

BACKBAYCHORALE
THE POWER OF VOICE



RESOUNDING TOGETHER:

A Masterworks Sing-in Series

The background of the poster features a repeating pattern of intricate, golden Gothic architectural details, including pointed arches and tracery, set against a dark purple background. The pattern is dense and covers the entire width of the poster.

MOZART
Requiem

Saturday, March 7, 2026 • 3:00 pm
Church of the Covenant,
67 Newbury St., Boston



BACK BAY CHORALE

THE POWER OF VOICE

50



O FORTUNA

A CARMINA BURANA SPECTACULAR

Carl ORFF *Carmina Burana*

In an unprecedented collaboration between the **Back Bay Chorale** and the **Boston Conservatory at Berklee**, this performance unites the Chorale with the Conservatory's orchestra, choirs, and dance division for an extraordinary presentation of one of the most iconic works in the choral canon.

Back Bay Chorale

Choirs of Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Boston Conservatory at Berklee Orchestra

The Dance Division at Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Stephen Spinelli, Conducting

FRIDAY MAY 1, 2026

8:00 pm

Symphony Hall, Boston

TICKETS



bbcoston.org



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Conducting Apprentice

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The Back Bay Chorale gratefully acknowledges the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, The Boston Foundation, and the Boston Cultural Council, for their support.



Welcome from our Board President

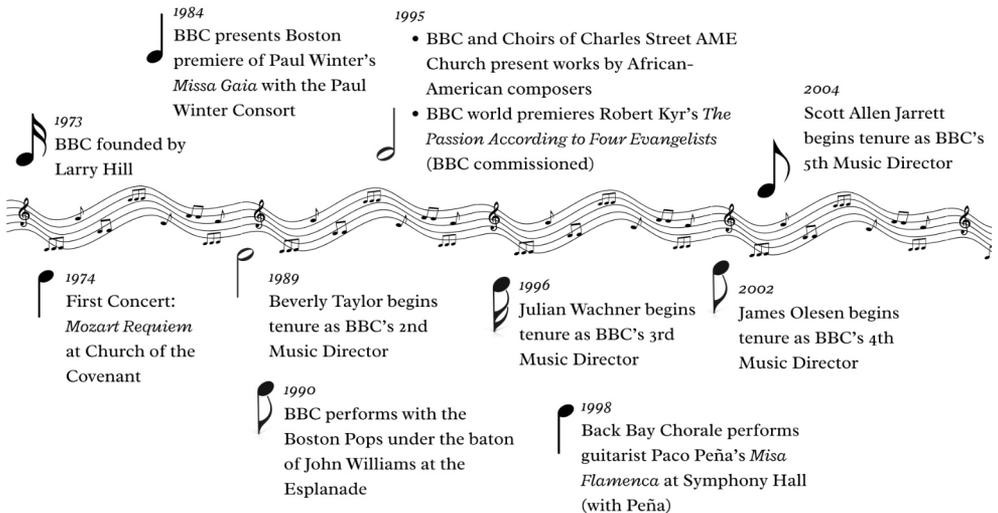
Welcome to you, our audience, our friends and our fellow singers to our community “sing-in” of Mozart’s *Requiem*. Fifty years ago, in this church, a group of singers joined together to sing the first concert of the Back Bay Chorale, led by its founder: minister, activist and musician Larry Hill.

Larry plastered the city with posters soliciting singers, and 100 answered the call to audition. Eighty sang at 11AM on Sunday April 21st, 1974 right where you sit. And here **we** sit, over 500 strong, ready to sing the same moving work exploring deeply unsettling themes of existence, but also longing for light and peace. Larry, a dedicated social activist, picked this work for a reason, I think, to explore an imperfect world and our hopes - together..

Our spirit of community in our fiftieth anniversary year continues just seven weeks from now, on May 1st when the Chorale, Boston Conservatory at Berklee and the Boston Children’s Chorus come together at Symphony Hall for a unique performance of *Carmina Burana*, with dancers and a community of 200 singers. Larry, I think, would love every minute of it. Please join us!

Craig Hughes

Board Chair, Back Bay Chorale



1973
BBC founded by Larry Hill

1974
First Concert: *Mozart Requiem* at Church of the Covenant

1984
BBC presents Boston premiere of Paul Winter’s *Missa Gaia* with the Paul Winter Consort

1989
Beverly Taylor begins tenure as BBC’s 2nd Music Director

1990
BBC performs with the Boston Pops under the baton of John Williams at the Esplanade

1995
• BBC and Choirs of Charles Street AME Church present works by African-American composers
• BBC world premieres Robert Kyr’s *The Passion According to Four Evangelists* (BBC commissioned)

1996
Julian Wachner begins tenure as BBC’s 3rd Music Director

1998
Back Bay Chorale performs guitarist Paco Peña’s *Misa Flamenca* at Symphony Hall (with Peña)

2002
James Olesen begins tenure as BBC’s 4th Music Director

2004
Scott Allen Jarrett begins tenure as BBC’s 5th Music Director

Congratulations to our longest standing members!

