

# Music at St. David's

## Ensemble-in-Residence 2020-2021

### Description, Application Procedure, and Guidelines

#### What goes on at Music at St. David's?

Music has been an integral part of St. David's since its founding in 1906. In recent years, the musical offerings have been expanded to include between 14 and 16 musical events per season outside of Sunday morning liturgies. The program has been praised by the **Baltimore Sun** as being a "remarkable concert series" for "offering admirable variety and depth of repertoire." The series typically includes:

- Six First Friday concerts
  - These occur at 7:30 pm the first Friday of October, November, December, February, March, and May (January is excluded because of proximity to Christmas and New Year's, and April due to the proximity to Holy Week and Easter)
  - First Friday events typically last at least an hour
  - Audience suggested donation is \$15 general admission, \$10 reduced (student/retirees)
- Six Recitals & Choral Evensongs
  - These occur at 4:30 pm on mid-month dates in September, October, November, January, February, and May.
  - Evensong is the Anglican tradition of evening prayer; it is a liturgy more sung than spoken (there's no sermon), jam-packed with music from the last thousand years.
  - These events begin with a half-hour recital lasting from 4:30-5:00 pm, followed by the Service of Evensong. Recitalists are encouraged to stay to the end of the service to meet and greet their audience.
  - Audience suggested donation is \$15 general admission, \$10 reduced (student/retiree)
- Three special events
  - A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: occurring mid-December, this service is in the tradition of the liturgy of the same name that originated at King's College, Cambridge.
  - The Baltimore Bach Marathon, a five-hour concert occurring mid-March featuring organists, instrumentalists, and singers
  - Music for Good Friday, a concert-liturgical on Friday evening in Holy Week

The warm and resonant acoustic at St. David's is perfect for chamber and vocal music (you can **listen** to and **view** recordings online). Chamber music of all types is welcomed, from early music ensembles to string quartets to caberet-style presentations by new music groups. Choral music is a mainstay for Evensongs and Special Events, for which the Choir of St. David's performs. The ensemble has been recognized by the Baltimore Sun for its "assured, nuanced singing," and has been broadcast numerous times by WBJC, Maryland's Classical Music Station, including on the WBJC Choral Hour and on Music in Maryland. Other choirs that have performed at St. David's include the Handel Choir of Baltimore, the Bridge Ensemble, and the Canticle Singers.

St. David's is committed to the promotion of new musical works, and in 2015 founded its Composer-in-Residence program. Commissioned works have been featured on the Evensong Series and at the

Festival of Lessons and Carols, and have been broadcast on WBJC. World premieres presented at St. David's have included works by Michael Hersch, Andrea Cassarubios, Tariq Al-Sabir, Faye Chiao, Natalie Draper, Amy Beth Kirsten, Ruby Fulton, and Michael Rickelton; US premieres include works of Michael Finnessy and Sally Beamish; and regional premieres include works of Anna Thorvaldsdottir and Judah Adashi.

### **What does “In-Residence” Mean?**

As hosts of the Ensemble-in-Residence, we hope to provide a home-away-from-home for the selected group, offering a space for rehearsing, recording, and presenting music. This includes 2-3 performances on the St. David's concert series, typically at least the first and last concert on the First Friday series. The exact nature of the residency is structured in collaboration with the Director of Music. The residency program provides advertising, printing, recording, and remuneration, detailed below. Past ensembles in the program have included the **Lunar Ensemble**, the **Broken Consort**, **Argus Quartet** ('16-'17; Fellowship Quartet-in-Residence at Yale University, American Prize laureates, and M Prize winners), the **icarus Quartet** (American Prize laureates), the **Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble**, and **Third Practice**.

### **Who can apply?**

If you regularly play music with at least one other person, we want to hear from you! Due to space limitations, very large groups can be tricky to fit, so if you're a symphony or large chorus, flexibility (in programming and/or in seating) is key.

### **Do I need to be from Baltimore?**

Not at all—if you're interested in sharing music with us, we're interested in listening to it. Thus far, all ensembles have had members from outside the city. Take note of the details regarding the residency listed below to see if you think your group would be a good fit.

### **What exactly does the ensemble receive in return?**

At St. David's, we know high-quality, inspirational music isn't free. We want to support our artists and our community through breadth and depth of programming. St. David's is in the formative stages of revitalizing its concert series, so we're not in a position to, say, provide year-long living expenses for the Emerson String Quartet. What we *are* in a position to do is to support ensembles through a variety of means to further the artistic growth of the group, both in the programmed concert and beyond it.

- Advertising: Ensembles-in-Residence are promoted through print, radio, and social media advertisements, averaging a \$400 value per concert.
- Space: St. David's is made available to the ensemble (in consultation with the staff of the church) for rehearsals and recording space at no extra cost.
- Concert Recordings: concerts are professionally recorded, and the audio happily provided to the ensemble. Additionally, video is recorded from at least two angles, and the event can be livestreamed to maximize impact and viewership.
- Remuneration:
  - For First Friday events, which should last about an hour, we guarantee payment of \$500 for each concert. If the gate yields more than \$500, any overage is split equally between the church and the ensemble.
  - For Evensong Recitals, performers are compensated at the following rates for the 25-minute recital:
    - \$150 for a soloist

- \$100 for each performer in a duo
- \$75 for each performer in a trio or an ensemble of greater size
- (Typically, ensembles greater than a trio don't perform at Evensongs, simply for practical reasons, but exceptions have been made in the past!)

