



Timeless VOICES

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CHORAL INNOVATION

RACHMANINOFF

Vespers

Oct 12, 2025 | 4:00 PM

The Baltimore Basilica



Anthony Blake Clark
Music Director



Leo Wanenchak
Associate Conductor

Rachmaninoff *Vespers*

Baltimore Choral Arts Society
Anthony Blake Clark, *music director & conductor*
Leo Wanenchak, *associate conductor & pianist*

Lux Aeterna

Julija Ovseičiuk

All-Night Vigil, Op. 37

Sergei Rachmaninoff

1. *Come, let us worship*
2. *Bless, my soul, the Lord*

Patricia Hengen-Shields, *mezzo-soprano*

3. *Blessed is the man*
4. *Gentle light*
5. *Now release Your servant*

Carl Hengen, *tenor*

6. *Virgin Theotokos, rejoice*
7. *Psalm 6*
8. *Praise the name of the Lord*
9. *Blessed are you, Lord*

Carl Hengen, *tenor*

10. *The resurrection of Christ having beheld*

Requiem

Eliza Gilkyson, arr. Craig Hella Johnson

All-Night Vigil, Op. 37

Sergei Rachmaninoff

12. *The Great Doxology*
13. *Today salvation*
14. *Risen from the grave*
15. *Victorious Triumphant Leader*

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A Note from our Music Director

Dear friends,

It is a privilege to open Baltimore Choral Arts' sixtieth anniversary season with Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*—a work so deeply woven into the choral canon that it has long been regarded as one of the pinnacles of a cappella music. Written in 1915, during the upheaval of World War I and only two years before the Russian Revolution, the piece represents both the end of an era and a timeless expression of faith. Rachmaninoff drew upon centuries of Russian Orthodox chant traditions, weaving them into a tapestry of luminous harmonies and breathtaking choral textures.

Though the Vigil is rooted in the liturgy of the Orthodox Church, its spiritual reach extends far beyond any one tradition. Listeners of every background hear in it the timeless yearning of the human spirit for beauty, peace, and transcendence. The *All-Night Vigil* is, quite literally, a journey through the night—beginning at dusk with the hushed glow of the opening movement and carrying us through vigils, prayers, and hymns until dawn. Its sound world is unique: the basses anchor the ensemble with resonant depth (Rachmaninoff famously requested voices that could descend to a low B-flat, producing a foundation unlike anything else in choral literature), while the sopranos soar with lines that shimmer like starlight. Between these extremes, Rachmaninoff layers chords of incredible richness, creating what feels at times like a sonic icon—an image painted not in pigment but in sound.

For this performance, however, we have chosen to present the Vigil in a way that also speaks to our contemporary moment. In recent years, the world has watched in anguish as the people of Ukraine endure the devastations of war. To honor their resilience and to acknowledge their suffering, we open the concert with *Lux Aeterna* by Julija Ovseičuk, a contemporary Ukrainian composer. Her music radiates with a quiet but insistent light, reminding us that even in the darkest times, the human spirit reaches for illumination. Beginning the program with this piece situates Rachmaninoff's masterpiece not only in its Russian Orthodox context but also within the broader Slavic choral tradition, one that continues to evolve and give voice to present struggles.

Later in the performance, we depart from tradition again by replacing Rachmaninoff's "Magnificat" with *Requiem* by American songwriter Eliza Gilkyson. Originally written as a personal response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, this work has since become a universal hymn of mourning, embraced in many contexts of grief and remembrance. Its simple, folk-inflected lines speak with directness and humility, providing a stark but moving contrast to Rachmaninoff's elaborate harmonic world. By placing this *Requiem* within the Vigil, the performance moves from being solely a celebration of faith to also being an act of collective lament—an acknowledgment of the suffering faced by Ukrainians and, indeed, by so many in our world today.

In this way, tonight's program embodies the theme of our anniversary season, *Timeless Voices*. Rachmaninoff's Vigil is timeless in its artistry and its capacity to suspend us in a sound world beyond the ordinary. Yet the works by Ovseičuk and Gilkyson remind us that timelessness is not merely about preserving the past. It is also about giving space for contemporary voices to speak into the present moment, to remind us of our shared humanity, and to hold hope in the face of sorrow.

In harmony,



Anthony Blake Clark
Music Director

Lux Aeterna

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis, quia pius es.

