

Kathryn Harsha, *Artistic Director* Victoria Benson, *Executive Director*

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Alexandria, VA - The Alexandria Choral Society Announces Its 2025-2026 Season

The Alexandria Choral Society (ACS) is excited to announce its 2025-2026 season, celebrating 56 years of sharing choral music with the city of Alexandria. This season, across five performances and continuing the theme of collaboration from its landmark 55th season, ACS invites its audiences on a transformative journey through the deepest questions of human experience: How do we truly hear one another? How do we find joy in a weary world? And what legacy do we leave?

The season opens on Sunday, October 26th with *Do You Hear What I Hear*?, a performance that contemplates the profound art of listening, presented in collaboration with the Alexandria Children's Chorus. Singers of all ages will journey together through pieces that explore silence, sound, and the spaces between, from the hauntingly introspective "The Sound of Silence" to the powerfully resilient "Ain't No Grave."

Then, on Saturday, December 13th, ACS will present *The Weary World Rejoices*, a performance acknowledging the uncertainty we are all facing while celebrating the light that breaks through the darkness. This program will move from contemplative works to hopeful classics, featuring selections from Mozart's *Requiem* and beloved holiday classics like "O Holy Night," as well as the traditional Spanish carol "A La Nanita Nana" and Elgar's "The Snow."

On Sunday, March 8th, ACS will present *American Voices*, a performance that celebrates the diverse spirit of our nation, in collaboration with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. This program highlights pieces that reflect what it means to be American in the 21st Century, including Gabriela Ortiz's "Kauyumari," which honors the indigenous voices and stories that predate the founding of our nation; Leonard Bernstein's "Symphonic Dances" from *West Side Story*, which echoes the hopes and struggles of immigrant communities in America; and Jake Runestad's *Earth Symphony*, which inspires listeners to embrace their shared responsibility as global citizens.

Next, join the Alexandria Choral Society's chamber choir, Pro Coro Alexandria, on Saturday, April 18th for *History Has Its Eyes On You*. Presented in the very sanctuary where George Washington once worshipped, Christ Church Alexandria, this powerful program—featuring selections from *Hamilton*, "One Day More" from *Les Miserables*, Jennifer Lucy Cook's "Time," Palestrina's "Sicut Cervus," and more—will explore our relationship with time, legacy, and how we share the weight of being witnesses to history.

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, a gift from the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia / The Sydalco Charitable Fund, and the City of Alexandria through the Annual Arts Program.





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The season finale is *I Hope You Dance*, presented on both Saturday, May 16th, and Sunday, May 17th. This uplifting program embraces celebration —because throughout the ups and downs of life, we still dance. The concert will feature Diana V. Saez's "Temporal," Oscar Escalada's passionate "Libertango," Jennifer Lucy Cook's "Lo Dello: the dance," and Z. Randall Stroope's "Dance For Love." The evening will culminate with *The Wanting Memories Project*, a powerful tribute to Ysaye Barnwell, founding member of Grammy award-winning a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock.

As a nonprofit performing arts organization ACS strongly believes that financial capacity should never be a barrier to experiencing quality choral programming. That's why we have proudly adopted a pay-what-you-can pricing model for our performances. Our suggested price for each seat is \$30 per concert.

Season tickets are available for \$125, which includes admission to all five performances. By purchasing a season ticket, you are securing your spot at each of our concerts at a discount from the suggested price while also helping ACS ensure that we can bring music to Alexandria for seasons to come. Learn more and secure your spot now at www.alexandriachoralsociety.org/performances.

Join ACS for a season that reminds us to listen deeply, embrace community, and celebrate together!

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. In recent seasons, ACS has 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; presented the timely and impactful *Washington Women*, by David Chase and Judith Clurman; and hosted the first ever city-wide choral festival *One Voice Alexandria*, bringing together choral ensembles from across Alexandria. 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.

For more information visit <u>www.alexandriachoralsociety.org</u>.

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