Exploring Emmanuel Music

An overview of your impact
Emmanuel Music engages with audiences and musicians to explore the enduring questions of our shared human experience, building on our core commitment to the music of J.S. Bach.

We seek to make Bach's music deeply relevant to our current lives, including highlighting the connections between Bach and artists that he influenced, especially creative voices that have been marginalized in our society.

By embracing a new mission and strategic plan in March 2021, Emmanuel Music asserts its role as an essential musical, humanistic, intellectual force for participatory engagement in its local community, and around the world through its online programming.

The desire to be part of Emmanuel Music, either as a musician or as one who witnesses the results of the Ensemble's hard work, has held true over the years. The sense of pride in belonging permeates through to the current day with Artistic Director Ryan Turner, now in his thirteenth year at the helm, bringing the Ensemble to greater artistic heights.

We choose to define excellence more comprehensively than a beautifully presented performance. An artistic experience is excellent if it is also deeply meaningful to the people who are involved, beginning with the musicians. Our resident musicians are primarily concerned with interrogating Bach in the context of the present, not recreating the past. This inclusive and inquiry-based approach allows us to think of Emmanuel Music as being a "living laboratory."

Providing a professional Bach cantata weekly for 36 weeks of the year comes with a steep financial commitment. A gift of $3,800 underwrites the musician fees for one of these unparalleled cantata presentations.

"I serve on the Board of Directors of Emmanuel Music because of its mission to be open and inclusive, and its commitment to provide access to opportunities to learn about and experience classical music for people of all backgrounds."

Bethany Serota
Board Member

Soloist, Krista River, performing at our fall concert This Love Between Us. PHOTO BY DAVID COSTA PHOTOGRAPHY.

"Emmanuel Music has been my musical home for most of my life. It has always felt like a place where we support and challenge each other to take artistic risks and search for deeper meaning, more penetrating communication."

Pamela Dellal
Bach Institute Director & Intellectual Resources Curator
Expanding upon the strong traditions we’ve built over the past 52 years, Emmanuel Music embraces the innovation and technology of our time. Livestreaming each of our 60 annual performances empowered us to reach audiences in 27 states and 6 foreign countries in our 2021-2022 season, and our cantata series has received 8,000 views and counting on YouTube.

Our newly launched podcast, BachLab, highlights the vast musicianship and scholarship housed within the Emmanuel Music community. With episodes ranging from the introductory to the deeply musicological, BachLab allows us to share our expertise and artistry for free to English speakers anywhere in the world.

This season, innovation and tradition are working hand in hand to deliver the quality programs that meet the moment, and to expand access to our music to broader audiences in the Boston community and beyond.

Without your gift, we would not be able to embrace this technology that so greatly benefits audiences across our country and globe. Your contribution of $500 covers the production costs of one podcast episode.

Emmanuel Music is deeply committed to making our music accessible to all who wish to enjoy it. Beginning in our 2021-2022 season, we implemented a pay-what-you-wish ticketing policy and general admission seating. These policies allow audiences to attend our performances in-person or via livestream regardless of their ability to pay, and do not restrict seating based on ticket prices. We believe that all members of our community should be able to access the best of what Emmanuel Music has to offer.

Proudly among the first professional classical music organizations in Boston to implement these policies, we saw a 25% increase in in-person audience members compared to pre-pandemic performances. 45% of these audiences were new to Emmanuel Music.

It is only through the generous support of our donors that we are able to offer pay-what-you-wish tickets. A gift of $50 today covers the cost of one ticket for a member of your community who would be otherwise unable to attend.

Emmanuel Music continues to expand our efforts to bring our music outside of the walls of Emmanuel Church. Through programs like Breathe with Bach, our attendance at Princess Day, and rekindling a partnership with the Boston Arts Academy, we are creating numerous opportunities for the citizens of Boston to stumble upon classical music, and to enjoy our art in a casual and stress-free environment. As access to music education in schools continues to be reduced, we are committed to sharing the music of Bach and beyond across our city.

Your gift of $135 covers the fee of one musician who brings free, professional music to a branch of the Boston Public Library in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, or East Boston.
Emmanuel Music's dedication to training the next generation of professional musicians and arts leaders is evident in our programs that serve over 50 students per year.

For nearly two weeks in January, our Bach Institute Fellows participate in the Sunday morning Bach cantata performances at Boston’s Emmanuel Church; study Bach cantata arias and recitatives through in-depth text study and intensive private coaching; and perform in public masterclasses – all culminating in a Showcase Concert featuring the Institute Fellows at the conclusion of the Intensive.

Emmanuel Music additionally offers student employment, internship, and volunteer opportunities to students in high school, undergraduate, and graduate programs across all areas of arts administration and management. Upon completion of their program, our students are invited to join an Intern Alumni Network, where they are able to stay in touch with each other, share job opportunities, and receive resume reviews and interview coaching from Emmanuel Music’s Executive Director, Jaclyn Dentino.

A gift of $3,200 covers the semester’s stipend for one student. Your gift today helps us to train and empower tomorrow’s performers and leaders.

A tax-deductible gift in any amount is a meaningful way to share the gift of classical music this holiday season. Contributions can be made to Emmanuel Music:

1. By check made out to Emmanuel Music and mailed to 15 Newbury St. Boston, MA 02116
2. Via credit card online, over the phone at 617-536-3356, or by including your credit card information on the included slip.
3. Via Venmo @emmanuelmusicboston

If you wish to learn more about legacy gifts, please contact our Individual Giving Manager, Makeysha Montgomery, at individualgiving@emmanuelmusic.org.

We are so incredibly grateful for your generosity. As Emmanuel Music’s programs are 82% funded by philanthropic support, we truly would not be who we are without you.

From all of us at Emmanuel Music, have a comforting and joyful holiday season.

Visit emmanuelmusic.org/support-us to learn more or donate today!