Всенощное бдение All-Night Vigil

1. Приидите, поклонимся

Приидите, поклонимся Цареву нашему Богу.
Приидите, поклонимся и припадем Христу Цареву
нашему Богу.
Приидите, поклонимся и припадем самому Христу
Цареву и Богу нашему.
Приидите, поклонимся и припадем Ему.

2. Благослови, душе моя, Господа

Благослови, душе моя, Господа.
Благословен еси, Господи.
Господи Боже мой, возвеличился еси зело.
Во исповедание и в велелепоту оделся еси.
На горах станут воды.
Дивна дела Твоя, Господи.
Посреде гор пройдут воды.
Вся премудростию сотворил еси.
Слава Ти, Господи, сотворившему вся.

3. Блажен муж

Блажен муж, иже не иде на совет нечестивых.
Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя.
Яко весть Господь путь праведных, и путь нечестивых
погибнет. Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя.

Работайте Господеву со страхом и радуйтесь Ему с
трепетом. Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя.
Блажени вси надеющиеся Нань.
Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя.
Воскресни, Господи, спаси мя, Боже мой.
Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя.
Господне есть спасение и на людех Твоих
благословение Твое. Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя.
Аллилуйя.

Слава Отцу и Сыну и Святому Духу,
и ныне и присно и во веки веков. Аминь.
Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя. Аллилуйя.
Слава Тебе, Боже.

Julija Ovseičuk

May eternal light shine on them, Lord,
with your saints for ever, for you are good.
Give them eternal rest, Lord, and may light perpetual
shine upon them, for you are good.

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Translation by Dr. Laura Stanfield Prichard, Harvard/Brandeis

1. Come, let us worship

Come, let us worship before the Tsar [Lord] our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before the Lord
Christ our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before the very Lord
Christ and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Him.

2. Bless, my soul, the Lord

Bless, my soul, the Lord.
Blessed are you, Lord.
Lord my God, you are exceedingly great.
In majesty and in honor you are clothed.
On the mountains water stands.
Wonderful are your works, Lord.
Among the hills flow the waters.
Everything, in your wisdom, you created, you created.
Glory to you, Lord, who created everything.

3. Blessed [is the] man

Blessed [is the] man, who walks not in [the] counsel of
[the] wicked. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
This message of [the] Lord [concerns the] way of the
righteous, and [the] way of the ungodly perishes.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Serve [the] Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with
trembling. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Blessed [are] all who hope in Him.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Arise, Lord, save me, my God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
[From the] Lord is salvation and upon Your people [is]
Your blessing. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to [the] Father and to [the] Son and to [the] Holy
Spirit, both now and forever. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Glory to You, God.

4. Свете тихий

Свете тихий, святягы славы Безсмертнаго,
Отца Небеснаго, Святаго, Блаженнаго,
Иисусе Христе! Пришедше
на запад солнца,
видевше свет вечерний.
Поем Отца, Сына и Святаго Духа, Бога.
достойн еси во вся времена,
пет быти гласы преподобными,
Сыне Божий, живот дай:
темже мир Тя славит.

5. Ныне отпускаеши

Ныне отпускаеши раба Твоего,
Владыко, по глаголу Твоему, с миром;
яко видеста очи мои спасение Твое,
еже еси уготовал,
пред лицом всех людей,
свет во откровение языков
и славу людей Твоих Израиля.

6. Богородице Дево, радуйся

Богородице Дево, радуйся,
благодатная Марие,
Господь с тобою.
Благословена ты в женах,
и благословен плод чрева твоего,
яко Спаса родила еси душ наших.

7. Шестопсалмие

Слава в вышних Богу, и на земли мир,
в человецех благоволение.
Господи, устне мои отверзеши,
и уста моя возвестят хвалу Твою.

8. Хвалите имя Господне

Хвалите имя Господне. Аллилуйя.
Хвалите, раби, Господа.
Благословен Господь от Сиона,
живый во Иерусалиме.
Исповедайтесь Господеви, яко Благ.
Яко в век милость Его.
Аллилуйя Исповедайтесь Богу Небесному.
Аллилуйя, аллилуйя.

