



EMMANUEL
MUSIC

Ryan Turner, Artistic Director

2024/2025
SEASON CONCERTS

WELCOME TO OUR 55TH SEASON

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Emmanuel Music's 2024-2025 performance season – our 55th year making music together, exploring the enduring questions of our shared human experience through the celebration of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach, and their lasting significance and influence. Across three major concerts, in addition to the continuing Cantata Series, January Bach Institute Intensive, Lindsey Chapel Series, and community outreach programs, Emmanuel Music boldly continues its mission of serving as a living laboratory for Bach, both in the Boston area and beyond.

The season opens with a celebration of and return to Emmanuel Music's roots in chamber music. Exploring a wide range of songs across time, come take a journey through contemplative juxtaposition of works by living composers with classic vocal repertoire. **Songs of Lost Innocence** will feature music for solo voice and string quartet, presenting works by Samuel Barber and Gabriel Fauré as well as female composers Clara Schumann, Kaija Saariaho, Florence Price and Elena Ruehr, and a new work by Emmanuel Music tenor Omar Najmi.

In December, Emmanuel Music celebrates the holiday season with the now-traditional holiday concert, **Christmas at Emmanuel**, in collaboration with Project STEP, who envisions a world in which the classical music profession reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of our communities. Bach cantatas BWV 91 and 147, set the stage for the New England premiere of Evan Williams' *Little Mass for Christmas* featuring Bach Institute alum Sam Higgins, countertenor. In May, the Emmanuel Music ensemble rounds out the performance season with Bach's towering work of vocal and orchestral mastery, the incomparable ***Mass in B minor***.

Alongside our signature **Cantata Series**, we enter the fourth season of our **Emmanuel Motet Commissioning Project**, highlighting a broad cross-section of established and emerging composers. This season's impressive group boasts Peter Child, Nell Shaw Cohen, Philip Lasser, Trevor Weston and Evan Williams.

I am still soaring after our magical performance at the Bachfest in Leipzig this past June. I am so proud of Emmanuel Music and humbled to have performed in Bach's church. The result was moving and electric, imprinting our place in the international Bach world. The impact of this pilgrimage will echo far beyond Leipzig--it's galvanizing effect for the ensemble is palpable. We return with a renewed sense of vigor for what the future of Emmanuel Music can be!

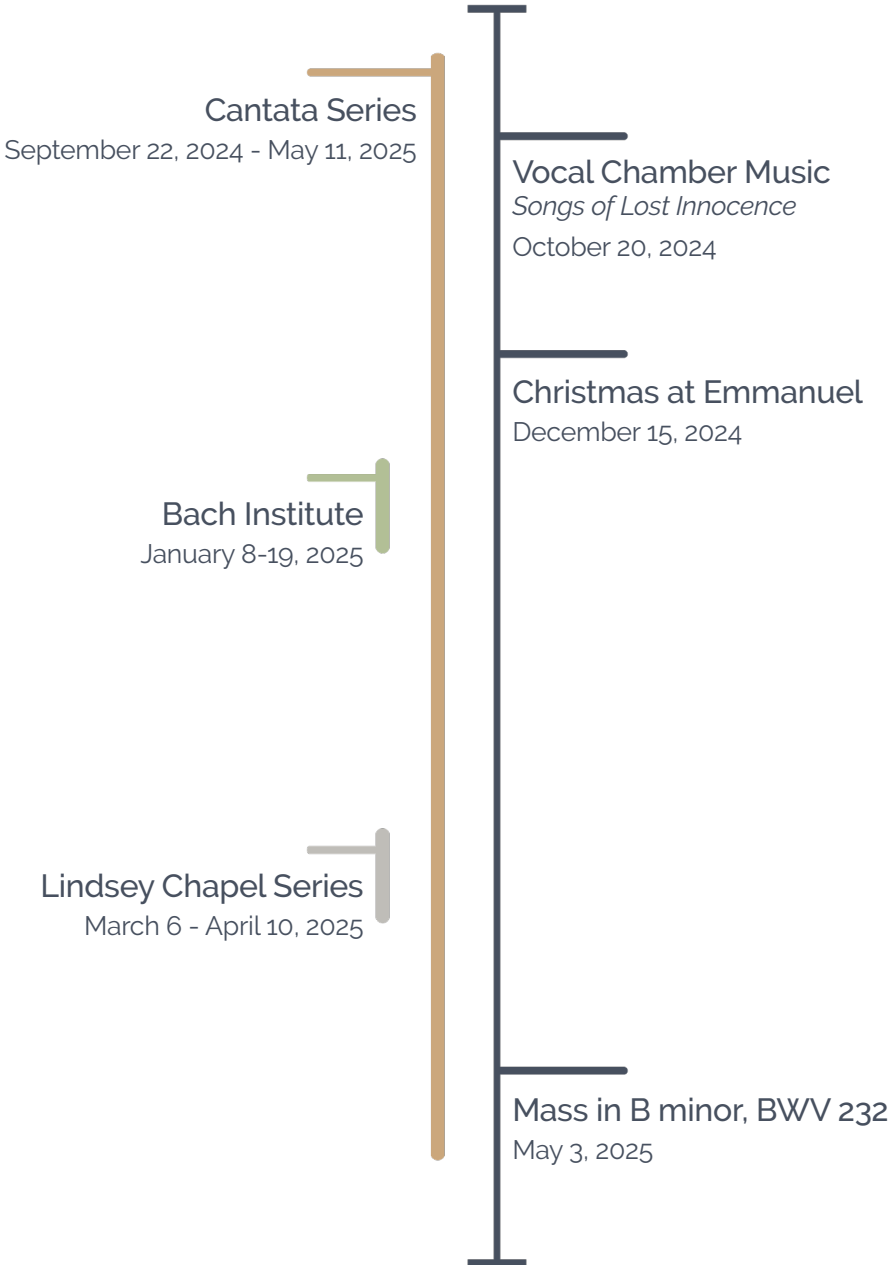
Musically yours,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Turner".