What we find is that these forms of support are most fitted to ensembles that are established but in the early stages of their career (say, 3-5 years old), are in the formative stages of refining/building their audience and their mission, and are eager for performance and partnership opportunities and recordings. But—if you are interested in sharing music with our community, we're listening!

### **What do I need to apply?**

You'll use this **form** for your application, in which you can submit the following:

**First**, we'll need some basic information for how we can be in contact with your ensemble. Ideally, this will include a website so we can see a history of your group. It helps us to see what your group has been doing over a period of time to get a sense of its personality and artistic vision. (Recall that at the time of their respective residencies, most of our ensembles had been performing together for at least 3-5 years; this doesn't preclude your applying if you have been together for less time than that, though.) We'll also ask you if you're available for certain concert dates in the '19-'20 season. For this part of the application, we'll ask for the following (\*'s indicate required information)

- Group Name\*
- Group Instrumentation\*
- Primary Contact Name and Email\*
- Secondary Contact Name and Email
- Ensemble Website
- Ensemble Video Channel (YouTube, Vimeo)
- Ensemble Audio Channel (Soundcloud, BandCamp)

**Second**, we'd love to hear the music you're making. Please submit 2-4 audio and/or video links. These can be through YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud, or on your website—if the latter, just specify which ones we should listen to (for this part of the application, we prefer that you don't use DropBox, but if that's the only way to share your files, that's okay). Send in the music you love, the music you're passionate about creating. Though the audio doesn't have to be professional quality, it helps to have the best sense possible of what your group sounds like. It's also worth noting that—with your permission—we'll use your media to promote you when it comes time to crafting advertisements.

**Third**, we'll want to know if you're available for some of the dates on the concert series. The first and last First Friday Concerts are reserved for the Ensemble-in-Residence (recall, these are 1-2 hour concerts which begin at 7:30 pm on the First Friday of the month), and there are many Evensong Pre-service Recitals open as well (1/2 hour concerts which last from 4:30-5:00 pm on a mid-month Sunday). Depending on the makeup and scope of your ensemble, you may be contacted about other performances, even if you are not selected as Ensemble-in-Residence. You'll be asked specifically about the following dates/times:

- 9/20/20, 4:30 pm - Recital and Evensong for the Feast of Hildegard von Bingen (transferred)
- 10/2/20, 7:30 pm - October First Friday

- 10/18/20, 4:30 pm - Recital and Evensong for the Commemoration of Indigenous People's Day
- 11/6/20, 7:30 pm - November First Friday
- 11/50/20, 4:30 pm - Recital and Evensong for the Commemoration of Veterans' Day
- 1/17/21, 4:30 pm - Recital and Evensong for the Feast of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King
- 2/5/21, 7:30 pm - February First Friday
- 2/14/21, 4:30 pm - Recital and Evensong (Feast TBA)
- 3/21/21, 7:30 pm - March First Friday
- 3/21/21, 1-6 pm - 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Baltimore Bach Marathon (only select this one if your ensemble, or a subset thereof, performs the works of J.S. Bach)
- 5/7/21, 7:30 pm - May First Friday
- 5/16/21, 4:30 pm - Recital and Evensong (Feast TBA)

**Lastly**, please submit at least one program that you want to present at St. David's. This can be anywhere from a concept to all the details of a fully fleshed-out concert. We want to know what you're interested in doing, but keep in mind that the more detail that you can give us, the better we can understand your vision, both for your group and what you might bring to the concert series. In thinking about what and how many programs to submit, remember that the Ensemble-in-Residence typically presents at least two concerts on the First Friday series, and can also appear at other times throughout the year, perhaps at Evensong recitals or even in Sunday morning liturgies. (Note that our programs are open to audience members of all ages, so it helps if proposed ideas are "safe for work"—though this doesn't mean they have to be stodgy, reverential, or traditional.) You may also share with us anything that you feel is relevant to your group's identity that doesn't fit in the other areas. Do you have past programs (PDFs/JPEGs) that you want us to see? Extra audio/video recordings? Mission statements? Reviews? Let us know.

### **What is the timeline for the application process?**

Applications are available beginning in August 2019 and close on March 1, 2020. An initial reviewer looks over the applications for completeness, and then passes the information and media on to a committee for review. We'll spend about a month listening and looking over the applications. By late April or early May, a prospective ensemble, as well as finalists, will be identified in consultation with the Director of Music and approved by the Rector. We'll be in touch with the prospective ensemble at that point to begin crafting the season; if the ensemble becomes unavailable, we'll begin to contact finalists. Even if you are not chosen as Ensemble-in-Residence, you may be contacted for other spots on this or a future concert season. (Past applicants have been hired to perform on the Baltimore Bach Marathon, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, and have appeared on the Evensong and First Friday series as well.) We'll be in touch with everyone by mid- to late-May so there's no confusion.

We're aware that applications can feel treacherous and judge-y. What we want to determine is mutual fit. Help us get to know you and the music you want to bring. If you have any further questions, please direct them to Director of Music, Dr. Douglas Buchanan:

**[dbuchanan@stdavidsrolandpark.com](mailto:dbuchanan@stdavidsrolandpark.com)**

We look forward to listening to your art!