4. Gentle light

Gentle light, holy glory immortal,
Father in heaven, Holy, blessed,
Jesus Christ! Who came
toward the western sunset,
having seen the evening light.
We sing to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God.
Worthy are you at all times,
to be sung to in venerable voices,
Son of God, who gives life;
the whole world praises you.

5. Now release Your servant

Now release Your servant,
O Lord, by Your word, in peace;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
...which you have prepared, before the face of all
people,
[You are the] Light of revelation of languages
And [the] glory of Your people Israel.

6. Virgin Theotokos, rejoice

Virgin Theotokos, rejoice,
Mary, full of grace,
[The] Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is [the] fruit of your womb,
For you gave birth to the Saviour of our souls.

7. Psalm 6

Glory in the highest to God, and on earth peace,
To men goodwill.
Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth will herald Your praise.

8. Praise [the] name of [the] Lord

Praise [the] name of [the] Lord. Alleluia.
Praise, servants, [the] Lord. Alleluia.
Bless [the] Lord of Zion, who lives in Jerusalem.
Alleluia.
Thank [the] Lord, for [he is] gracious. Alleluia.
For His mercy endures forever. Alleluia.
Thank [the] God of heaven. Alleluia.
For his mercy endures forever. Alleluia.

9. Благословен еси Господи

Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием
Твоим.

Ангельский собор удивися,
зря Тебе в мертвых вменившаяся,
смертную же, Спасе, крепость разоривша,
и с собою Адама воздвигша
и от ана вся свободяща.

Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием
Твоим.
Почто мира с милостивными слезами,
о ученицы растворяете?
Блистайся во гробе, Ангел мироносицам вещающе:
видите вы гроб и уразумейте:
Спас бо воскре от гроба.

Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием
Твоим.
Зело рано мироносицы течаху ко гробу Твоему
рыдающих,
ко предста к ним Ангел и рече:
рыдания время преста, не платите
воскресение же апостолом рците.

Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием
Твоим.
Мироносицы жены, с мнры пришедшия ко гробу
Твоему Спасе, рыдаху.
Ангел жек ним пече, граголя:
что с мертвыми живаго помышляете?
Яко Бог бо воскре се от гроба.

Слава Отцу и Сыну и Святому Духу.
Поклонимся Отцу и Его Сынови, и Святому Духу,
Святй Твоице во елином существе,
со серафимы зовуще:
свят, свят, свят еси, Господи.

И ныне и присно и во веки веков. Аминь.
Жизнодавца рождши, греха, Дево, Адама избавила
еси.
Радость же Еве в печали место подала еси;
падшия же от жизни к сей направи,
из Тебе воплотивыйся Бог и человек.
Аллилуйя, слава Тебе, Боже.

9. Blessed [are] you, Lord

Blessed [are] you, Lord, teach me Your precedents.
[The] heavenly host was surprised,
[As] You shouldn't have been mixed up among the
dead,
Yet death, Saviour, [you] destroyed [its] fortress,
And you yourself brought forth Adam,
And from Hades we were all freed.

Blessed [are] you, Lord, teach me Your precedents.
"Why, myrrh with merciful tears,
O maidens, [do you] dissolve [these things] together?"
Shining from [the] grave [the] Angel announced to the
whole world:
"Look into the grave and realize:
[The] Saviour is risen from the grave."

Blessed [are] you, Lord, teach me Your precedents.
Exceedingly early bearers approached Your tomb in
tears,
But appearing to them, [an] Angel said:
"[The] time of crying is past, don't cry,
Tell of [the] resurrection to [the] apostles."

Blessed [are] you, Lord, teach me Your precedents.
Women carrying myrrh approached Your grave,
Saviour, crying.
But [the] Angel said to them, asking:
"...Why among the dead, do you seek the living?
For God has raised him from [the] grave."

Glory to the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.
Worship [the] Father and His Son, and Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity in one being,
With [the] seraphim proclaiming:
Holy, holy, holy [are] you, Lord.

Both now and always and forever, amen.
Life-giving one-who-gives birth, from sin, Virgin, you
saved Adam.
Joy, even to Eve, instead of sorrow, you gave;
Even [those] fallen from life [received] this
righteousness,
From You incarnate God and man.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, God.

10. Воскресѣние Христо́во ви́девше

Воскресѣние Христо́во ви́девше,
поклонимся Святому Господу Иисусу,
единому безгрешному.
Кресту Твоему покланяемся, Христе,
и святое Воскресение Твое поѣм и сла́вим.
Ты бо еси Бог наш, разве Тебе ино́го не знаѣм,
Имя Твое имену́ем.

