



Join us online for this unique performance of the Fauré Requiem. Conceived and created by artistic director Barbara Pickhardt, Ars Choralis will perform with international guest choirs and instrumentalists. We offer this virtual, online concert in memory of the millions of lives lost to the virus and in gratitude to the millions more who risk their lives to serve others.

[Ars Choralis](#), Woodstock, NY; Barbara Pickhardt, artistic director

[Brussels Choral Society](#), Belgium; Eric Delson, musical director

[The Dessoff Choirs](#), New York, NY; Malcolm J. Merriweather, music director

[Douglas Kostner](#), Larchmont, NY; organist

[Magna Graecia Flute Choir](#), Calabria, Italy; Sebastiano Valentino, music director



## Ars Choralis

Chamber Orchestra  
Barbara Pickhardt, artistic director

*Fauré Requiem: Kyrie, Agnus Dei, Libera Me*

Recorded virtually January – April 2021

*Fauré Requiem: Offertory*  
Eribeth Chamber Players  
Recorded live at Holy Cross Church  
March 1, 2, 2008

Woodstock-based **Ars Choralis**, formed in 1965, is a chorus of singers from all walks of life, drawn together by a mutual love of singing and a belief in the power of music to create harmony among people. The chorus is known for its diverse programming, from classical concerts to “message concerts” composed of music, readings, dance and visuals. Ars Choralis was named Organization of the Year by the YWCA of Ulster County in 2015 for the chorus’s extraordinary service, dedication and contributions to the community. In May 2017 the Arts Society of Kingston honored Ars Choralis with its Artistic Excellence and Innovation Award for Music. [www.arschoralis.org](http://www.arschoralis.org)

**Barbara Pickhardt**, *artistic director*, has had a multifaceted career involving teaching, conducting, composing, arranging and performing as a pianist and harpsichordist. Pickhardt has been associated with Ars Choralis for over 50 years, first as a singer and since 1976 as its Artistic Director and conductor. She was affiliated with the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra as harpsichordist, pianist and supporting choral conductor for over 20 years, led the choral music and piano music departments at SUNY Ulster and was the assistant music director and pianist for the Overlook Lyric Theater. She founded the Hudson Valley Youth Chorale and was its artistic director for 13 years, during which time the group performed throughout the Northeast and abroad. Pickhardt maintains a piano studio in her home in Woodstock, where she continues to compose and arrange choral music, creating her uniquely thoughtful and inspiring choral programs.

### Chamber Orchestra

Barbara Pickhardt, *conductor*

<b>Violas:</b> Tina Chang-Chien Elizabeth Handman Elizabeth Silver	<b>Cellos:</b> Erica Pickhardt Kelsey Sheldon  <b>Bass:</b> Luke Baker	<b>Organ:</b> Kristen Tuttman  <b>Horn:</b> Victor Sungarian
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## Brussels Choral Society

Eric Delson, musical director

Aurélié Moreels, soprano

Kamil Ben Hsaïn Lachiri, baritone

Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra

David Navarro Turres, conductor

*Fauré Requiem: Introit, Offertory, In Paradisum*

Performed and recorded live at

Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels

March 10, 2018

**The Brussels Choral Society**, founded in 1979, is the largest amateur symphony choir in Belgium. Truly an international ensemble, the choir consists of about 90 members, representing more than 20 different nationalities. BCS singers come from all walks of life and share a common passion for choral music. Our singers have a wide variety of occupations, and many are professionally associated with the European institutions and international organizations.

The Brussels Choral Society aims to perform to professional standards with internationally known soloists and orchestras. Our diverse repertoire includes everything from high baroque masses to lesser-known modern works, and everything in between. The choir is serious about its craft, but also likes to have fun and create community along with music.

The BCS is an evolving, modern choir that is bolstered by years of tradition, a combination that promises to deliver high-quality choral artistry for years to come. Find them at [www.brusselschoralsociety.com](http://www.brusselschoralsociety.com)

**Eric Delson** has been involved in musical composition, conducting and music education for more than 20 years. Dr. Delson has studied composition with Lukas Foss, Marjorie Merryman, Thomas Wells and Marshall Barnes, instrumental conducting with Craig Kirchoff and Harvey Benstein, and choral conducting with Lorna Cooke DeVaron and Constantina Tsolainou, among others.

Prior to moving to Belgium, he taught Music Theory, History, Composition and Choral Music at the New England Conservatory, Boston University and several other private institutions in Boston and New York.





## The Dessoff Choirs

The Dessoff Orchestra  
Malcolm J. Merriweather, *conductor*

*Fauré Requiem: Sanctus, In Paradisum*

Performed and recorded live at  
Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY  
October 26, 2019

**The Dessoff Choirs**, one of the leading choruses in New York City, is an independent chorus with an established reputation for pioneering performances of choral works from the Renaissance era through the 21st century. Since its founding in 1924, Dessoff's mission is to enrich the lives of its audiences and members through the performance of choral music. Its concerts, professional collaborations, community outreach, and educational initiatives are dedicated to stimulating public interest in and appreciation of choral music as an art form that enhances the culture and life of our times.

