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Friday, August 2nd, 2024 | **ACS News & Press**
Alexandria, VA

The Alexandria Choral Society Celebrates its 55th Season with a Year of Musical Excellence and Collaboration

The Alexandria Choral Society (ACS) is excited to celebrate its 55th season, a milestone that honors its rich history while looking forward to a vibrant future in choral music. This landmark season features seven diverse concerts, blending beloved classics with contemporary masterpieces, and includes collaborations with notable arts organizations such as the Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria A Cappella Collective, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association, and NOVA Symphony Orchestra. The season will culminate in the inaugural One Voice Alexandria Choir Festival, bringing together choirs from across Alexandria for a grand celebration of the city's exceptional choral talent. This festival will showcase the voices of Alexandria and foster a sense of community through the unifying power of music. Join us for a season of exceptional performances and a festival that highlights the essence of choral excellence in our city!

The season opens on October 5th with *Shine on Us*, an illuminating performance highlighting the theme of light. The concert will feature radiant selections from Bach's B minor Mass and Mendelssohn's "Lift Thine Eyes," alongside contemporary works by Howard Helvey and Alexandria native B.E. Boykin. In partnership with Dr. Joyce Garrett and the Alfred Street Baptist Church Trinity Choir, this event promises a night of inspiring and luminous music.

On November 10th, join ACS and the NOVA Symphony Orchestra for a monumental performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, celebrating its 200th anniversary. Marking NOVA Symphony's 30th anniversary, this performance also commemorates the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's final and most celebrated symphony, completed in 1824.

The festive spirit continues with *Holiday Dreams* on December 8th. This concert, directed by Anna Binneweg and hosted by the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, will enchant with Grace-Evangeline Mason's "The Imagined Forest," Duke Ellington's jazz-infused "Nutcracker Suite," and the delightful "Musicological Journey Through the 12 Days of Christmas." Join us for this heartwarming celebration that will fill your holiday season with joy and wonder!

In the spring, the *Washington Women* concert on March 8, 2025, will commemorate influential American women through Judith Clurman and David Chase's 11-movement song cycle and will spotlight the recipients of our annual Sing-Off Grant. Taking place on International Women's Day at the historic George Washington Masonic Memorial, this compelling performance will celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of women across generations.

As the season blooms, *Make Our Garden Grow* on April 5, 2025 will feature Pro Coro Alexandria and celebrate spring's renewal through beautiful works by Delius and Lauridsen. Say bon voyage to ACS in *To the Road* on June 14, 2025, where ACS will preview music for its upcoming international tour to Ireland and Scotland, including selections by Mendelssohn, Palestrina, Handel, and B.E. Boykin.

The season will culminate in the inaugural "One Voice Alexandria" Choir Festival on May 9, 2025 at Schlesinger Hall, showcasing many diverse Alexandria choral ensembles, including the Alexandria A Cappella Collective, Alfred Street Baptist Church, and many more, in a grand celebration of musical unity across the vibrant city of Alexandria!

PO Box 406 / Alexandria, VA 22313 / 703-951-7849 / www.alexandriachoralsociety.org

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Program funding is provided by our donors, and in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the City of Alexandria.





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Join us for a season filled with remarkable music and memorable performances. Season tickets are now available in two pricing tiers:

\$100 - ACS's "Choral Collab" tier

Admission to each of our choral concerts,
which include October, March, April, and May - and a bonus farewell tour concert in June.

\$160 - ACS's "Orchestral Collab" tier

Admission to all of our ticketed performances, including
October, November with NOVA Symphony, December with Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, March, April, and
May - and a bonus farewell tour concert in June.

For more details and ticket information, visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

About the Alexandria Choral Society:

For over half a century, the Alexandria Choral Society has presented a broad spectrum of choral works, delighting audiences and fostering an inclusive environment of belonging and collaboration in the city of Alexandria and beyond. Since its founding in 1970, the Alexandria Choral Society has delighted audiences year in and year out. Most recently, ACS commissioned and presented the world premiere of *You Birth the Seeds*, a work by acclaimed composer Melissa Dunphy, with text from Alexandria poet laureate Zeina Azzam. Under the direction of Artistic Director Kathryn Harsha, ACS is committed to enhancing the cultural life of the city of Alexandria by presenting diverse and engaging vocal music programs at the highest artistic level.

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