Приидите, вси ве́рнии,
поклонимся святому Христову Воскресению;
се бо прии́де Кресто́м радость всему миру;
всегда́ благословя́ще Господа,
поѣм Воскресение Его,
распятие бо претерпе́в,
смертию смерть разруши́.

Requiem

Mother mary, full of grace, awaken
All our homes are gone, our loved ones taken
Taken by the sea
Mother mary, calm our fears, have mercy
Drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy
Hear our mournful plea
Our world has been shaken
We wander our homelands forsaken

In the dark night of the soul
Bring some comfort to us all
Oh mother mary come and carry us in your embrace
That our sorrows may be faced

10. [The] resurrection of Christ having beheld

[The] resurrection of Christ having beheld,
we worship Holy Lord Jesus,
alone without sin.
Your cross we worship, Christ,
and Your holy resurrection we sing and glorify:
You [alone] are our God, we know no other than You,
we praise Your name.

Come, all [you] faithful,
we worship Holy Christ's resurrection:
It has come [at the] cross: joy [to the] whole world,
Always blessing [the] Lord,
we sing of Your resurrection:
[the] crucifixion having undergone,
death by death destroyed.

Eliza Gilkyson, arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Mary, fill the glass to overflowing
Illuminate the path where we are going
Have mercy on us all
In funeral fires burning
Each flame to your mystery returning

In the dark night of the soul
Your shattered dreamers, make them whole,
Oh mother mary find us where we've fallen out of grace
Lead us to a higher place

In the dark night of the soul
Our broken hearts you can make whole
Oh mother mary come and carry us in your embrace
Let us see your gentle face, mary



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12. Славословие Великое

Слава в вышних Богу, и на земли мир,
в человецех благоволение.
Хвалим Тя, благословим Тя,
кланяем Ти ся, славословим Тя,
благодарим Тя, великия ради славы Твоея.
Господи Царю Небесный,
Боже Отче Вседержителю,
Господи, Сыне Единородный,
Иисусе Христе, и Святыи Душе.
Господи Боже, Агнче Божий, Сыне Отець,
вземляй грех мира, помилуй нас;
вземляй грехи мира, приими молитву нашу.
Седяи одесную Отца, помилуй нас.
Яко Ты еси един Свят,
Ты еси един Господь, Иисус Христос,
в славу Бога Отца. Аминь.

На всяк день благословляю Тя и восхваляю имя Твое
во веки и в век века.
Сподоби, Господи, в день сей
без греха сохранитися нам.
Благословен еси, Господи, Боже Отец наших,
и хвально и прославлено имя Твое во веки. Аминь.
Буди, Господи, милость Твоя на нас,
якоже уповахом на Тя.

Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием
Твоим.
Господи, прибежище был еси нам в род и род.
Аз рех: Господи, помилуй мя,
исцели душу мою, яко согреших Тебе.
Господи, к Тебе прибегах,
научи мя творити волю Твою, яко Ты еси Бог мой,
яко у Тебе источник живота,
во свете Твоем узрим свет.
Пробави милость Твою ведущим Тя.

Святыи Боже, Святыи Крепкий, Святыи
Безсмертный помилуй нас.
Слава Отцу и Сыну и святому Духу,
и ныне и присно и во веки веков. Аминь.
Святыи Безсмертный помилуй нас.
Святыи Боже, Святыи Крепкий, Святыи
Безсмертный помилуй нас.

12. The Great Doxology

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
Good will toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.
O Lord, Heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son,
Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
who takest away the sin of the world have mercy on us.
Thou who takest away the sin of the world, hear our
prayer.
Thou who sits at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For Thou alone art holy,
Thou alone art the Lord, Jesus Christ,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Every day I will bless Thee
and praise Thy name forever and ever.
Vouchsafe, O Lord,
to keep us this day without sin.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers,
and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen.
Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us,
as we have set our hope on Thee.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord,
teach me Thy statutes. (3x)
Lord, Thou has been our refuge from generation to
generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me,
heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
Lord, I flee to Thee,
teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God;
for with Thee is the fountain of life,
and in Thy light we shall see light.
Continue Thy mercy on those who know Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on
us. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

13. Тропарь "Днесъ спасение"

Днесъ спасение миру бысть,
поем Воскресшему из гроба Начальнику жизни
нашея:
разрушив бо смертную смерть,
победу даде нам и велию милость.