We offer special appreciation and honor our longest-standing members, whose dedication spans decades. Their commitment is measured not simply in years, but in steadfast loyalty, artistic excellence, and an enduring belief in the power of choral music.

50 YEARS

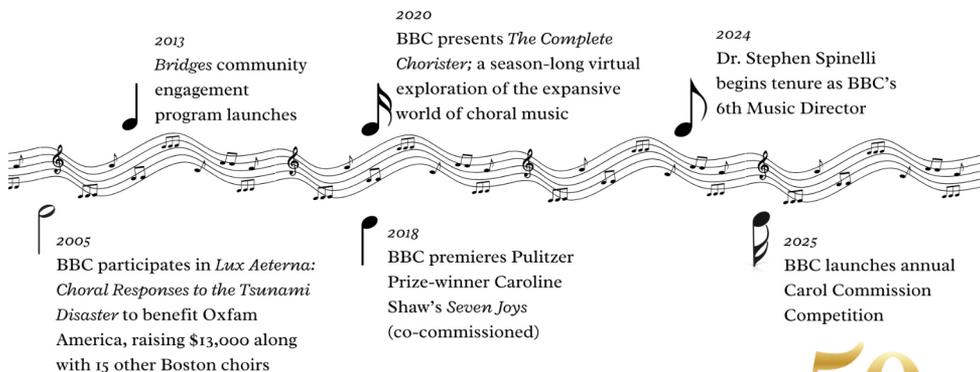
Betsy Groves
Judy Foreman

40+ YEARS

Peter Smith
Barb Siftar
Deborah Dumaine

30+ YEARS

Judith M Marie
Abby Reichlin
Melissa Glenn Haber
Kristin Kulash
Alison Hickey
Polly Scannell
Kim Reynolds Reid
Joan Regan





Be part of our voice

Sustain the BBC through future generations with a legacy gift

Why A Legacy Gift Matters

With strong leadership, and talented musicians, the Back Bay Chorale has become one of Boston's treasured artistic institutions. A legacy gift from you helps ensure that great music and transformative community programs such as Bridges continue to communicate the Power of Voice long into the future.

Did you know?

- Creating a plan is often simpler than people expect, and low-cost or no-cost options are available.
- Including the BBC in your will or other estate plans does not reduce your financial security while you are alive.
- You can honor a loved one by making your gift in their name, creating a tribute that lives on through music.
- You don't have to be wealthy to create a meaningful legacy for the causes you love.

Learn more at bbcboston.org/legacy or contact Susanne Powers, Executive Director, to discuss your plans: spowers@bbcboston.org

The *Back Bay Chorale* presents

A *Masterwork Sing-In Series*:

Mozart Requiem

Saturday, March 7th, 2026 - 3:00pm
Church of the Covenant, Boston

Dr. Stephen Spinelli, conducting

Viacheslav (Slava) Kozlenko, conducting apprentice

I. Introitus

Requiem aeternam

soloist: Maya Bloom

II. Kyrie

III. Sequentia

Dies Irae

Tuba mirum

soloists: Maya Bloom,

Molly McCleary,

Devon Cohen,

Wayne Wilkins

Rex tremendae

Recordare

soloists: Maya Bloom,

Kathy Trogolo,

Mike Trogolo,

Norm Roye

Confutatis

Lacrimosa

IV. Offertorium

Domine Jesu

soloists: Nicole Werther,

Debbie James,

William Aldenberg,

Justin Buie

V. Sanctus

VI. Benedictus

soloists: Maya Bloom,

Molly McCleary,

Landon Staley,

Wayne Wilkins

VII. Agnus Dei

VIII. Communio

Lux aeterna

Cum sanctis tuis

Scan QR code below for
text and translations:



The Story of the Back Bay Chorale

by Judy Foreman



Back Bay Chorale founder
Larry M. Hill (1936-1989)

Sometime way back in 1973 – his wife, Joan, now 90, can't remember the exact moment – an idea popped into the fertile brain of a Harvard University chaplain and social activist who also happened to be an accomplished musician.

This multi-talented man, of course, was Larry Hill, the bearded Brahms look-alike whose brainstorm that day led to the formation of the Back Bay Chorale, an audition-only singing group that today, more than 50 years later, is not only alive but thriving, as our *Carmina Burana* concert this May at Symphony Hall suggests.

