



PORTLAND  
**BAROQUE**  
ORCHESTRA  
GREAT MUSIC. PERIOD.

**For Immediate Release:**

**Portland Baroque Orchestra Adds Sparkle  
to its Annual *Messiah* with Fresh Young Stars**

*“the sparkling effervescence of a fine champagne”*

— *Boston Music Intelligencer*, on soloist Maya Kherani



November 11, 2022; Portland, OR: The holidays are back in Portland, with the triumphant return of Portland Baroque Orchestra’s *Messiah*! Following a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, PBO revives its more than 35-year annual tradition by breathing new life into this cherished masterpiece. Fresh young vocal stars under the direction of Gabriel Crouch add extra luminosity to the orchestra’s lush sounds and Cappella Romana’s transcendent choral beauty.

Soloist Maya Kherani (photo left) lends her “rich, soaring soprano... [and] crystalline tone” (*Opera News*) to the divine aria *I know that my redeemer liveth*. Kherani is thrilled to return to PBO and join forces with her longtime colleague Gabriel Crouch, who she worked with at Princeton University.

Musical director of the British early music ensemble ‘Gallicantus’ and Director of Choral Activities and Professor of the Practice in Music at Princeton University, Gabriel Crouch (photo below left) receives much acclaim and international attention for his joyful, thoughtful, and inspired direction.

**Additionally featured soloists:**

- Bass-baritone **Douglas Williams**, who “unleashed the full power of his clear and incisive tone... superbly on his own terms.” (*The New York Times*)
- Mezzo-soprano **Abigail Levis**, who offers “glittering vocal and emotional precision” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), a “bright, unforced brilliance.” (*Opera News*)
- Tenor **Thomas Cooley**, who delivers his “sweet, penetrating lyric tenor with aching sensitivity,” (*The New York Times*) and is “an indomitable musical force.” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*)





Douglas Williams  
bass-baritone



Abi Levis  
mezzo-soprano



Thomas Cooley  
tenor

*“For so many people Messiah has been an enduring holiday tradition...  
We’re so pleased to be able to bring it back in all its wonder!”*

*- Dave Pearson, Interim Executive Director*

Portland Baroque Orchestra presents

## **George Frideric Handel’s *Messiah***

Featuring Cappella Romana

### **Three performances at First Baptist Church**

Friday, December 9 | 7:30pm

Saturday, December 10 | 7:30pm

Sunday, December 11 | 3:00pm

**TICKETS: available at [PBO.org](http://PBO.org) and 503-222-6000**

Single Tickets are \$38-78

Ticket packages & group discounts (10 or more) also available

\$5 Arts for All tickets, subject to availability

\$5 Student Rush tickets will be sold at the door 30 minutes before showtime, subject to availability

## ***ABOUT CAPPELLA ROMANA***

Cappella Romana is a professional vocal ensemble dedicated to combining passion with scholarship in its exploration of the musical traditions of the Christian East and West, with emphasis on early and contemporary music. By bringing to life music that meets a deep human need for ethical, emotional, and spiritual connection, Cappella Romana provides audiences with transcendent experiences through the ineffable sounds of the human voice in song. The ensemble is known especially for its presentations and recordings of medieval Byzantine chant (the Eastern sibling of Gregorian chant), Greek and Russian Orthodox choral works, and other sacred music that expresses the historic traditions of a unified Christian inheritance. [cappellaromana.org](http://cappellaromana.org)



## ***ABOUT PORTLAND BAROQUE ORCHESTRA***

For thirty-eight years, Portland Baroque Orchestra has reigned as the Pacific Northwest's premier period ensemble, exploring the live music experiences of history with excellence in intimate venues. Founded in 1984, PBO is one of the largest period performance orchestras in the United States, and a jewel amongst Oregon's arts organizations. Specializing in works of the Baroque and Classical eras, the orchestra also reimagines music beyond those time constraints, performing on period instruments or replicas with extraordinary artistry and spontaneity. PBO audiences experience the baroque counterparts of modern instruments, including violins with gut strings and flutes made of wood and bone, in harmony with historical rarities such as the theorbo and harpsichord, to glorious effect. Join PBO to travel back in time and savor the uniquely delicate and jubilant sounds of the orchestra as it was first conceived and experienced! [pbo.org](http://pbo.org)

Portland Baroque Orchestra is supported by hundreds of generous individuals as well as foundations and corporate partners. PBO receives further support from the Oregon Arts Commission, the Oregon Cultural Trust, and the Regional Arts & Culture Council, including support from the City of Portland and Multnomah County. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official sponsor hotel of Portland Baroque Orchestra.



**For additional information, media materials and interview inquiries, please contact:**

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