14. Тропарь "Воскрес из гроба"

Воскрес из гроба и узы растерзал еси ада,
разрушил еси осуждение смерти, Господи,
вся от сетей врага избавивый;
явивый же Себе апостолом Твоим,
послал еси я на проповедь,
и теми мир Твой подал еси вселенней,
едине Многомилостиве.

15. Взбранной воеводе

Взбранной воеводе победительная,
яко избавльшися от злых,
благодарственная восписуем
Ти раби Твои, Богородице;
но яко имущая державу непобедимую,
от всяких нас бед свободи,
да зовем Ти: радуйся невесто невестная.

13. Today salvation

Today salvation has come to the world,
let us sing to Him who has been resurrected from [the]
grave
and [is the] commander of our life:
destroying death through death,
giving victory to us and great mercy.

14. Risen from [the] grave

Risen from [the] grave and [the] bonds of hell [having]
devoured,
you have destroyed condemnation of death, Lord, [and]
all [the] entanglements of the enemy;
revealing Yourself to Your apostles,
you sent them to preach,
and gave peace to the whole universe,
you alone of many mercies.

15. Victorious triumphant leader

Victorious triumphant leader,
who has saved us from evil,
thanksgiving hymns are sung by
your servants, to You, O Theotokos;
[you] who have been given invincible power,
from our troubles deliver us,
we call to You: hail, bride-maiden.

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Baltimore Choral Arts Society and Music Director Anthony Blake Clark

Baltimore Choral Arts Society builds a stronger, more connected, more inspired community by celebrating the joy of choral music through exceptional performances and diverse educational and artistic partnerships.

Baltimore Choral Arts Society, currently celebrating 60 years of choral innovation, is one of Maryland's premier cultural institutions. Under the leadership of Music Director **Anthony Blake Clark**, The Symphonic Chorus, Chorus, and Chamber Singers perform throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, as well as in Washington, D.C., New York, and in Europe, and collaborate with other prestigious organizations, such as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, and Maryland Symphony Orchestra. In June 2025, Choral Arts went on its third European tour under the direction of Maestro Clark, with performances in Amsterdam, Lübeck, and Berlin, and concluded with an appearance at the CHORALSPACE festival at the Berliner Philharmonie, directed by Simon Halsey.

Baltimore Choral Arts provides several thoughtful and impactful music education programs that serve youth in and around Baltimore. These programs include CoroLAB, a partnership with Overlea High School and Eastern Technical High School's choral music programs; Vocal Fellows, an expanded professional development program for early-career singers; Student Composer Project, a competition for high-school and college composers; and *Sing and Play*, a series of free early childhood music classes presented in partnership with the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Through these educational programs, Choral Arts serves the very young to early-career adult musicians.

As part of an ongoing effort to make choral music accessible to the greater Baltimore community, Choral Arts offers multiple free concerts and workshops every year through its *Discovery Series*. Recent *Discovery* performances have included *Baltimore's Big Sing*, presented in collaboration with Artscape, and *Come-and-Sing* workshops featuring choral-orchestral masterworks

with the Peabody Graduate Conducting Studio, under the direction of Marin Alsop.

For the previous 25 years, WMAR Television, the ABC network affiliate in Maryland, featured Choral Arts in an hour-long special, *Christmas with Choral Arts*, which won an Emmy Award in 2006. In 2022, *Christmas with Choral Arts* was broadcast on Maryland Public Television, bringing the performance to new audiences. In 2022, Choral Arts collaborated with composer Jasmine Barnes to present *Mozart's Requiem Reframed*, which was recorded by Maryland Public Television for the Emmy® Award-winning episode, *Artworks: Dreamer*. The ensemble has been featured frequently on *The First Art* (Public Radio International) *Performance Today* (National Public Radio) and VOX (XM Radio). In Europe, Choral Arts was featured in a program devoted to the music of Handel broadcast on Radio Suisse Romande.