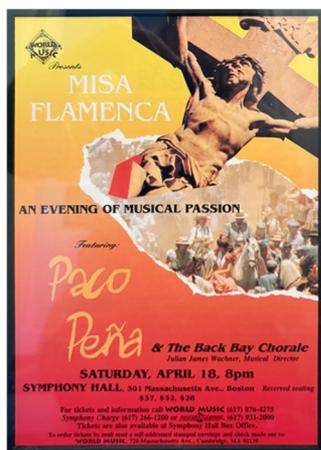
We sang our first concert under Larry's baton, the Mozart *Requiem*, at Church of the Covenant in 1974. Though he died in 1989, we who sang with him and with the five conductors we've had since – Beverly Taylor, Julian Wachner, James Olesen, Scott Allen Jarrett and Dr. Steven Spinelli – still share the kind of joy in making music together that Larry embodied.

Over the decades, we've sung our way through much of the western world's choral repertoire, often to glowing reviews. In 1999, the *Boston Globe* raved about our "commanding" performance of Brahms' *German Requiem*, which we sang for our 25th Anniversary.

We've ventured into more adventurous stuff, too, including Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*, Robert Kyr's *The Passion According to Four Evangelists*, to Pulitzer Prize-winner Caroline Shaw's *Seven Joys*.

And we've sung all over town – with the Boston Pops under John Williams on the Esplanade, at the Charles Street AME Church, at Symphony Hall for Paco Peña's *Missa Flamenca*.

All in all, we've sung over a hundred concerts, in the early days with the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, also founded by Larry, and more recently with other orchestras, including Greater Boston Youth Orchestra and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. Along the way, we've recorded so



Poster for the Chorale's April 1998 performance of Paco Peña's *Missa Flamenca* at Symphony Hall

many CDs that our bookshelves are groaning.

I suspect that Larry would be proud, too, that we've kept alive his social activism. In 2005, we joined with more than a dozen other Boston choral groups to sing Edward Elgar's *Lux Aeterna*, which raised more than \$13,000 for Oxfam America's effort to help the victims of the Asian Tsunami disaster.



Larry Hill conducts the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra at Sanders Theatre in Cambridge (date unknown)

In 2013, we raised our 100-odd voices to perform the *I Have a Dream* concert at the Hatch Shell for the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic speech.

We also started a community program called Bridges through which we've sung with people in memory care units, with people who are learning English as a second language, and with those preparing to become naturalized American citizens.

But of all the gifts that Larry has given us, for me the best is the simplest – singing with each other, week after week, year after year. It is pure joy.

Judy Foreman is a former Boston Globe health columnist and a 50-year member of the Back Bay Chorale.



Left: Poster promoting the March 2007 performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* at Sanders Theatre in Cambridge

Right: 32-year member and longtime supporter Susie Rioff's collection of program books, posters, and clippings of Back Bay Chorale performances is unparalleled – leading her to becoming our *de facto* archivist.



Thank you for coming!

Thank you for joining us today. Your presence is a gift, and we are deeply grateful you chose to share this experience with us. If today's music resonated with you, we invite you to consider a contribution in support of the Back Bay Chorale. Donations may be made by scanning the QR code or by texting **bbcgive** to 50155. Your generosity sustains programs like this one and helps ensure a vibrant future for our organization and the communities we serve.



<https://bbcboston.org/support/give>

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SUPPORT THE CHORALE IN STYLE!



Back Bay Chorale merchandise is now available!

QUALITY PRODUCTS. FRESH DESIGNS.

All new collection of t-shirts, hoodies, tote bags, hats, pullovers, and more to celebrate the Back Bay Chorale and our 50th Anniversary season.



Proceeds support the Back Bay Chorale's mission to share the Power of Voice and advance the spirit of community in Boston.



SHOP OUR STORE

BBCBoston.org/Store



Advancing the spirit of community.

Our Bridges ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) Chorus gives students an opportunity to sing together, improve their English language skills, and develop friendships with fellow singers. A partnership with the Boston Public Library, the program helps English speakers of other languages to become integrated with the Boston community. These in-person classes are FREE for all participants, and no previous music skills are required. The Bridges ESOL Chorus performs at the Boston Public Library, in our Christmas concerts, and at U.S. Naturalization Ceremonies.

To learn more, visit bbcboston.org/bridges

UNITING *neighborhoods* JUST AS NOTES UNITE IN A *song*

We believe in the power of voice and community,
which is why we're proud to support the *Back Bay Chorale*.

Jerome Bibuld
OWNER OF RED TREE



Let's get in touch. Reach out today.



617-642-5456



Jerome@redtreeboston.com