During this past season, in lieu of live performances, Dessoff has presented *Dessoff Dialogues*, online discussions hosted by Maestro Merriweather and presenting topics ranging from race and choral music to a musical exploration of Dessoff's long history. Our final Dialogue of the season is *Dessoff Strong – The Song Continues*, airing on May 24, 2021 at 7pm. It will premiere newly recorded videos of members of the choir in small ensembles, masked and socially distanced, singing a few Dessoff classics. Register to attend, at [www.dessoft.org](http://www.dessoft.org). Connect with them: @dessoft on Facebook and @dessoftchoirs on Twitter and Instagram.



**Conductor Malcolm J. Merriweather** is Dessoff's ninth music director. Recent highlights included the release of two major recordings. With Dessoff, Merriweather conducted and performed selected songs on *MARGARET BONDS: The Ballad of the Brown King & Selected Songs* released by AVIE Records in November 2019; this project is the premiere recording of the composer's *magnum opus*. In this new arrangement, Merriweather scored Bonds' 1954 work for orchestra for strings, harp, and organ. He is also featured as the baritone soloist in the



Oratorio Society of New York's recording of Paul Moravec and Mark Campbell's *Sanctuary Road* released on the Naxos label.

An Associate Professor, he is Director of Choral Studies and Voice Department Coordinator at Brooklyn College of The City University of New York, Artist-in-Residence at Union Theological Seminary, and Artistic Director of Voices of Haiti, a 60-member children's choir in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, operated by the Andrea Bocelli Foundation. He is a recipient of the Lotus Foundation Prize and the Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Teaching Award from Brooklyn College. Dr. Merriweather has earned degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, and Syracuse University (*summa cum laude*). Please visit [malcolmjmerriweather.com](http://malcolmjmerriweather.com) for more information. Connect with him on Twitter and Instagram [@maestroweather](https://twitter.com/maestroweather).



## Douglas Kostner

Organist

*Fauré Requiem: Libera Me*

Recorded live at Larchmont Avenue Church  
Larchmont, NY  
February 8, 2021

**Douglas Kostner** is the Director of Music Ministry at the Larchmont Avenue Church and Music Director of the Westchester Chorale. He hails from a long line of butchers and plumbers, a lineage which perfectly suits him for his chosen profession as an organist since he is often working in cold buildings with lots of pipes. He received the Bachelor and Master of Music in Organ Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. He is a Fellow of Trinity College of Music, London, and an Associate of the American Guild of Organists. He is a published composer of choral music and active performer. He plays a little piano on the side but hopes someday to turn it right side up. <https://www.lacny.org/douglas-kostner-director-of-music-ministry>



## The Magna Graecia Flute Choir

Sebastiano. Valentino, music director

*Fauré Requiem: Pie Jesu, Agnus Dei*

Recorded live at the Church of the Holy Spirit  
Vibo Valentia, Calabria, Italy

February 21, 2021

The Magna Graecia Flute Choir was founded by Sebastiano Valentino in 2009. The group has toured ten different regions of Italy including a 2014 trip to Rome for a performance in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. In 2016 they traveled to England for a series of concerts sponsored by the Italian Consul General and performed live on a BBC radio broadcast. They have collaborated in concerts with numerous international artists, both instrumental and vocal. Their repertoire spans various musical styles including sacred, classical, movie soundtracks, operatic and music for ceremonies and celebrations. Most arrangements are made by Maestro Valentino. [www.magnagraeciaflutechoir.it](http://www.magnagraeciaflutechoir.it)

In June 2018, Ars Choralis had the unforgettable experience of sharing a program in Calabria, Italy with the Magna Graecia Flute Choir. We are indebted to Maestro Valentino for hosting us then and for now providing us with this opportunity to make music together.

**Sebastiano Valentino**, *conductor*, first demonstrated his interest in music by playing the drums. He began studying the flute at the age of 16 and completed his degree four years later at the Conservatory of Music "F. Cilea" in Reggio Calabria, Italy. He continued his studies with the



internationally known flautist Carlo Tamponi. In 2000, with other professional musicians, he helped establish the Beethoven Academy of Borgia, Calabria for advanced training in music. In 2009 he founded the Magna Graecia Flute Choir. Valentino has performed on the flute and piccolo with numerous orchestras and chamber ensembles, collaborating with such international artists as the soprano Katia Ricciarelli. His teaching career includes students from the middle school to conservatory levels. He holds masterclasses and directed the orchestra of the Craco (Matera) International Flute Festival in 2018. Also, in 2018 he founded the Aulos Quintet. The group performed many concerts in various regions of Italy until the coronavirus halted these activities.

<b>C Flutes:</b> Luigi Tassone Asia Guerrisi Giulia Curcio Maria Antonietta Fabiano Marta Restuccia	<b>Alto Flutes:</b> Veronica Romeo Mattia Fulciniti	<b>Bass Flutes:</b> Verio Carlo Sirignano Simone Mauro  <b>Contrabass Flute:</b> Lorella Esposito
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