Baltimore Choral Arts Society recently celebrated the release of their newest album, *Dreamer*, on Acis Records, featuring Maestro Clark's new edition of Mozart's *Requiem* and *Portraits: Douglass and Tubman*, an original commission by Jasmine Barnes. Choral Arts has two other recordings in current release: *Christmas at America's First Cathedral*, recorded at the Baltimore Basilica, which includes familiar Christmas favorites as well as premieres by Rosephanye Dunn Powell and James Lee, III, and a recording with Dave Brubeck, featuring Brubeck's oratorio, *The Gates of Justice*, which was released internationally on the NAXOS label in 2004; Choral Arts is also featured on *Introducing the World of American Jewish Music* on Naxos, and a live recording of the Rachmaninoff *All-Night Vigil*. Other awards and recognitions include the 2020 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award, the 2020 American Prize in Community Chorus Conducting (Anthony Blake Clark), and the 2020 Emmy Award nomination for the 2019 Christmas with Choral Arts broadcast.



Anthony Blake Clark is a leading voice among his generation of choral conductors. He is in demand by both amateur and professional choral artists because of his “readily apparent musicality” (*Baltimore Sun*) and his conviction that lives can be changed by participating in classical music, whether on the stage or in the audience.

Dr. Clark has performed with some of the most important ensembles in legendary venues throughout the USA and Europe. He has prepared choral ensembles for prestigious orchestras such as the Rundfunkchor Berlin with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Radio Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and the Richmond Symphony Orchestra for esteemed conductors such as Marin Alsop, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Fabio Luisi, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, and Simon Halsey. He and his choirs have performed at the Berlin Philharmonie, the Vienna Konzerthaus, Symphony Hall Birmingham (UK), St. Martin-in-the-Fields London, The Kennedy Center, and the Washington National Cathedral, among others. In the summer of 2025, Clark will lead choirs on a European tour with performances including his fourth appearance at the Philharmonie Berlin, a concert in the historic St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, and a featured engagement at the Prague Summer Nights Festival.

At Baltimore Choral Arts, Clark has expanded subscription concert offerings while building a robust community outreach and education initiative. He has consistently received glowing reviews, both for work on the podium and as chorusmaster for performances with the Baltimore Symphony and other area partners. His work with BCAS has been recognized with an American Prize in Choral Conducting and a second nomination for best community ensemble, as well as the Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award. He conducts and produces the celebrated “Christmas with Choral Arts” television concert, first on ABC2 and now on Maryland PBS station MPT, for which the ensemble has received three regional Emmy® nominations. Clark has secured invites to several important festivals and collaborations; after a sold-out and enthusiastically received UK tour, BCAS was in residence with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra for

performances of *Mahler’s 8th Symphony* (soon to be repeated in a joint performance under Fabio Luisi with the Dallas Symphony). Recently, Clark and Baltimore Choral Arts made their Berlin Philharmonie debut with the Freie Universität Orchester. On the same tour, BCAS collaborated with the Vienna Singakademie to perform with the Vienna Radio Orchestra under Marin Alsop. Recently, Baltimore Choral Arts appeared once again with Marin Alsop, this time at the Washington National Cathedral in performances of Mahler’s *Resurrection Symphony* with the National Orchestra Institute.

Maestro Clark has recently been appointed as the Jean D. Wilson Chair Chorus Director for the Dallas Symphony. After preparing three critically praised programs for the Dallas Symphony Chorus in 2022 and 2023, Music Director Fabio Luisi appointed Clark to become Chorus Director beginning in the 2023–2024 season. In Dallas, Clark administers the choral programs of the Dallas Symphony, preparing the 200-voice ensemble for classical and pops programs. Highlights in his tenure include Brahms’ *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Schmidt’s *Das Buch mit Sieben Siegeln*, and a European tour with stops at the Philharmonie Berlin, St. Thomas Leipzig, and Smetana Hall in Prague. The Dallas Symphony Chorus under Clark’s preparation can be seen on Medici TV (Orff’s *Carmina Burana* and *Catulli Carmina*) and DSO’s “Next Stage” streaming platform (*Beethoven’s 9th Symphony*). Upcoming recordings on the Dallas Symphony’s label featuring Clark’s choral preparation include Wagner’s *Ring Cycle* and Schmidt’s *Das Buch mit Sieben Siegeln*.

