



Chatham Chorale

P.O. Box 1111
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Singing for Cape Cod since 1971

Joseph Marchio, Music Director
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“THE BEST OF BACH AND SCHUBERT” FROM CHATHAM CHORALE

Chatham, MA / October 26, 2023 – At any time of year we are thankful for the gift of sublime music, but never more so than now, as the year-end holidays draw near. The Chatham Chorale’s upcoming concerts celebrate two great artists, born a century apart, with some of their greatest achievements: the cantata *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* by Johann Sebastian Bach, and Franz Schubert’s Mass in G and his triumphant *Magnificat*. Concerts will take place on Saturday, November 18 and Sunday, November 19—both days at 2:00 pm at the First Congregational Church of Chatham.

“Of all his greatest music, Bach’s *Wachet auf* cantata stands near the very top. Using a diverse palette of colors, Bach poetically weaves together vocal and instrumental lines as in no other work,” says the Chorale’s music director, Joe Marchio. “And the G major Mass is exquisite. It’s almost unfathomable that Schubert was just eighteen when he composed it.”

Wachet auf (its title translates as “Awake! a voice calls us”) is based on an Advent hymn tune that will be familiar to many listeners. Bach’s genius expands and develops the musical possibilities of that theme in every possible direction over seven movements for chorus, vocal soloists, and instruments. As one commentator wrote, “It is a cantata without weaknesses, without a dull bar; technically, emotionally and spiritually of the highest order. Its sheer perfection and its boundless imagination rouse one’s wonder time and time again.”

The soloists for these concerts are Joan Kirchner (soprano), Jesse Darden (tenor), and Colin Levin (bass). Chorus and soloists are joined by an orchestra of strings, two oboes, English horn, trumpet, timpani, and organ, with keyboardist Donald Enos playing continuo for the cantata. The same musical forces will collaborate on the two Schubert works.

The year 1815 was an astonishingly fruitful time for the young Schubert, who composed two symphonies, two Masses, a string quartet, two piano sonatas, four song cycles, and 145 songs during that time—all while working full-time as a schoolteacher! The G major Mass (D167) overall has a gentle, tuneful, lyrical tone, sunny and joyful with only occasional shadings of darkness. The Magnificat in C (D486, also from 1815) is an entertaining ten-minute gem in three parts, with Part II sung by the Chatham Chorale Chamber Singers.

The Chatham Chorale is one of Cape Cod's longest-established choral ensembles, for 52 years presenting an annual concert series with programs ranging from choral masterworks to pops stylings and premieres of new works by regional composers. The Chorale also regularly collaborates with the Cape Symphony—for example, in the upcoming annual Holiday Pops concerts—and sings in service to the community.

All tickets to these concerts are \$25, with open seating. Tickets can be purchased at info@chathamchorale.org, by phone (774-212-9333), or at the door the day of the concert. For more information, visit www.chathamchorale.org.

Captions for included photos (all photos used with permission):

The Chatham Chorale, Music Director Joseph Marchio at far left, Chorale Accompanist Donald Enos far right. Photo by Paul Blackmore.

Soprano soloist Joan Kirchner. Photo by Janet Murphy Robertson.

Bass soloist Colin Levin. Photo courtesy of Colin Levin.

[PDF concert poster]