

**AS** ACCORD  
SYMPHONY

AMERATA *B*ALTIMORE

# Bearing Gifts of Song

*Sunday*  
**December 15th**  
**3PM**

Free Admission

*Perkins Square*  
*Baptist Church*

**2500 Edmondson Avenue**  
**Baltimore, MD 21223**



It is an absolute honor to lead this program tonight as we celebrate the power of music-making and community. Accord Symphony and Camerata Baltimore are shining examples of what it means to come together through music. Our ensembles are a vibrant mix of intergenerational and multicultural musicians—college students, retirees, and professionals from all walks of life. This beautiful diversity is what makes our performances so special, and it is a privilege to share the results of our collective effort with you.

I have a deep appreciation for music of all styles and genres. This passion is reflected in tonight's programming, particularly in our featured work, *The Ballad of the Brown King* by Margaret Bonds, with text by Langston Hughes. This extraordinary cantata tells the story of the Magi's journey and highlights the figure of Balthazar, the African king. Hughes' vivid poetry seamlessly blends with Bonds' masterful use of musical idioms—from classical to jazz and gospel—creating a work that is as powerful as it is beautiful. To complement this, I am thrilled to revisit Handel's *Overture to Messiah*, a piece I first conducted with Camerata Baltimore in 2014. Performing it again during this 10th Anniversary celebration feels both appropriate and deeply nostalgic.

Thank you for joining us this evening and for supporting the work of our ensembles. I hope you immerse yourself fully in the music, the lyrics, and the atmosphere we have created for you. Tonight's program is a rare opportunity to experience music that is both sublime and celebratory—filled with depth, joy, and meaning. May your holiday season be filled with love, peace, and prosperity. From all of us on stage to you, our cherished audience, we wish you the very best. Enjoy the performance!



James Mayo III  
Artistic Director & Founder  
Camerata Baltimore

# Program

*Recording of the program is strictly prohibited*

**Overture from *Messiah*** George. F. Händel

***The Ballad of the Brown King*** Margaret Bonds

*Please hold your applause until the conclusion of the cantata.*

**I. Of the Three Wise Men**  
Scott Hounsou, tenor

**II. They Brought Fine Gifts**

**III. Sing Alleluia**

**IV. Mary Had a Little Baby**  
Fatima Black, soprano

**V. Now When Jesus Was Born**

**VI. Could He Have Been an Ethiope?**  
Robert Lopez, baritone | Jordan McKenney, tenor |  
Krystle Fink, soprano

**VII. Oh, Sing of the King Who Was Tall and Brown**

**VIII. That Was a Christmas Long Ago**

**IX. Alleluia**  
Krystle Fink, mezzo soprano | Fatima Black, soprano

***La Valse\**** Maurice Ravel

Junghoon Park, piano/arranger

***Christmas Time is Here\**** Mendelson/Guaraldi, arr. Sterling

***The Holiday Sing-A-Long*** arr. A. Snyder

***White Christmas*** Irving Berlin, arr. Ringwald

***Christmas Music for Orchestra*** arr. John Cacavas

***Emmanuel*** James Peterson, conductor  
Norman Hutchins

*\*December 15th performance only*

# A Holiday Sing-Along

*Sing along when prompted.*

## Deck the Hall

*Traditional Welsh Carol*

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, fa la la ...  
    'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la ...  
    Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la ...  
    Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la ...  
    Fast away the old year passes, fa la la ...  
    Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la ...  
    Sing we joyous all together, fa la la ...  
Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la ...

## Jingle Bells

*J. Pierpont*

Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,  
    O'er the fields we go laughing all the way,  
    Bells on bobtail ring, making spirits bright,  
What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight!  
    Oh, Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.  
    Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh,  
    Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.  
    Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!

## O Christmas Tree

*Traditional German Carol*

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches,  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches.  
Not only green in summer's glow but ever green mid winter snow,  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches.



**We Wish You a Merry Christmas**  
*Traditional English Folksong*

We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Glad tidings we bring to you and your kin;

Glad tidings for Christmas and a happy new year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas,

We wish you a Merry Christmas,

*(Slower)*

And a Happy New Year!