Anthony Blake Clark also served as Artistic Director of Bach Vespers in New York City. In residence at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in midtown Manhattan, Clark and the Bach Choir and Players presented works of Bach using historically informed practices within the liturgical context of a Vespers service. He has also served as the James Erb Choral Chair Interim Director of Choruses for the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. He currently serves as Co-Artistic Director of the Amalfi Music Festival’s Choir Week, where he leads choral performances and residencies on Italy’s Amalfi Coast.

Maestro Clark is equally adept in the orchestral field and made his Baltimore Symphony debut in 2021 and his Richmond Symphony debut in 2022. He has also appeared as cover conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra, assisting conductors such as Ton Koopman, Gianandrea

Nosedá, Teddy Abrams, Christoph Eschenbach, and Manfred Honeck, and has assisted Marin Alsop at the Baltimore Symphony. He is also adept in opera repertoire, having conducted the North American premiere of Jonathan Dove's *Monster in the Maze*, in addition to his work as assistant conductor and/or chorusmaster for *The Merry Widow*, *Albert Herring*, and *Götterdämmerung*. He was recently asked to guest conduct Choral Space's *At the Opera* gala at the Berlin Philharmonie with over 300 singers and the Frei Universität Orchestra. During the 2025–2026 season, he will make his debut appearances with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Singakademie, Amarillo Opera, and Amarillo Symphony.

Dr. Clark is a passionate teacher and served as Director of Choral Activities at The George Washington University in DC. His university choirs performed at the Kennedy Center and National Cathedral and sang with the Washington Chorus, Baltimore Choral Arts, Naval Academy Glee Club, and the Baltimore and Annapolis Symphonies. Recently he was Guest Conductor/Lecturer for the Westminster Choir College Symphonic Choir. He regularly leads workshops and clinics for school and community ensembles.

Legacy and mentorship are paramount to Maestro Clark's musical philosophy; he is a mentee of Marin Alsop's, having worked with her extensively and studied with her at the Peabody Institute, of whose doctoral conducting program he is now an alumnus. Dr. Clark completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting under Alsop's mentorship at the Peabody Institute. Maestro Clark completed a master's degree under three-time Grammy Award winner Simon Halsey CBE at the United Kingdom's University of Birmingham and considers Halsey his lifelong mentor. During his time in the UK, he embedded himself in the choral life of the country and sang under the batons of Sir Simon Rattle, Edward Gardiner, and Andris Nelsons, and had opportunities to conduct the London Symphony Chorus and the CBSO Chorus. Other teachers include Simon Carrington (Yale Norfolk Festival, Sarteano Workshop) and Lynne Gackle (Baylor University).

An active composer and arranger, Anthony Blake Clark's music has been performed in Washington DC, London, Oxford, Texas, and at Prague's Dvořák Museum Concert Hall. In 2022 his new performance edition of Mozart's *Requiem* was recorded by Acis Records.



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Leo Wanenchak enjoys a fulsome career as conductor, pianist, organist, vocalist, composer, narrator, clinician, and teaching artist. This is his 21st year with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society. He studied conducting with its founder, Theodore Morrison. In 2016 he was named Associate Conductor. In addition to

preparing and performing with the chorus in the acclaimed Choral Arts Concert Series and outreach, He has prepared the chorus for performances with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under the batons of Marin Alsop, Jack Everly, John Storgårds and Yuri Temirkanov.

Community outreach and education are hallmarks of Leo's métier. He is the director of "The Larks," a women's vocal ensemble, community service project of the Junior League of Baltimore, bring the gift of song to the underserved. He developed and is director of "ParkinSonics" choral ensemble for the Johns Hopkins Hospital Department of Neurology in conjunction with the Johns Hopkins Center for Music and Medicine. This past year members of ParkinSonics were featured in a Kennedy Center webinar with Reneé Fleming, "Music and the Mind Live" and participated in the Iowa State University Neuromotor Lab

Virtual Singing Festival with Parkinsons singers worldwide.

He has served as Director of The Maryland Camerata at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, the Children's Chorus of Maryland, and on the faculty of the Peabody Preparatory as Director of Arts for Talented Youth, Chair of the Piano Department and member of the Dean's Council. Formerly the Academic Dean and Director of the Walden School Choral Program, Leo is a devoted advocate of new music. During his over 35 years at Walden and the Peabody, he mentored over 1,000 young composers and world premiered over 1,500 of their works. His students have been awarded by the Music Teacher's National Association and Broadcast Music Incorporated. With the founding generation of The Walden school, he founded Avivo.com, creative, comprehensive, and customized education for musicians.

