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 make Bach's music deeply relevant to our current lives, highlighting the connections between Bach and the 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.

Emmanuel Music's 23/24 season celebrates the works of J.S. Bach, and their lasting significance and influence. Across four major concerts, in addition to the continuing Cantata Series, winter Bach Institute Intensive, Lenten Lindsey Chapel Series, and community engagement and outreach programs, Emmanuel Music boldly continues its mission of serving as a living laboratory for Bach, both in the Boston area and beyond. The pieces selected for this season by Artistic Director Ryan Turner, and the new motets commissioned by Emmanuel Music, highlight Bach's impact on artists today.

The season opens with a rare opportunity to experience Bach across space and time, as renowned pianist Simone Dinnerstein performs three keyboard concerti by Bach, Mozart, and Glass. In December, Emmanuel Music celebrates the holiday season with a performance of Britten's dramatic cantata on the legendary life of Saint Nicolas and Bach, Sie werden aus Saba alle kommen, BWV 65. In March, the ensemble performs one of the greatest masterpieces of Baroque music, the St. Matthew Passion by J.S. Bach. And in June, Emmanuel Music sends off its ensemble to perform at BachFest Leipzig.

With all 60+ annual performances either free to attend or pay-what-you-can, the livestreams of our major concerts, Cantata Series, Bach Institute, and Lindsey Chapel Series, and our premiere podcast BachLab, Emmanuel Music's cultural contributions to Boston and beyond are highly accessible. Help us to keep the music playing loud and clear for all to hear by making a gift to our annual fund today.

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
We are incredibly honored and proud to perform at BachFest Leipzig in June 2024. Originally an invitation for 2020 and postponed twice due to the pandemic, we are one of but a handful of American ensembles selected for this distinguished opportunity. Hosted by the Leipzig Bach Archive, the world’s preeminent center for Bach scholarship, BachFest Leipzig is a three-day festival presenting the works of J.S. Bach performed by the most knowledgeable and talented ensembles in the world.

We will perform four Bach cantatas (BWV 37, 94, 101 & 113) on June 9, 2024 at Thomaskirche (St. Thomas Church); Bach’s musical home where he served as Thomaskantor for 27 years.

Before our ensemble takes literal flight, we will perform the same repertoire at Emmanuel Church for our community in Boston, including newly commissioned motets composed as preludes to the cantatas, celebrating with a themed event to wish our musicians bon voyage.

Members of the Emmanuel Music community can accompany us to BachFest at their own expense, plus a $1,500 donation to Emmanuel Music (totaling approximately $4,500). We have partnered with Encore Tours to ensure ease of facilitation with all travel logistics. To learn more, email Jackie at jaclyn@emmanuelmusic.org

To attend this globally-renowned festival is the financial obligation of Emmanuel Music. To help send us on our way, please consider making a gift of any amount with “BachFest Leipzig” in the memo.

ENDOWMENT FUND & LEGACY GIFTS

It is with great humility and gratitude that we announce the establishment of The Emmanuel Music Fund at The Boston Foundation, an endowment made possible by a $1.5 million seed gift from an anonymous foundation. Given with the intent of sustaining Emmanuel Music for years to come, this fund is invested at a 5% annual rate, and is eligible to receive gifts from additional donors.

With this establishment of an endowment, and our recent successes in institutional giving and audience development, Emmanuel Music is now the most fiscally sound as it has been in organizational history. To celebrate our endowment and help to ensure our longevity, now is the perfect time to consider making a legacy gift to Emmanuel Music.

By leaving a gift in your will, you can ensure the values of artistic excellence, shared human connections, and access to music for future generations. Your generosity will help us to secure Emmanuel Music’s cultural contribution to current and new members of our community.

To learn more about The Emmanuel Music Fund at The Boston Foundation, or about your options for legacy giving, contact our Executive Director, Jackie, at jaclyn@emmanuelmusic.org.

I enjoy my seat on the Board of Emmanuel Music because it allows me to witness the extraordinary and strategic hard work that is behind creating the art—the glorious, soulful, and soaring Bach repertoire that we are privileged to hear every Sunday and throughout the year at beautiful, luminous performances. And it allows me to participate in spreading the word that everyone is welcome—even encouraged—to enjoy this precious privilege.

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot
Professor, Harvard University

JOIN US IN LEIPZIG!

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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 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.

In a world fraught with conflict far and near, great art offers solace and hope. Emmanuel’s music, rooted in Bach, yet connected to the present, and realized by incredibly devoted and talented musicians, provides a counterpoise to chaos. Emmanuel offers us the best of the human spirit — “un dolce ristoro.”

Peter Libby
Board Member

A tax-deductible gift in any amount is an incredibly helpful way of ensuring Emmanuel Music starts our 23/24 season in a fiscally strong position. Contributions can be made to us:

1. By check made payable 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 writing your credit card information on the included slip.
3. Via Venmo @emmanuelmusicboston

We cannot thank you enough for your support and kindness towards our mighty organization. All of Emmanuel Music’s 60+ annual performances are either free or pay-what-you-can starting at $0, and are 75% supported by individual philanthropic support. Thank you for being our partners in bringing accessible artistic excellence to our community and beyond.

From all of us at Emmanuel Music, we hope you have a wonderful summer, and look forward to seeing you next season.