Ryan Turner
Artistic Director, Emmanuel Music

YEAR AT A GLANCE 2024-2025



All performances are live streamed! Learn more & buy tickets



SUPPORT EMMANUEL MUSIC

Emmanuel Music engages with audiences and musicians to explore the enduring questions of our shared human experience, building on our 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 he influenced, especially creative voices that have been marginalized in our society. We are deeply committed to making our work accessible to all; each of our 60+ annual performances are either free for all or pay-what-you-can, the majority of our performances are livestreamed, and our premiere podcast, BachLab, shares the knowledge and scholarship of Emmanuel Music with English-speakers around the world. To make all this possible, **we are 75% supported by individual donors**. Your gift of any amount is an incredibly helpful way of ensuring Emmanuel Music remains in a fiscally strong position.

MAKE YOUR GIFT!

1. Write a check made out to Emmanuel Music and mail it to:
**15 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116**
2. Give with your credit card at **emmanuelmusic.org** or call **617-536-3356 ext. 115**
3. Make your gift with one click on Venmo to **@emmanuelmusicboston**



SUPPORT
EMMANUEL

VOCAL CHAMBER MUSIC

Songs of Lost Innocence

OCTOBER 20, 2024 AT 4:00 PM

Featuring:



Will Prapestis
baritone



Katherine Maysek
mezzo-soprano



Omar Najmi
tenor



Carley DeFranco
soprano



Leslie Amper
piano



Heidi Braun-Hill
violin



Heather Braun-Bakken
violin



Mark Berger
viola



Rafael Popper-Keizer
cello

Emmanuel Music launches the 2024-25 performance season with a celebration of our roots as a chamber vocal ensemble. Join us for this contemplative juxtaposition of works by living composers with classic vocal repertoire, all composed or arranged for voice and string quartet.

Samuel Barber	<i>Dover Beach</i>
Elena Ruehr	<i>Song of the Silkie</i>
Florence Price	<i>Sympathy</i>
Clara Schumann	<i>Drei Lieder</i>
Kajja Saariaho	<i>Prospero's Vision</i>
Omar Najmi	<i>The Comet at Yell'ham</i>
Gabriel Fauré	<i>La Bonne Chanson</i>

Ring in the holiday season with traditions both old and new as we celebrate with uplifting and glorifying works of J.S. Bach setting the stage for the New England premiere of Evan Williams' *Little Mass for Christmas*. Start something bright and new with Emmanuel Music this winter.



