

T H E B R O N X  
**CONCERT SINGERS**

April 20, 2017

Dear Friend and fellow music lover,

I am excited to invite you to a Bronx Concert Singers' 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Concert. Maestro Galván has selected works by 19<sup>th</sup> C. European master composers Verdi, Mahler, Boito and Gounod for a deeply moving and satisfying program to share with your family and friends.

**Experience every moment of this memorable program!** Join the BCS chorus, professional soloists and chamber ensemble under the direction of Music Director Robert René Galván on Sunday afternoon, May 21, 2017 at 4:30 pm, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Avenue, in Parkchester, Bronx, NY 10462.

In *Stabat Mater*, Verdi's genius in word painting joins us viscerally to the heart of this monumental 13<sup>th</sup> C prayer: Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in anguish as she watches her son's death on the cross, and our own resonant sympathy while we also hope for salvation. Verdi wrote *Ave Maria* as an answer to a musical puzzle, creating a work that is both ethereal and timeless. His *La Vergine degli Angeli* from "**La Forza del Destino**" is a delicate farewell benediction that will warm your heart.

A wedding gift for his bride, Mahler infused the *Adagietto* from **Symphony No. 5** with the depth, warmth, wonder, and vastness of his love for her. Close your eyes to sink into this lush work!

Goethe's Faust, the story of a scholar who sells his soul to the devil, has inspired countless offshoots and musical interpretations. BCS's tribute to Faust features the *Prologue in Heaven* from Boito's **Mefistofele**, and two arias from Gounod's **Faust**: lovelorn young Siebel's *Faites lui mes aveux (Flower Song)* and Faust's *Salut, demeure chaste et pure*.

### **ORDER YOUR SPRING CONCERT TICKETS TODAY**

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 <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2899055>, or by phone: **1-800-838-3006**. Visit the Tickets page on our website, [www.bronxconcertsingers.org](http://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 May 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

"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!"

This is just one person's first time experience at a BCS concert, but it's likely to be the first of many.

**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](http://www.bronxconcertsingers.org) ♦ 917-743-4641

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.” In short, our neighbors are taking advantage of great music, affordable prices and easy walking and transit.

Each of our last four concerts drew 150-200 enthusiastic fans who savored the musical variety, including: 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*; Holiday 2015: Vivaldi’s *Magnificat* and concertos, spirited works by Scarlatti and Ariel Ramirez, and Caribbean carols; Spring 2015: Schubert’s *Mass No. 6 in Eb*, Brahms’ *Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee*, Beethoven’s *Hallelujah!*, American Amy Beach’s *Praise the Lord, O my Soul*, and arias from Korngold’s opera *Die tote Stadt*.

**As audience members and donors, you make this possible.** BCS thrives today because of your generous support, even when you did not attend a concert. 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 members, and professional singers and instrumentalists. With your help, our “out of the box” programming and dynamic soloists will continue to delight and surprise our listeners.

**Please donate now.** As a volunteer-run, community-based non-profit, your tax deductible gift at any level is vital to BCS being able to bring great music into our neighborhoods, and lets potential funders know you value the arts in our lives and our neighborhood. 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](http://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 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 when you attend the Spring concert together.

We look forward to sharing this great music with you here in Parkchester, at St. Paul’s on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 Holiday 2017 season.

Best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and joyous Spring.



Frances Ciurcina,  
President