



## 2023 – 2024 Concert Season Descriptions

### The Sky's the Limit

Friday, October 13 & Saturday, October 14, 2023 | 8 pm

It's a cliché, “the sky's the limit.” There are no barriers to our dreams and possibilities.

There is something about looking up at the sky that releases the wonder of our inner child. We ask, “Why is the sky blue?” “Where does the wind come from?” “Is there life on other planets?” “Where do I fit into the cosmos?” We all remember looking at fluffy clouds in a deep blue sky and discovering that the cloud-shapes looked like animals (Look, a dog! Wait, now it's a roaring lion!).

Beyond that, there is something inherently optimistic about sky-gazing. When life takes a turn for the better, we happily declare that “things are looking up!”

Our October concert will revel in the offerings of the morning and evening skies: wind, clouds, birds, rainbows, sun, moon, stars, constellations, and endless possibilities.

### Christmas with Atlanta Master Chorale

Friday, December 8 & Saturday, December 9, 2023 | 8 pm

Sunday, December 10, 2023 | 4 pm

Our audiences love our annual Christmas concert—so much so that we have three performances!

The Christmas song “Silver Bells” includes a line that hints at what I love about our Christmas concert. The verse begins by describing busy city life, and then comes this phrase: “But above all this bustle, you hear...” In the midst of life's chaos, especially during the Christmas season, in the middle of all our personal “bustle”, we listen for something that rises above the ordinary. Something that calls us away from the chaos.

We will gather in the concert hall to experience songs of expectation and hope, of delight and joy, of faith and love. We're already looking forward to it.



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### Same Light, Different Lanterns: Sacred Music from Around the World

Friday, March 15 & Saturday, March 16, 2024 | 8 pm

Our March concert combines two especially exciting things: performing a piece of music we have not sung before and collaborating with other artists.

In past seasons, Atlanta Master Chorale has performed with a range of guest artists on a variety of instruments, including a guitar, a harp, a cello, a violin, percussionists, a jazz trio, large and small orchestras, many vocal soloists, and, most recently, a bluegrass band. Plus, we have the great pleasure of making music with Jon Easter on piano and organ on a regular basis. But we have never performed the featured work of the March concert, “This Love Between Us: Prayers for Unity,” and we have never collaborated with anyone playing two of the instruments used in this work.

Created by young composer Reena Esmail, “This Love Between Us: Prayers for Unity” was written for choir, chamber orchestra, sitar, and tabla. The sitar and tabla are commonly found in traditional Indian musical culture but rarely used in western classical music. Esmail, an Indian-American, deftly merges these musical traditions into a mesmerizing piece for our times.

The first half of the concert will feature Leonard Bernstein’s great “Chichester Psalms,” sung in Hebrew.

We hope you will join us for this evening of sacred choral music with a global flair.

### A Cappella Soundscapes

Friday, May 3 & Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 8 pm

Unaccompanied music has been around for as long as people have gathered to sing. From medieval monks singing chants to the complex harmonies of Eric Whitacre, composers again and again find new ways to create beauty with human voices.

And only voices. Sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. No keyboard, no orchestra.

Singing *a cappella* is choral music in its purest form. Every aspect of the music—melody, harmony, rhythm, texture—comes to life through the interplay of our voices alone. It is a kind of incarnation, of breath becoming sound.

Over the centuries, hundreds of thousands of *a cappella* choral works have been written. For this concert, we’ll sing a few of our favorites.