

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 25, 2021

WE'RE 'BACH' WITH A GREAT SEASON LINE-UP FOR 2021-22

Hamilton's Bach Elgar Choir Returns to Live and In-Person Performances

After almost two years offstage, the Bach Elgar Choir is back with an in-person four-concert season of great choral music.

In 2021-22 the Bach Elgar Choir returns to live performance with four mainstage shows and additional community appearances. BEC presents a wide range of repertoire, including challenging and beautiful a cappella classics, music for choir and organ, and three large-scale choral-orchestral pieces. We are pleased also to announce the relaunching of a major collaborative project, the performance of Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* with Chorus Niagara.

Bach Elgar Choir's upcoming performance is Hamilton's favourite- Messiah. Ticket sales are live on Eventbrite for everyone to join the city's finest choral celebration of the season. BEC has two 75-minute performances of George Frederic Handel's 1741 masterpiece - Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon on December 4 and 5, set in Hamilton's spacious, historic, and acoustically significant Central Presbyterian Church.

On November 14, Bach Elgar Choir performed the 2021-22 season's first live concert – '*Sing Joyfully*' on at the acoustically significant Central Presbyterian Church. 125 people cheered the choir as we celebrated the history of the art and the dawning of the end of COVID restrictions. This program of choral classics moved thematically from anguish and anxiety to freedom, jubilation, and the power of love. Major works performed include: *Schaffe in mir Gott, ein rein Herz*, by Johannes Brahms; *Zadok the Priest* by G. F. Handel; *Sing Joyfully* by William Byrd. Also featured were numerous pieces by Canadian composers, including one of our organization's first commissioned works from 1917: *O Holy Lord*, by Nathaniel Dett, Canada's first major Black composer.



Artistic Director Alexander Cann welcomed the return to a live audience. "Performing again felt really, really good, and the audience response was ecstatic," said Cann. "People are hungry for the special vitality of live music. Our singers are excited, and our audience will be wowed." He has been leading this choral community through the pandemic, developing a cutting edge virtual-rehearsal process as well as an online interview program focused on choral and classical music. The journey back to safe, in-person performance was yet another learning curve, with stringent protocols and adapted venues.



Jane Savage, Board Chair, has led in developing a full-fledged re-opening plan with rehearsal and performance protocols in place to ensure the safety of participants and patrons.

“The Bach Elgar Choir has chosen performance venues this year that provide additional space to maximize everyone’s safety,” Savage said. “We want to give patrons a chance to experience and celebrate the historic and acoustic legacy of some of Hamilton’s grandest churches.”

“We can’t wait to bring the community back together and welcome audiences back to in-person performances. Live choral music makes our hearts soar and provides a beautiful and peaceful break from our busy and complicated lives. If you are new to choral or classical music, come and hear us: our music is for everyone.”

Pandemic Protocols: *Bach Elgar performances will follow strictly all provincial and regional requirements for safety and protocol. Performers will be masked and distanced from each other. Audience capacity is limited to ensure guests can sit in comfortably- distanced households. The choir’s current policy requires proof of double vaccination upon entry and masking for audience, performers, and volunteers.*

2021-22 Season Line Up

Surround Yourself With Beautiful Choral Harmonies by BEC. Mark Your Calendars!



Since 1905
bach elgar choir
Alexander Cann, Artistic Director

21
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22

SING JOYFULLY!
14 Nov 2021

Handel's MESSIAH
4 and 5 Dec 2021

Bach and Elgar: Music for Choir and Organ
26 Feb 2022

Beethoven's MISSA SOLEMNIS
7 and 8 May 2022

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Concert 2: Handel's *Messiah*

Bach Elgar presents Hamilton's favourite *Messiah*, one of the season's hottest tickets. G.F. Handel's masterpiece is a cherished tradition and Bach Elgar's annual performance is beautiful and thrilling. Performed with full orchestral accompaniment, abridged, without intermission.

Date: December 4th at 7:30 PM & December 5th at 3 PM

Venue: Central Presbyterian Church
165 Charlton Avenue West
Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8

Ticket sales: [Reserve here](#)

Concert 3: The Music of Bach and Elgar

This performance focuses on the amazing music of our namesakes Bach and Elgar. Featuring works for choir and organ, with special guest-artist, organist Paul Grimwood.

Our name came about in 1946 when two area choirs – The Elgar Choir and The Hamilton Bach Choir – joined forces. Our concert explores those roots, presenting the stunning, virtuosic, and mind-expanding music of Bach with the cathartic, grand, and emotive music of Elgar. Featuring great choruses from Bach's cantatas and his *Mass in B minor*, and Elgar's majestic *Te Deum and Benedictus*.

Date: February 26th at 7:30 PM

Venue and tickets released to follow

Concert 4: *Missa Solemnis* By Beethoven

Beethoven's genre-busting ode to the meaning of life is an astounding choral-orchestral masterpiece and one of the most demanding pieces of the repertoire. With four extraordinary vocal soloists, a large orchestra, and the power of combined choral forces, this promises to be one of the most important musical events of the season in the region. Featuring the voices of Chorus Niagara together with Bach Elgar, led by guest conductor Robert Cooper.

Dates: May 7th in St. Catharines

May 8th in Hamilton

Venue and tickets to follow



About BEC

The 60-voice Bach Elgar Choir is led by celebrated conductor Alexander Cann, now in his 12th season. An intrinsic part of Hamilton's arts scene, the BEC performs innovative new works and the great choral masterworks, regularly delighting and inspiring audiences.

Contact Details

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