



SUMMER 2021

VOL. 31 NO. 1

# CHORAL Voice

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## DIRECTORS' CORNER

Dear Friends, Benefactors and Choir Families:

As we think back over the past 14 months, we remember the anxiety and uncertainty facing The Maryland State Boychoir. The big questions were:

- How do we move forward in a difficult time?
- How do we maintain the integrity of MSB without being able to rehearse?
- How do we keep the interest of our choristers when told that we may not sing?
- How do we continue a schedule of performances when all our venues are being cancelled?
- How do we attract new boy choristers during a time of uncertainty?
- How...how...how?

Being perfectly honest, it was not easy! We needed to move forward while still being mindful of all CDC regulations and the health of our beloved community. Basically, we were painted into a corner as was the rest of the world!

The first task of moving forward was to resume rehearsals ASAP! So, we shifted all rehearsals outside onto our beautiful garden patio and cloister walkway. Problem solved? Not yet! The pandemic left us outside in the cold (sometimes bitter cold). Here is where the drive and integrity of our boys and parents came into play—and saved our future. Rehearsing outside quickly became the norm and the boys just shrugged off the cold. During the worst weather, the boys were given hot cider and hand warmers and sang surrounded by heaters. **Bravo to our boys and their parents!** You saved MSB and we are able to continue this millennium-old tradition.

So, now we are singing and learning great music but still have no audience! Well, there is more than one way to reach your goal. We gave several concerts on our Garden Patio. Friends came from near and far with lawn chairs in hand and spirits high. We also offered livestream performances and recorded premieres.

As for new recruits, **they came!** So far, these months under COVID have produced approximately 20 newly-enrolled boys. They visited rehearsals in the bitter cold and **still** joined.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Now, we can move forward slowly and cautiously into, what seems to be, a new and almost “normal” beginning. We are planning a day camp for the boys (on our own grounds). This will hopefully lead to an off-site camp in the summer of 2022. We are beginning to look at what might be in store for the coming season—concerts, camps, festivals, and tours.

One of the most important aspects of our cautious recovery has been the unbelievable financial support of our wonderful benefactors. Mostly unsolicited, these good friends were not about to watch MSB disappear from their sight. Their generosity was instrumental in making up for lost revenue from cancelled performances. They are truly our lifeblood and friends forever. The MSB is truly blessed.

As we bring our 2020-2021 choral season to a close, we wish to thank all of you for your faithful support of The Maryland State Boychoir and invite you to join us at one or more of our upcoming events this summer and into the fall.

***Long live the MSB!***



Stephen Holmes  
Artistic Director



Frank Cimino  
Director Emeritus

## Recruiting Begins!

The Maryland State Boychoir is now in its **34th season** of providing quality music education and outstanding opportunities for performance and travel to boys who love to sing! Group auditions will be held in June and in early September. At this time, in-person auditions will be held socially distanced outdoors.

### **The Ideal MSB Candidate:**

- Is a boy between the ages of six and eighteen
- Who loves to sing, has a good ear, and possesses a natural singing voice
- And has a family or support system committed to his success in the program regardless of ability to pay for tuition. A generous need-based scholarship program is available to eligible choristers.

Choristers receive an outstanding music education, private voice and theory lessons, and gain poise and self-discipline during their tenure with the Boychoir. Outside of this time of COVID-19, the MSB also provides ample public performance and travel opportunities.

For more information or to schedule an audition, please visit [www.marylandstateboychoir.org](http://www.marylandstateboychoir.org) or call the office at 410.554.8644.

***Come and experience the joy of singing, touring, camps, and meeting new friends!***





# MSB'S TOP 10 2020



**1** The African American Celebration at Whitestone Baptist Church in West Baltimore.

**2** Winter Camp with 150+ participants at Skycroft Retreat Center in Middletown, MD.

**3** The Young Men's Chorus Tour to Nashville, Knoxville and Roanoke.

**4** Concert Choir's tri-state tour with 7 concerts in 3 days!

**5** Standing room only concert at Christ Episcopal Church in Easton, MD.

**6** Learning to connect with students and staff using ZOOM.

**7** A modified Summer Camp program—including a spirited kick-off at Beachmont Camp.

**8** Outdoor Fall Concert on the MSB Center for the Arts patio.

**9** Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols video premiere performance filmed at the Church of the Resurrection in Timonium, MD, and...

**10** The MSB's eagerly awaited CD release of Comfort and Joy in December.



## ALUMNI NEWS

The MSB is intently pursuing the collection of email addresses and home addresses of Boychoir alumni. If you are an alumnus or parent of a former chorister, we kindly ask that you contact us by email to provide this information. We would like to grow our Alumni activities (Thanksgiving Weekend Football Game, Alumni Choir for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Compline Choir, Summer Series, Crab Feast, Bull and Oyster Roast—to name a few.) Keeping in touch with those who marched through our ranks is very important and we thank you for your assistance!

Please email:  
[kathy@marylandstateboychoir.org](mailto:kathy@marylandstateboychoir.org)



### Spring 2021 Annual Fund Campaign

We are very grateful to those who support The Maryland State Boychoir through its Annual Fund Campaign. Twice annually, we invite your support for the work we are doing for choristers throughout the State of Maryland. To donate, please visit [www.marylandstateboychoir.org/donate/](http://www.marylandstateboychoir.org/donate/) or text MSBSINGS to 44-321.



# RENOVATION REVEAL

In the spring of 2020, the MSB began renovation of the first floor of the Center for the Arts. We needed five new bathrooms, a renovated conference room, new tile in the cloister foyer and new tile in the main hallway.



