

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL

Baltimore Boychoir Festival

April 24-25



FEATURING OUTSTANDING AMERICAN BOYCHOIRS

GUEST DIRECTOR

Donald C. Morris

Festival Itinerary

Friday, April 24, 2026

- 5:00 P.M. Choirs arrive on site for check-in and registration at the Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts
3400 Norman Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213
- 6:00 P.M. Seating of choirs
- 6:30 P.M. Official welcome of visiting choirs and directors
- 6:45 P.M. Rehearsal of joint repertoire with guest director, Donald C. Morris
- 8:00 P.M. Break
- 8:15 P.M. Rehearsal
- 9:30 P.M. Announcements and dismissal. Boys depart with host families or to hotel.

Saturday, April 25, 2026

- 8:45 A.M. Assemble at The Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts. Boys should wear Festival T-shirts if they were purchased. Boys should report to their assembly room to get their music and name tags and then report directly to their seats in the sanctuary.
- 9:15 A.M. Full rehearsal with Donald C. Morris
- 10:45 A.M. Break for Trebles and Altos, Sectional Rehearsal for Tenors and Basses
- 11:05 A.M. Break for Tenors and Basses, Sectional Rehearsal for Trebles and Altos
- 11:25 A.M. Full rehearsal with Donald C. Morris
- 12:45 P.M. Lunch on the lawn
- 2:00 P.M. Rehearsal with Donald C. Morris
- 3:15 P.M. Dismissal to assembly rooms
- 3:20 P.M. Individual Choir Rehearsals
- 4:30 P.M. Full Rehearsal with Donald C. Morris
- 5:15 P.M. Choirs meet for logistics of procession
- 5:30 P.M. Procession
- 6:15 P.M. Dinner in Fellowship Hall (Gym) and choir rooms
- 6:45 P.M. Final preparations, dressing, and instructions for performance
- 7:15 P.M. Choirs take seats in Concert Hall
- 7:30 P.M. Festival Concert in Concert Hall
- 9:30 P.M. Boys depart with host families or to hotel

BBF GUEST DIRECTOR

Donald C. Morris



Donald C. Morris has played a central role at the Newark Boys Chorus School since 1987. He began his professional journey at the school as a Science teacher and Associate Conductor of the Concert Chorus.

In September 1996, Mr. Morris was appointed Music Director, a position in which he was responsible for the musical education and training of all students. His leadership helped to shape the artistic vision of the institution and nurture the talents of numerous young musicians.

Under Mr. Morris' direction, the Newark Boys Chorus traveled extensively, performing in countries on six continents. These global tours have enriched the students' musical awareness and connections, and exposed them to a wide array of cultures, broadening their personal and musical horizons. The Chorus achieved recognition for its excellence in performance, receiving invitations to sing at both divisional and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). In addition, the group has performed in esteemed venues across the United States, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Morris firmly believes that, although few graduates of the Chorus School pursue careers as professional musicians, the rigorous training and performance experience offered at the school foster discipline and poise in students. These qualities, along with increased self-esteem, are lifelong assets that benefit the young men who attend the school.

Mr. Morris holds a Master of Arts in Music Education from Hunter College, a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Chemistry from the University of the West Indies, and a Licentiate of the Royal School of Music (L.R.S.M.) in piano performance. He resides in Newark, New Jersey, and serves as Organist and Choirmaster at the Episcopal Church of St Andrew & Holy Communion in South Orange, NJ.

Over the years, Mr. Morris has also led workshops and been a guest conductor for various boys', youth, and choral ensembles throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

Now retired from full-time engagement as a music educator, Donald Morris continues to share his passion for choral music. He currently conducts the Concert Chorale of New Jersey City University in Jersey City, NJ, working with aspiring musicians.

BALTIMORE BOYCHOIR FESTIVAL

Repertoire 2026

The Great Jehovah (from Joshua)
G. F. Handel
Contact MSB for pdf
SATB

Pilgrim Song
Ryan Murphy
OUP
SATB

Ad Astra (To the Stars)
Jacob Narverud
Carl Fischer
SATB

Kyrie
Glenn McClure
Earthsongs
SATB

Elijah Rock, arr. Rollo Dilworth
Hal Leonard
Treble

Canto Del Agua, arr. David Hill
Alliance Music Publications
TTB

All Shall Be Amen and Alleluia
James Whitbourn
Chester
Unison and SATB

The Ground
Ola Gjeilo
Walton Music
SATB

Photocopied music will not be allowed unless found on cpdl or imslp.

You may wish to contact
The Musical Source for assistance: 1.800.2SOURCE

It is vital that boys come well-prepared, knowing the notes of the Festival repertoire. This will allow Donald C. Morris to work on the ensemble sound during rehearsal.