## About The Accord Symphony Orchestra

The Accord Symphony Orchestra (Accord), in partnership with Washington Conservatory of Music, is a dynamic and inclusive group led by Music Director/Conductor Julien Benichou. Accord presents an annual season of 10 diverse performances across the DMV, show-casing classical masterworks, sacred music, oratorios, pops, opera, and GoGo collaborations. The orchestra engages audiences with interactive programming, call-and-response moments, and pre/post-concert talks. Committed to representing a diverse community, Accord performs in underserved communities and champions repertoire from underrepresented musicians and artists. Its members include professional, student, and amateur musicians, ranging from retired military personnel to educators and engineers with musical expertise. Accord nurtures emerging talent through professional coaching, mentorship, and lessons, while offering opportunities for both local and nationally recognized vocalists. The orchestra has hosted an annual concerto competition which has featured dozens of talented youth and musicians alike in concertos with the orchestra.

In 2024, Accord's chamber ensemble returned to the Embassies of Spain, Great Britain and France in addition to being featured on Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage for a celebrated performance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Accord sustained music-making through innovative collaborations with groups such as Camerata Baltimore, the National United Methodist Festival Choir, Carter Legacy Singers and more, exemplifying resilience and dedication to its mission of breaking barriers and making music accessible to all.

# The Accord Symphony Orchestra

## **Violin I**

Concertmaster: Wayman McCoy  
Tatyana Kantemir  
Peter Clamp  
Semyon Ziskind

## **Violin II**

Sharon Boddie  
Mayowa Omakanwaye

## **Viola**

Clayton Allen

## **Cello**

Johnny Walker  
Maggie Malat  
Gabby Jones

## **Bass**

James Peterson

## **Flute**

Danielle Kelly

## **Piccolo**

Noreen Friedman

## **Oboe**

Leslie Jewell

## **Clarinet**

Jason Russo

## **Horn**

Elena Varon

## **Trumpet**

Riley Baisch  
Charmaine Michelleva

## **Timpani**

Nehemiah Russell

## **Percussion**

Erica Harrell

## **Celeste**

Andrew Lee

# About Camerata Baltimore

Founded in 2014 by artistic director James Mayo III, Camerata Baltimore proudly celebrates its 10th anniversary season as one of Baltimore’s premier vocal ensembles. What began as a small passion project has blossomed into a vibrant musical force, known for its captivating performances and commitment to the choral arts. Camerata Baltimore’s annual holiday concert, which began with its inaugural performance at Catonsville Baptist Church, has become a cornerstone tradition delighting audiences year after year.

Throughout its first decade, Camerata Baltimore has remained dedicated to education, outreach, and celebrating underrepresented voices in the choral community. Learn more at [cameratabaltimore.org](http://cameratabaltimore.org).

## Camerata Baltimore

### **Sopranos**

Fatima Black  
Daya Day  
Krystle Fink  
Suezetta Owens

### **Altos**

Fela Langston  
Ameenah Muhammad  
Laura Vo

### **Tenors**

Micah Howlett  
Robert Lopez  
Jordan McKenny

### **Basses**

Scott Hounsou  
Sekou Johnson

Artistic Director and Founder..... James Mayo III  
Accompanist..... Junghoon Park  
Percussion..... Trainair Bellamy

Washington  
Conservatory of Music

AS ACCORD  
SYMPHONY



[/washingtonconservatory](https://www.facebook.com/washingtonconservatory)



[@accordsymphony](https://www.instagram.com/accordsymphony)

Support



[washingtonconservatory.org](https://www.washingtonconservatory.org)

AMERATA BALTIMORE



[/cameratabaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/cameratabaltimore)



[@cameratabaltimore](https://www.tiktok.com/@cameratabaltimore)



[@cameratabaltimore](https://www.instagram.com/cameratabaltimore)

Support



[cameratabaltimore.org](https://www.cameratabaltimore.org)

## Special Thanks

Adele Lynch and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church,  
Dr. Cleveland Taft Andre Mason II and Perkins Square Baptist Church,  
The Glenn Family, Ms. Sylvia Whitehead, The Mayo Family