

THE BRONX CONCERT SINGERS

November 9, 2017

Dear Friend and fellow music lover,

Bronx Concert Singers invites you, your family and friends to refresh your Yuletide spirit at our International Holiday Potpourri Concert!

Join The Bronx Concert Singers (BCS) and Music Director Robert René Galván on Sunday afternoon, December 10, 2017 at 4:30 pm, for our **36th Annual Holiday Concert** at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Avenue, in Parkchester, Bronx, NY 10462. This richly textured Yuletide program features works by J.S. Bach, multi-cultural sacred songs, a world première, and seasonal favorites performed by the BCS chorus, with keyboardist Tamara Cashour, professional soloists, chamber orchestra and percussion.

The holiday season is a time for both joyous celebration and quiet reflection. Maestro Galván weaves these themes into an inspiring program of classical music, seasonal songs from around the world, and Christmas carols. Works by celebrated Baroque era composer J. S. Bach include *Overture* from **Suite No. 2 in B minor for Flute and Orchestra** – BWV 1067, *Jesus bleibet meine Freude* (Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring) from Cantata BWV 147, and **Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland** Cantata BWV 61. **Also, the chorus will première *Dies Sanctificatus* by contemporary New York composer Matthew Anderson!**

Rhythms and flavors from African-American, Caribbean, Latin American and Nigerian music, and tunes from Britain, Ireland, and Russia are the spice of this diverse holiday concert. Selections include the energetic Nigerian carol *Betelehemu*, Hardin's rousing *Yonder Come Day*, and Roland Carter's passionate arrangement of *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, the haunting Celtic *Jerusalem*, Joubert's meditative *There is no Rose*, the graceful *Carol of the Bells* and the tender Spanish lullaby *A la Nanita Nana*. Russian folksong *Kolyada* evokes magical sleigh rides. Hand drum emphasizes the stately rhythms of Mayan-Guatemalan composer Tomas Pascual's *Oy es día de placer*.

ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY CONCERT TICKETS TODAY

Take advantage of great music, affordable prices and easy walking and transit. I used to have neighbors mutter "I'll think about it" when I asked them to try a concert. Now, they approach me early saying "I want to buy tickets for myself and some friends."

Purchase your tickets in advance to avoid Box Office lines.

Tickets are \$20 for General Admission and 2 for \$35; \$15 for Seniors (62+) and College Students with valid id; and \$5 for Children through High School. For groups of 5 or more, call 917-743-4641 for group rates.

Tickets are available:

- from BCS members, or after Sunday services at St. Paul, or by calling us at 917-743-4641 for local Parkchester delivery.
- Charge your will-call tickets using Visa – MasterCard – Discover Card through **Brown Paper Tickets: Online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3131664>, or by phone: 1-800-838-3006.** Visit the Tickets page on our website, www.bronxconcertsingers.org, for a direct link. A service charge applies.
- Mail your check to Bronx Concert Singers, P.O. Box 1226, Bronx, NY 10462-0580 (a Ticket order form –on the reverse of the Contribution form - and BCS-addressed envelope are enclosed). Tickets for checks received after December 1st will be held at the BOX OFFICE. Include a self-addressed return envelope and your telephone number for confirmation of receipt and shipment.
- At the concert Box Office only Cash or Checks are accepted.

Mailing Address: Bronx Concert Singers, P.O. Box 1226, Bronx, New York 10462-0580

Community Chorus in Residence at St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church • 1891 McGraw Avenue • Bronx, New York 10462
www.bronxconcertsingers.org ♦ 917-743-4641

BCS BRINGS GREAT MUSIC HOME TO THE BRONX WITH YOUR SUPPORT!

Our concerts draw enthusiastic fans who savor the musical variety, including: Spring 2017: Verdi's *Ave Maria* and *Stabat Mater*, and selections from Boito's "Mefistofele" and Gounod's "Faust"; Holiday 2016: Vaughan William's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, Finzi's *In Terra Pax* and Walton's *Jubilate Deo*; Spring 2016: Mozart's *Requiem*, Brahms' *Alto Rhapsodie* and Schubert's *Mirjams Siegesgesang*.

Jeannette (first time attending Spring 2016):

"My neighbor told me about this special concert. I enjoyed it very much. The singing was beautiful and the wonderful music was like medicine to the soul."

From an email:

"Listening to a live performance of wonderful choral music took 20 years off my age. Best part: closing my eyes to listen better and resting my hands on the oak pew to feel the vibration. A whole body experience!"

Christmas 2016, a profoundly moving conversation:

After the Holiday concert, I saw a new audience member signing in ASL and went to greet her. I smiled, waved Hello, and signed "Thank you." Her shy but emphatic response "Thank YOU! Thank YOU! Thank YOU!"

Spring 2017: Middle schooler Jake resonated with the jazz-like chords in Verdi's avant-garde Ave Maria; and senior Evelyn was impressed with the vocal richness of our Mefestofele.

As audience members and donors, you make this possible. Your generous support, even when you cannot attend a concert, powers BCS's longevity. For 36 years, Bronx Concert Singers has brought splendid music and memorable performances into our neighborhoods, presenting affordable, high quality classical and innovative music programs with volunteer chorus members, and professional singers and instrumentalists. With your help, our wide-ranging programming and dynamic soloists will continue to delight our listeners.

Please donate now to help us close the funding gap. As a volunteer-run, community-based non-profit, your tax deductible gift of \$10, \$50, \$100 or more is vital to helping BCS bring great music into our neighborhoods. It lets potential funders know you value the arts in our daily lives. Add memorials and honor gifts at any level, or purchase a business ad (enclose B&W copy). You may donate by cash, check or money order. We enclose a Contribution/Ad form (on the reverse of the Ticket order form) and BCS-return envelope for your convenience.

If you would like to use your Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card to make your donation you may do so online by visiting our website, www.bronxconcertsingers.org. Look for the "Donate Now" button and learn more about helping BCS by making a secure donation through NETWORKFORGOOD.

This concert is made possible, in part, with public funds from the Bronx Council on the Arts through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Greater New York Arts Development Fund Re grants Program, awarded in a competitive process. This grant covers only a small part of concert expenses, so we ask you to help close the gap. Since all BCS administrative work is performed by volunteers, your contributions are used to cover the expenses directly related to producing our concerts, such as salaries for our music staff, rehearsal and performance space rental, hiring professional singers and musicians for our concerts and letting you know about concerts.

Spread the word. Share your enthusiasm with your family, friends, neighbors and acquaintances. Invite them to the concert. Find out about group rates. Create fresh memories and renew precious ties when you attend this Holiday concert together.

In this season of giving, we look forward to sharing this wonderful music with you here in Parkchester, at St. Paul's on Sunday, December 10th, at 4:30 pm. Please call me at (917) 743-4641 if you need additional information about tickets sales, group rates, our organization, or about singing with us for the Spring 2018 season.

May you and your family enjoy abundant holiday blessings, and health throughout 2018.



Frances Ciurcina, President

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