The Baltimore Boychoir Festival



2026 – Donald C. Morris

Baltimore Boychoir Festival Past Guest Directors

- 2000 – Vincent Metallo
- 2001 – Dr. Lynnel Joy Jenkins
- 2002 – Judith Willoughby
- 2003 – Dr. Andre J. Thomas
- 2004 – Francisco J. Nuñez
- 2005 – Dr. James Litton
- 2006 – Dr. Judy Bowers
- 2007 – Dr. Z. Randall Stroope
- 2008 – Bob Chilcott
- 2009 – Dr. Rollo Dilworth
- 2010 – Stephen Hatfield
- 2011 – Simon Carrington
- 2012 – Dr. Paul Rardin
- 2013 – Dr. Craig Denison
- 2014 – Richard Webster
- 2015 – Henry Leck
- 2016 – David R. White
- 2017 – Michael McCarthy
- 2018 – Dr. Andrea Ramsey
- 2019 – Dr. Sandra Snow
- 2022 – Dr. Stephen Darlington
- 2023 – Dr. Anton Armstrong
- 2024 – Dr. Lynne Gackle
- 2025 – Gabriel Crouch

Participating Choirs

Realizing the importance of such festivals, The Maryland State Boychoir strives to make this opportunity accessible and affordable to as many choirs as possible. A registration fee is required in the amount of \$50 per boy. This is necessary to offset the actual expenses of over \$125 per boy that the Festival incurs. Please make checks payable to The Maryland State Boychoir and mail to our office with your registration form by March 1, 2026. Directors of children's choirs may wish to send some or all of their boy singers to the festival. Their participation would be most welcome.

A mass choir performance of music rehearsed during the two-day Festival with Donald C. Morris will conclude the Saturday evening concert.

We would be happy to assist you in setting up other concerts or church services in the Baltimore area on Sunday, April 26, 2026. Please contact the MSB by March 1, 2026, should you wish for this arrangement.

Directors of Non-Participating Choirs

We have created a program for any director or music teacher, whose choir is not participating in this event, to attend and observe the Festival. We are requesting a \$100 participation fee per director. This would include:

- Access to rehearsals on Friday and Saturday
- Lunch and dinner on Saturday with other participating directors and Guest clinician
- Festival music packet
- One ticket to the Saturday evening concert



THE MARYLAND STATE BOYCHOIR

The Maryland State Boychoir was founded in 1987.

Since its inception, over 1,000 boys have passed through its ranks. Currently, over 100 boys are enrolled in the organization, now under the artistic direction of Stephen A. Holmes. The choir purchased a permanent home in Baltimore's historic Mayfield community, renovated the space that is now home to thriving arts organizations. In the tradition of the great English schools, each boy is trained in singing and music theory. After passing a series of tests, he may pass from the level of Junior Choirboy to Full Chorister. Ample opportunities are given to sing in professional concerts. The Maryland State Boychoir rehearses, performs, tours, and provides educational social opportunities for its membership. Now in its thirty-ninth season, the MSB performs over 60 times each year throughout Maryland, in surrounding states, and on tours that have taken them to Ireland, Wales, England, The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Canada, Bermuda and more than thirty states in the U.S. The choir has collaborated with the Bonifantes Boychoir of the Czech Republic, as well as the Drakensberg Boy's Choir of South Africa.

Over the years, the MSB has performed at:

- The Baltimore Museum of Art
- The White House
- The Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts
- The Kennedy Center with the Washington Choral Arts Society
- The United States Naval Academy Chapel
- The PGA Presidents Cup
- The Meyerhoff Symphony Hall with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
- The National Cathedral in Washington DC
- The Modell Performing Arts Center
- St. Patrick's Cathedral and Holy Trinity in New York City
- The Maryland State House
- The Israeli Presidential Conference in Jerusalem (via video feed)



THE MARYLAND STATE BOYCHOIR

Stephen A. Holmes, Artistic Director • Joseph Shortall, Assistant Director

3400 Norman Avenue | Baltimore, Maryland 21213 | info@marylandstateboychoir.org | www.marylandstateboychoir.org

Guest Chior Registration Form

PLEASE TYPE OR CLEARLY PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Choir _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (day) _____ (mobile) _____

Email _____

Website _____

Director(s) _____

Please indicate the repertoire voicing which your choir performs:

___ SA ___ SAB ___ SATB ___ TTBB

Please indicate the number of:

___ Sopranos ___ Altos ___ Tenors ___ Basses

Total number of singer to participate in the festival _____

The Maryland State Boychoir is pleased to provide host families for Festival choristers. Since we have a limited number of hosts, we ask that you submit the application and payment by March 1, 2026 in order to secure housing. If you prefer using hotels, our staff will be happy to make recommendations.

Will your boys need host family accommodations for the evening of Friday, April 24, 2026?

___ Yes ___ No

Will your boys need host family accommodations for the evening of Saturday, April 25, 2026? If so, what time (between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.) would you like the choristers to be returned to the Boychoir Center for the Arts on Sunday, April 26?

___ Yes ___ No Return time _____

Do you wish us to arrange a church service for your choir on Sunday, April 26, 2026?

___ Yes ___ No

For an additional cost of \$20 per boy, you may purchase a Festival T-Shirt for each of your singers.

___ Yes! We will be purchasing Festival T-shirts Number of shirts _____

Shirt sizes _____

Please provide number of shirts, sizes and t-shirt payment by April 1, 2026. If order is not received by that date, you may purchase t-shirts (first come-first served) at the Festival, although all sizes may not be available.

Director's Signature and Date _____

Please return this form with your donation toward festival costs by **April 1, 2026** to:

The Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts
3400 Norman Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21213

Baltimore Boychoir Festival

Directors of Non-Participating Choirs Registration Form

PLEASE TYPE OR CLEARLY PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Director's Name _____

Choir _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (day) _____ (mobile) _____

DIRECTOR'S AGREEMENT

I understand that each Director must pay a \$100 participation fee. The fee will cover access to all rehearsals on Friday and Saturday, lunch and dinner on Saturday, April 25, music packet of all festival music, and one ticket to the Saturday evening concert.

Director's Signature and date _____

Please return this form with your participation fee by April 1, 2026 to:

The Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts
3400 Norman Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21213

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