CHRISTMAS AT EMMANUEL

In collaboration with Project STEP

DECEMBER 15, 2024 AT 4:00 PM

J.S. Bach

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 91

Evan Williams

Little Mass for Christmas (New England premiere)

Sam Higgins, countertenor

J.S. Bach

Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben, BWV 147





MASS IN B MINOR, BWV 232

J.S. Bach

MAY 3, 2025 AT 7:30 PM

Arguably J.S. Bach's most towering achievement, Emmanuel Music rounds out the 2024-25 performance season by putting our trademark stamp on this great work of vocal and orchestral mastery. Experience the wonder of Bach's enduring voice, and prepare to lose yourself in this sonic landscape.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS 2024-2025

CANTATA SERIES

Sundays at 10:00 AM | September 22, 2024 – May 11, 2025

Bach's magnificent cantatas have been presented as part of the Sunday morning worship service at Emmanuel Church since 1970. Founding Artistic Director Craig Smith initiated the series which has continued to the present day. In addition to Bach, this season features premieres by Elena Ruehr and Kati Agócs, and commissioned motets by Nell Shaw Cohen, Trevor Weston, Peter Child, Philip Lasser and Evan Williams (pictured left to right). All are welcome to attend the service, which begins at 10:00 AM.



BACH INSTITUTE

Bach and Society

January 8-19, 2025

Featuring special guest artist Vijay Gupta



The Bach Institute January 2025 Intensive takes an important leap forward with its focus on "Bach and Society." Inspired by our featured faculty guest artist, violinist Vijay Gupta, the Institute seeks to engage members of Emmanuel and Boston's wider community by exploring the message in Bach's music and its power to challenge and transform our lives. Bach's cantatas speak vividly and poignantly about the human condition; our aspirations, our failings, and how to create right relationship to God and to our neighbor. This year's Bach Institute will explore how a just society might work from the perspective of the cantata literature.

LINDSEY CHAPEL SERIES

Thursdays at Noon | March 6 – April 10, 2025

Our popular Lindsey Chapel Series provides free performances by solo musicians and small ensembles from 12:00–1:00pm on Thursdays, both in-person and streaming live, throughout Lent. This year we will present the complete Bach English Suites, BWV 806-811 for keyboard, featuring six brilliant performers. Experience the architectural beauty and intimate acoustics of one of the most beautiful Lady Chapels in the country.



LEARN MORE
& BUY TICKETS

ENGAGEMENT AT EMMANUEL MUSIC

Engagement at Emmanuel Music creates community using the compositions of J. S. Bach as a springboard for discussion, discovery, and inspiration. Find one of our musicians at a Boston Public Library neighborhood branch in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, East Boston, or South Boston creating an atmosphere for reflection during a **Breathe with Bach** session. Grab your favorite art supplies and color a page of our **Coloring Bach** coloring book while you listen to selected cantatas this season. Join us for a **Cantata Conversation** on a Saturday morning, then walk over to the sanctuary to hear rehearsal of the very music you were just talking about. Lend your voice to our annual Thanksgiving **Chorale Sing**, or receive feedback on a solo performance in our summer **Masterclass for All**, both led by Artistic Director Ryan Turner and Bach Institute Director Pamela Dellal.

The Emmanuel Music **Bach Institute** presents an intensive workshop each January. An invited group of talented young musicians spends 10 days exploring Bach's marvelous cantata repertoire, including lectures, masterclasses, open rehearsals, and stimulating conversations. All evening and weekend events are free and open to the public.

This past January's Intensive centered on Bach's multi-faceted engagement with time - musical, historical, and spiritual. We welcomed special guest Nicholas Phan as we delved into questions about Bach's time - and ours! Bach's music is fully alive at Emmanuel Music; come watch us play in our living laboratory, testing and examining sound, text, and structure to discover the underlying messages in the music.

In addition to offering robust programming built around our performance season, Emmanuel Music is proud to be in partnership for various education and enrichment initiatives with Project STEP, Kwong Kow Chinese School, Boston Conservatory at Berklee Dance Division, and Princess Day Boston.



LEARN MORE


VISIT US

15 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116

CONTACT US

+1.617.536.3356
music@emmanuelmusic.org
emmanuelmusic.org

FOLLOW US

 [@emmanuelmusic](#)
 [@emmanuelmusic127](#)