Mr. Wanenchak's appearances include performances at Carnegie Hall, Riverside Church, and Grace Cathedral. He has also performed in England, France, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands and Romania. He is a sought-after clinician and maintains a large private teaching studio in Bolton Hill, Baltimore, where he lives with his husband and their Coton de Tulear, Tsiky.



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Ayres, Ashleigh	Freund, Rob	McGonigle, Elizabeth	Sweatman, Kelly
Barth, Tom*	Furlane, Michael	Miller, Glenn**	Tanenblatt, Rachel*
Battista, Valerie	Gee, Eric	Moore, Rachael	Teeter, Tim
Bensberg, Eloise	Gephardt-Gorsuch,	Altemose	Tempest, Bryce
Berger, Sarah*	Louis	Mountain, Michael	Thompson, Eric
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Blakely, Martha	Goetz, Lauren	Ostrander, Darin	Toy, Raymond
Boyd, Sandra	Haar, Caroline	Paglinauan, Nerissa	VanGorder, Adam
Brosius, Shelley	Heilman, Ruth	Pickett, Clark D.	Vaeth, Elisabeth
Buchanan, Kelly	Hengen, Carl*	Ramirez-Sanchez,	West, Natalie
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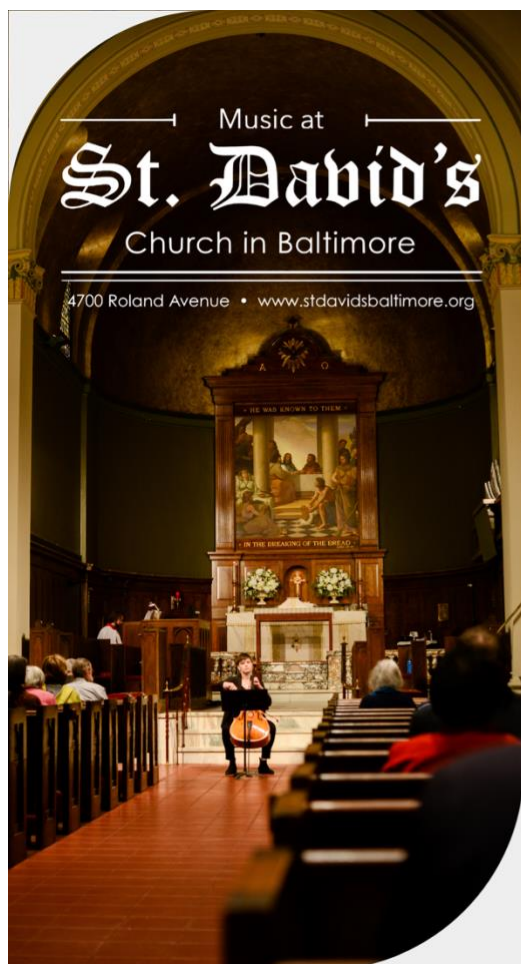
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The Canticle Singers ~ 12•5 | 7:30 pm

Lorelei Ensemble: Frost and Fire ~ 12•13 | 7:30 pm

Bach in Baltimore ~ 1•1 | 4:00 pm

The Baltimore Consort ~ 2•20 | 7:30 pm

FALL-WINTER CHORAL SERVICES

St. Andrew's Evensong ~ 11•16 | 4:30 pm

Lessons and Carols ~ 12•21 | 10:00 am

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Frederick Douglass Evensong ~ 2•15 | 4:30 pm

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ANTHONY BLAKE CLARK
Music Director

Are you our secret admirer?

If you have made a gift to Baltimore Choral Arts in your will or estate plan, please tell us about it! We would love to proudly proclaim your support as a Legacy Circle member – or keep it anonymous if that is your preference.

Either way, knowing about your plans allows us to show our appreciation and prepare for a strong future of community-minded choral music in Baltimore.

Interested?

Call Development Director Andrew Creech at 410-523-7070 ex 303 or email Andrew@BaltimoreChoralArts.org to learn more about the Legacy Circle.

Thank you for considering Choral Arts in your estate planning.