

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: BALTIMORE, MD, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023: Baltimore Choral Arts Society, rising star conductor Anthony Blake Clark, and

GRAMMY<sup>®</sup>-nominated producer, Geoffrey Silver, release a ground-breaking album with a Baltimore focus for a concert project that was honored with a 2023 Capital Emmy<sup>®</sup> for Diversity/Equity/Inclusion.

"Dreamer" the new album of last year's live double premiere performance, pairs Maestro Clark's completion of the Mozart Requiem (K. 626) with "Portraits: Douglass and Tubman", a new work by composer Jasmine Barnes (b. 1991) with a collection of texts that inspire the present with the unending quest for social justice.

Both works were performed on historical instruments and the concert was staged in collaboration with the American Spiritual Ensemble, and founder and director Dr. Everett McCorvey.

"Portraits: Tubman and Douglass" delves into the legacies of two Maryland giants: Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. Composer Jasmine Barnes ("refreshing, engaging, exciting," *San Francisco Classical Voice*), gives Tubman and Douglass voice as storytellers in her work, building a dreamscape fusion of jazz, musical theatre, and film score techniques to articulate a message of hope and inspiration for her home city of Baltimore. At its premiere, Barnes "delivered a keen sense of a journey toward the light, and we can never get enough of that." (Tim Smith, former arts critic, *Baltimore Sun*)

Famously incomplete at the time of his death, Mozart's *Requiem* has long been a subject of fascination, particularly following the intrigue created by F. Murray Abraham's character Salieri in the 1984 classic movie *Amadeus*. Maestro Clark brings his unique vision, compositional talent, and eye for detail into his new completion of the *Requiem*.

Baltimore Choral Arts Society Chorus and Orchestra are joined by soloists Nola Richardson, Lucia Renata Bradford, Steven Soph, and Enrico Lagasca.

<u>A documentary on this concert project</u> won Baltimore Choral Arts Society, Maryland Public Television, Jasmine Barnes, and film producer T.L. Benton a 2023 Capital Emmy<sup>®</sup> for Diversity/Equity/Inclusion – Long Form Content from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

*Dreamer* is available for purchase in physical formats from BCAS and Acis and streams from September 19, 2023: <u>baltimorechoralarts.org</u> | <u>acisproductions.com</u> | <u>Spotify</u> | <u>Apple Music</u>

Press Contact: Rachel Tanenblatt: <u>rachel@baltimorechoralarts.org</u> Press Kit: <u>www.acisproductions.com/baltimore-choral-arts-mozart-barnes-press</u> Catalogue Number: APL34825

Acis is one of America's leading independent classical labels that boasts a roster of GRAMMY<sup>®</sup>-winning and nominated artists. Founded by twice GRAMMY<sup>®</sup>-nominated producer, conductor Geoffrey Silver (co-founder of New York Polyphony, former Chorus Master of twice GRAMMY<sup>®</sup>-winning The Washington Chorus), the label has excellence in the fields of early music, choral, and organ as its focus, and champions emerging and established artists in North America and Europe–particularly women and artists of color.

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