



**CATHEDRAL  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY**

**WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL**

3101 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20016

202.537.5510

## **Cathedral Choral Society Announces Historic 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**

*After more than a year of virtual programming, the Cathedral Choral Society is back for a live concert season full of both tradition and innovation.*

**WASHINGTON, DC September, 14 2021** – The Cathedral Choral Society is ecstatic to present its 2021-22 season to the public. It is our vision that, through music, we might create a more equitable worldwide community. From performances like our annual Joy of Christmas concert to our ongoing collaborations with organizations like Heritage Signature Chorale, we are excited to keep reaching towards this goal. Tickets start at just \$20 for this extraordinary season, marking our return to in-person singing and the Cathedral Choral Society's historic eightieth season.

### **JOY OF CHRISTMAS**

Saturday, December 11, 2021 | 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 12, 2021 | 4:00 pm

From all corners of Washington National Cathedral, voices rise, filling the arches with echoes of holidays past and the wonder of things to come.

It's time to surround yourself with feelings of comfort and warmth that come when the weather is cold and the music is bright. It's time to restart the tradition of singing together in a space of beauty and community.

Washington, D.C.'s holiday tradition since 1976 is back. Seraph Brass, organist George Fergus, and the School Without Walls Chorus join Maestro Steven Fox and the Cathedral Choral Society for an unforgettable return to choral music.

### **Artists**

Seraph Brass

Thomas Sheehan, Organ

Steven Fox, Conductor

### **I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY**

March 13, 2022 | 4:00 pm



In 1920, the right to vote was expanded under the Nineteenth Amendment to include women. One hundred and two years later, we explore what it means to have your voice heard.

CCS has commissioned works from three of today's leading women composers — Augusta Read Thomas, Lisa Bielawa, and Jessie Montgomery — that demonstrate the impact of speaking up and speaking out. As part of the day's activities, you will also get to dictate a postcard to a real or imagined President as a part of Sheryl Oring's work *I Wish to Say*.

Stay tuned for more information about this weekend of events celebrating women's voices.

### The Program

Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel: *Overture in C*

Lisa Bielawa: *Voters' Litany* (World Premiere)

Mendelssohn-Hensel: *Gartenlieder*, Op. 3

Jessie Montgomery: *I Have Something to Say* (World Premiere)

Augusta Read Thomas: *Far Past War* (World Premiere)

Ethel Smyth: *Mass in D* (selections)

Smyth: *The March of the Women*

### Artists

Kristen Dubenion-Smith, Mezzo-Soprano

Issachah Savage, Tenor

Boys & Girls Cathedral Choirs, Canon Michael McCarthy, Director

Cathedral Choral Society Orchestra

Steven Fox, Conductor

Sheryl Oring, Performance Artist

### VERDI: MESSA DA REQUIEM

May 15, 2022 | 4:00 pm

To experience Verdi's *Requiem* is to take a journey that is felt as much as it is heard. To hear the work under the majestic arches of Washington National Cathedral is to encounter awe.



Giuseppe Verdi was a dramatic storyteller, and his *Requiem* will take you on a journey from the most serene and delicate musical moments to the thundering roar of the brass as the chorus sings, "Day of Wrath! O, Day of Mourning!"

On December 1, 1941, the brand-new Cathedral Choral Society held its first rehearsal for a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* that would occur in May, 1942. Join us again as Steven Fox and an outstanding cast of guest soloists plumb the depths of this mind-blowing work.

### **The Program**

Giuseppe Verdi: *Messa da Requiem*

### **Artists**

Rachel Willis-Sørensen, Soprano

J'Nai Bridges, Mezzo-Soprano

Mario Chang, Tenor

Anthony Clark Evans, Bass

Cathedral Choral Society Orchestra

Steven Fox, Conductor

### **OTHER COLLABORATIONS: I, TOO, SING AMERICA**

Taking its name from Langston Hughes' 1925 poem, The I, Too, Sing America Project is a musical conversation and performance partnership between the Cathedral Choral Society and the Heritage Signature Chorale to increase awareness and understanding of the music of African Americans, with the aim of elevating the art form in the public consciousness and better establishing it as a foundation of American music. We will be exploring the repertoire of Spirituals, as well as large-scale choral-orchestral works of African American composers. Our shared concerts this season include:

### **Walk Together Children**

Saturday, October 30, 2021 | 4:00pm

### **My Spirit Sings! A Juneteenth Celebration**

Saturday, June 18, 2022 | 4:00pm

### **ABOUT THE CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY**



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As Washington, DC's oldest symphonic chorus, the GRAMMY-nominated Cathedral Choral Society continues to set the standard for vibrant, engaging concerts in one of the world's most important places of worship. The aims of the chorus are to invite more people to enjoy the art of choral singing, elevate emerging voices, and steward the art for future generations.

The Cathedral Choral Society is heavily invested in fostering emerging voices by regularly commissioning up-and-coming composers and featuring outstanding young soloists.

Each season, CCS presents four mainstage concerts in Washington National Cathedral in addition to programs and activities held outdoors or off the Cathedral Close. In its programming, the chorus commits itself each year to presenting works from many musical traditions that challenge, excite, and inspire audiences. The 120 singers that make up the Cathedral Choral Society come from all backgrounds, from politicians and government workers to schoolteachers and professional musicians.

The Cathedral Choral Society was founded by the Cathedral's music director Paul Callaway in 1941, just days before the United States entered World War II. Since that time, only two other music directors have led the chorus: J. Reilly Lewis from 1985 to 2016, and, since 2017, Steven Fox.

For more information, please contact Erin Haar at 805-990-8767 or at [ehaar@cathedral.org](mailto:ehaar@cathedral.org).

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