
Buffalo Choral Arts Society Opening Meeting

2024 - 2025 Season!



Welcome to BCAS's 59th Season!

- David has 4 spectacular concerts planned for this season:
 - Ghosts, Goblins and Other Musical Oddities - 10/27, St. Joseph University Parish
 - 'Tis the Season: Holiday Favorites Old and New - 12/13, Hilbert College and 12/15, Mount St. Mary Academy
 - Ralph Vaughan Williams's Dona Nobis Pacem - 3/9, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 - Sing for Me: The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber - 5/31, Amherst Middle School Auditorium
- Board Introduction
- New Member Introductions

Dues

- Dues for the 2024-2025 Season will be \$100
- The decision to raise dues was one the board did not take lightly. All costs including space rental, uhaul, music, insurance, etc. are increasing and we put this off as long as we could.
- Our dues remain one of the lowest in the WNY area for choirs.
- If you will have any difficulty paying dues, please see Tom Naber or John Podvezko. We can work with you and figure out something that works for you! This is something that will not be made public and will stay confidential. We do not want dues to be a barrier for anyone to be a member of this group.
- If you are interested in sponsoring dues for a member, please see myself or John Podvezko.

Dues are due by Wednesday 10/16 - See our Treasurer John Podvezko

Ad Campaign

BCAS will be selling ads for the 2024 - 2025 season. Each ad will run in all four programs. If ads are purchased after the first concert, they will run in the other three concerts, etc. We have four levels:

- Program Listing (\$20) - Corporate listing in the programs for the year (no ad)
- Bronze Sponsor (\$100+) - ¼-page ad and 2 complimentary tickets to the concert of their choice
- Silver Sponsor (\$250+) - ½-page ad and 2 complimentary tickets to the concert of their choice
- Gold Sponsor (\$500+) - Full-page ad and 4 complimentary tickets to the concert of their choice

Ads are full-color and will be printed in the program for each concert

We have physical forms as well as a digital form on our website (buffalochoralarts.org/support). The file for the physical forms is posted on the member website for you as well.

For questions or to submit an ad see Kevin Maerten (kdm85@frontier.com) or Sarah Wood (sarahcwood97@gmail.com)



Friends of Buffalo Choral Arts Society

The Friends of Buffalo Choral Arts Society program is combining our annual maintenance drive and the campaign 100 which we used to run. There are several levels for this campaign as well:

- Personal listing in honor/memory of someone (\$20)
- Supporter (\$50+) - 1 complimentary ticket for the concert of their choice
- Booster (\$100+) - 2 complimentary tickets for the concert of their choice
- Patron (\$250+) - 4 complimentary tickets for the concert of their choice
- Benefactor (\$500+) - 8 complimentary tickets for the concert of their choice

Everyone who donates through the Friends of the Buffalo Choral Arts Society program will be listed in the program.

We have physical forms as well as a digital form on our website (buffalochoralarts.org/support). The file for the physical forms is posted on the member website for you as well.

For questions or to submit a “Friends of BCAS” form, see Gail leary (gleary44@gmail.com)

Sponsorship Opportunities

- **Sponsor a Rehearsal (\$25)** - The individual/organization who sponsors a rehearsal will be able to choose the date of the rehearsal, and will have the opportunity to make an announcement or have an announcement made on their behalf at that rehearsal.
- **Sponsor a Musician (\$300)** - The cost to hire a musician for each concert is approximately \$300. The individual/organization who sponsors a musician will be listed as the sponsor for the musician in the program for that concert and will receive 4 complimentary tickets to that concert.
- **Sponsor a Concert (\$1000)** - The individual/organization who sponsors a concert will receive recognition in the program, on our website, marketing materials, and on our social media accounts, corporate advertisement on the back cover of the program, an Invitation to a meet and greet with Conductor/Music Director David Curtis, and 8 tickets to the sponsored concert with preferred seating.

Opportunities for Sponsorship can be found on both the Ad form and the Individual Donor Forms.