Many thanks to our beloved friends and patrons for their continued support. With your help, the MSB has carried on its programming safely and joyfully during this difficult season. We look forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful building soon and we are eager to share more amazing music with you this year!





## *Honoring Our Graduating Seniors*

The past year provided a unique challenge to the MSB's cherished tradition of honoring and congratulating the graduating class. Gone were the programmatic components around which we built our celebrations—it was time to reinvent our customs. The MSB staff proudly welcomed this opportunity and excitedly set out to plan events that our graduating class of 2021 would never forget.

**And now... we would like to congratulate the Graduating Class of 2021:**



Jack Dorsey



Brian Lyght



Ben McDaniel

We look forward to acknowledging their legacy and accomplishments at our upcoming summer events.

Here's what we've planned for them:

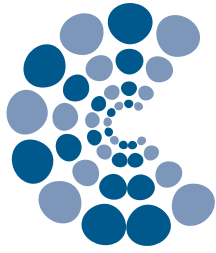
**SENIOR DINNER:** Our annual senior dinner needed to be reinvented to fit within the COVID safety guidelines. Fortunately, the MSB CFA Garden Patio is a wonderful space for evening summer dinner parties! The graduating class and music staff enjoyed a socially distant meal as well as a congratulatory slideshow on the patio.

**LAWN SIGNS:** The MSB designed lawn signs to congratulate the entire graduating class. We then surprised each chorister by embarking on a statewide road trip to deliver the signs, gifts, honorary plaques, and good cheer. A second copy of each sign will be displayed on the MSB property throughout the summer.

**SENIOR ROAST:** In the late summer, the MSB will welcome the choristers back to the Garden Patio to participate in a Senior Roast. A yearly tradition, all choristers will be filled with pride and as we share the most memorable stories and best wishes for each senior.

In addition to these events, we will continue to highlight and celebrate all the seniors during our summer meetings and Summer Day Camp.

*Congratulations*



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



**The Maryland State Boychoir is about to reach an important landmark. The fall of this year will mark the beginning of the Boychoir's 35th season!**

This is certainly a time to celebrate the remarkable achievements since the Boychoir's small beginnings in 1987. We can look back on the tremendous growth of our choirs, performance and tour

opportunities, repertoire and staff, as well as gaining our own "home" in the MSB Center for the Arts. Looking towards our 50th anniversary, we aspire to an even greater future. Over the summer months, the MSB Board of Directors will engage in a strategic planning process, turning those aspirations into a clear path forward. We expect to launch a major campaign to fund and secure the MSB's future in the fall. This will require the participation of everyone we know—and some new friends getting to know us.

From conversations with those who already know and love the Boychoir, themes are already beginning to emerge. There is consensus that we want to preserve all that is good, acknowledging our past and the great traditions being carried forward by the MSB. At the same time, we see potential for growth and innovation in several areas. First, we must invest in the people of the MSB, creating more opportunities for boys who love to sing to participate and grow with us, and strategically expanding the staff to nurture them. There are also opportunities to expand programs that reach out to those who have yet to meet the Boychoir, increase our stature as a leading Baltimore arts organization and be a resource to the larger boychoir community. To do this, we must enhance the physical things that support our people and programs, continuing work on our remarkable building to make it serve the MSB and others more effectively and equipping it for the future. Finally, to provide ongoing support—for the old and the new—we must set aside an endowment to give us confidence that our organization will thrive in whatever circumstances the next 15 years may bring.

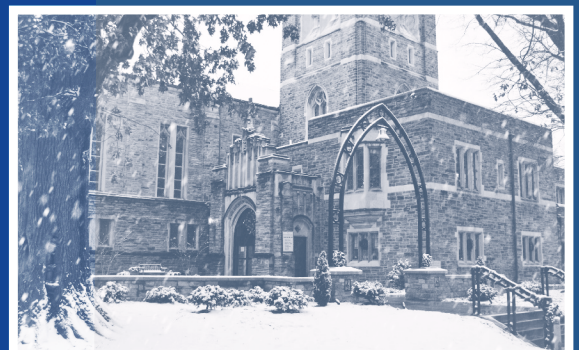
New Maryland State Boychoir CD!

## Comfort & Joy

The Maryland State Boychoir has produced a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols CD featuring live and studio recordings over the past decade and scripture passages read by local faith leaders and community dignitaries.

Copies are available for purchase through the MSB website or by calling the office at 410.554.8644.

Instant digital download is included in the purchase of a physical disc. Cost is \$25.



## Comfort & Joy

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
The Maryland State Boychoir



# Have You Remembered the MSB in Your Estate Planning?



## CENTER FOR THE ARTS SPACES FOR LEASE

- Non-profit Offices
- Studios
- Rehearsal Spaces
- Performance and Reception Rentals
- Daycare/Preschool
- Sunday Afternoon Congregation

For more information, including pricing, please contact:

The Maryland State Boychoir      Phone: 410.554.8644  
 3400 Norman Avenue              FAX: 410.554.1033  
 Baltimore, MD 21213              E-mail: [info@marylandstateboychoir.org](mailto:info@marylandstateboychoir.org)

## MSB CFA RENTAL

The Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts (formerly known as the Cathedral Church of Saint Matthew) 3400 Norman Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21213 is now available for rental for weddings, receptions, rehearsal dinners, parties, and special occasions!

Please contact the MSB office for availability and pricing at 410.554.8644.

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