hetrick *organ*

Arian Khaefi and Susan Bialek *conductors*

ALLEGRI *Miserere Mei*

ARGENTO *There Was a Naughty Boy*

BIEBL *Ave Maria*

BRITTEN *Te Deum in C* and *Ballad of Green Broom*

DISTLER *Kinderlied für Agnes*

HOLST *Choral Hymns of the Rig Veda*

GALUPPI *Dixit Dominus*

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

Discount available now with subscription purchase.

2015-2016 Season Subscriptions

Subscriptions to Handel Choir's three-concert series are available now at www.handelchoir.org or by calling 667.206.4120. Premium subscriptions (preferred seating) are **\$100** (\$21 savings over single ticket prices); standard subscriptions are **\$75** (\$16 savings). Full-time students with valid ID are invited to subscribe for the special price of **\$25** (\$5 savings).

CRITIC'S PRAISE FOR ARIAN KHAEFI AND HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE

“[Arian Khaefi's] sensitive approach drew well-balanced, expressively nuanced singing from the chorus (and soloists within it),” said *The Baltimore Sun's* Tim Smith in his April 2015 review of Handel Choir's performance of Arvo Pärt's *Berliner Messe* and the Choir's *Distant Bells* concert. He continued: “the sweetness of the sound and the legato phrasing ... cast quite a spell.” In April 2014, Smith declared the Choir's performance of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* “an artistic milestone”

(continued next page)

6200 NORTH CHARLES STREET BALTIMORE, MD 21212
667.206.4120 PHONE 667.206.4121 FAX

INFO@HANDELCHOIR.ORG WWW.HANDELCHOIR.ORG FACEBOOK.COM/HANDELCHOIR
HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

(continued from page 3) for the group, noting Khaefi’s “keen attention to dynamic shading and his fine sense of phrase-sculpting.” Smith also credited the Choir for its “clarity and cohesiveness of articulation” and “admirable warmth of expression.”

BACKGROUND

Handel Choir of Baltimore is a semi-professional chamber choral ensemble that presents yearly performances of Handel’s *Messiah* with period instrument orchestra, as well as other major choral and choral-orchestral works. 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, as well as modern and contemporary repertoire and commissioned works. Handel Choir’s collaborations include 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 2015–2016 concert season is Handel Choir’s 81st.

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.”

Conductor **Arian Khaefi** was named Artistic Director and Conductor of the Handel Choir of Baltimore in May of 2013. He is Director of Choral Activities at Towson University, where he conducts the University Chorale, Men’s and Women’s Choruses, teaches applied lessons in conducting, and administers a choral program of six choirs.

(continued next page)

(continued from page 4)

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 regionally 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.

His primary conducting teachers include Jerry Blackstone, Donald Neuen, Paul Salamunovich, and Paul Rardin. He has received additional mentorship 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.

www.handelchoir.org

###