For questions or to submit a rehearsal/musician/concert sponsor, see Tom Naber
(tnaber1@gmail.com)

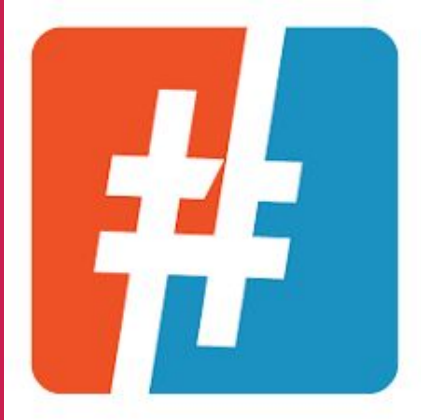
Ticket, Ad, and Patron Goals for this Season

Each member is encouraged to pursue the following goals for the 2024 - 2025 season

- **Tickets: 30 Tickets for the Season**
 - 5 tickets for Ghosts, Goblins, and other Musical Oddities
 - 10 tickets for Tis the Season
 - 5 tickets for Dona Nobis Pacem
 - 10 tickets for Sing for Me
- **Program Ads:** Sell 1 ad (any size) for the 2024 - 2025 Season
- **Friends of BCAS:** Get 1 donor (any level) or instrument sponsor for the season.

These goals were created to help us make sure we can continue to promote and produce high-quality concerts with new and interesting music year after year.

Introducing Choir Genius!



What worked well last year:

- Weekly newsletters sent with rehearsal plans and announcements
- Remind app used in case of emergency cancellation (snow day) or change of location
- Brief announcements during rehearsal to communicate important matters

How communication could be improved

- Blogtrottr received at various times
- Member files/rehearsal tracks may be hard to locate and not securely stored
- Updates may not be received in a timely manner

In order to streamline communication this year the board has decided to implement a new system called Choir Genius

Stick with me as I know you will have questions, anything you think of during the presentation jot down and we will answer at the end!

How do I access this site?

From a laptop/desktop: bcas.choirgenius.com

From your phone: download the app choir genius for
iphone or android

When you click “member section” on the bcas website,
it will take you to the log in screen for choir genius.

Write down the link on a piece of paper or in your phone! It will be important to remember when you are at home logging in for the first time.

Buffalo Choral Arts Society

Site login

Username or email address *

Password *

Log in

- or -

 Login with Google

Forgot your password, or logging in for the first time?

[Click here to reset your password](#)

Your email on file with BCAS.
If you don't have an email you can
also use firstname.lastname

Everyone's password is
BCAS2024. You may
change at your
discretion.

Let's try it!

Using the paper that was passed around, help me navigate the website to find important BCAS information.

Have further questions?

I will be at the table before every rehearsal in September from 6:30-7 to answer any of your choir genius questions. The expectation is everyone will be able to use the site to keep up to date on choir information.

If you have a question I can't answer...we have an on hand tech person through choir genius. They are very responsive and helpful.

Bulletins will still be sent to your email weekly. This will no longer come through blogtrottr.

Remind will still be used in the event of last minute cancellations. Notifications will also be emailed through choir genius.

Buffalo Choral Arts Society 60th Anniversary Season: 2025-2026



Celebrating 60 years!

- We are greatly looking forward to celebrating 60 years of BCAS next season
- There has been lots of planning and there are many special things in the works
- As the time draws nearer, we will be sharing lots of exciting plans and details, including...
 - A theme that spans the entire season
 - Several exciting opportunities for collaboration and community engagement
 - Ways to honor our history while also looking to our future
- And.....

Possible BCAS 60th Anniversary Trip

- Travel is a wonderful way to bond with one another, have new experiences, and give us additional exposure and publicity by performing in exciting places
- Details
 - 3-day or 4-day trip to the Albany / Capital Region
 - Would take place sometime during Summer 2026
 - Would include performing
 - More details to come!
- What can you do now?
 - **Fill out the Trip Survey!** We need your feedback to make this the best it can be.
 - Speak to Dan Berger if you are interested in being part of a committee to plan the trip

Not sure yet? Don't worry! We will not be asking for formal commitments until after all details have been released.

BCAS's First Ever Meat Raffle

- September 28th, 6:00pm with the raffle starting at 7:00pm
- \$15 per person or \$100 for a table of 8 (\$20 savings)
- Price includes beer, pop, and wine.
- We'll have \$2 slices of pizza, a 50/50 drawing, a gift card raffle, and a door prize for a "Cooler of Beer"
- There will be 296 tickets for this event (37 tables)
- Money raised from this event will go towards our 60th anniversary season next year

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer Day Of - Signup genius was sent in the over-the-summer newsletter. We need 30 volunteers.
- Donate a Gift Card - Any amount, any place
- Sell tickets and promote the event
- Attend the event!

Sabres 50/50

- We typically have two dates to sell 50/50 tickets at Sabres Games.
- Once we get our dates, we'll let you know and will create a signup genius for you to sign up!
- We usually earn between \$1500 and \$2500 each time depending on how well we sell.
- 25 volunteers each time
- See Tina Reece (msrowanijupiter@gmail.com) if you'd like to sign up or if you have questions.
- Money made from the Sabres 50/50 this year will go into our "Trip Account" and will be used to lower the overall cost of future BCAS travel.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

- **Crew for concerts:** Loading/unloading risers, and set-up/strike of risers and equipment. For more information on this, see Alec Michalski (alect.michalski@gmail.com). A sign up will also be sent out in advance of each concert.
- **Set up and Take down Rehearsals:**
- **Library:** Stuffing envelopes of music before each concert and scanning in/returning music after each concert. For more information on this, see our librarian Rick Lesniak (Rick.Lesniak@gmail.com)
- **Donor Mailings:** Help send letters to BCAS's donor list. See Gail Leary (gleary44@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Flyer Blitzes:** Put up flyers in businesses near each of the concerts to promote them. See Ali Searer (alimarielouis@gmail.com) and Sarah Fiegel (sarah.s.fiegel@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Social Committee:** Help plan social events for the chorus. See Gail Leary (gleary44@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Something not listed?** Just ask! We're always happy to have more volunteers.

Dress Code for Concerts

The purpose of the dress code is for us to present a uniform appearance without having to have a uniform. If we do not adhere to the dress code for concerts we will look into having members purchase a uniform concert dress.

- **Top:** Solid black top, collared shirt, or dress with at least 3/4 sleeve and a modest neckline. No sequins, lace, or sparkles.
- **Bottom:** Plain, solid black skirt (at least calf-length) or dress pants. No sequins, lace, or sparkles.
- **Shoes:** Solid, completely black dress shoe, flat, or low heel.
- If wearing pants: solid black socks. If wearing a dress/skirt: Solid black tights. No bare ankles
- If wearing a collared shirt: one solid black tie. Other tie colors TBD.
- No necklaces, and earrings should be post-style (no hoops or dangling earrings).
- Black Concert Folder (we'll have these for sale for a few weeks prior to the concerts)

Rehearsal Attendance

In order for the choir to reach its full potential, full attendance at rehearsals is essential. The following attendance policies will be in place for the upcoming season.

- Attendance will be taken weekly using your name tag. This will be at the table as you enter rehearsal. Please make sure you are scanned in so our attendance record is accurate.
- If you will be absent for any reason, email choralattendance@gmail.com as soon as you are aware of your absence. This is for sickness, trips, or other extenuating circumstances.
- In the event of rehearsal cancellation due to a snow day, we use the app REMIND to communicate with members quickly and efficiently.

Remind Information

In order for the chorus to communicate rehearsal cancellations in a timely manner, we use an app called REMIND. Many schools use it for parent/teacher communication, it is free, and easy to use. Download the app on your mobile device (if you do not have a cell phone use this link to access via a computer rmd.at/c494khh6)

If you sign up with your cell phone you will receive text notifications, if you sign up with your email they will be sent to your email address.

Tom or Beth Anne will add you to the group!

The code for our group is: **c494khh6**

The expectation is EVERYONE is signed up for Remind by October 1st, before Buffalo snow starts to hit

Conduct During Rehearsal

- Please refrain from using any substances before or during rehearsal, or on the grounds of the school.
- Scores should be marked in pencil only. Bring a pencil with you so that you can make any additional marks.
- Please save comments, conversation, and individual questions for break or before/after rehearsal. When we are rehearsing it is important that everyone can hear what David is saying.
- Rehearsal tracks will be shared. It is your responsibility to rehearse your part prior to rehearsal.
- Remember that we are guests in the building. Refrain from touching any instruments unless you're in the crew setting up the room before rehearsal, or putting it back after.
- Please be mindful of others and do not wear perfumes or scented products to rehearsals.