



JOINING THE BOARD OF MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE

'Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra may be the big guys on the local classical music scene, but in terms of sheer quality of performance...Music of the Baroque inhabits the same stratosphere.

—Chicago Sun Times

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Founded in 1972, Music of the Baroque (MOB) is one of the country's leading performers of music from the 18th and before, drawing particular praise for its performances of the major choral and orchestral works of **Bach** and **Handel**, **Mozart**, and **Haydn**.
- With an annual **budget of \$2.5 million**, a staff of eight full-time employees, and a board of 21 directors, MOB performs 20 concerts each season at the Harris Theater in **downtown Chicago**, the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in **Skokie**, as well as city and suburban churches and community venues such as the Kehrein Center for the Arts in **Austin**. MOB also gives free concerts at the Pritzker Pavilion in **Millennium Park** and performs at the Ravinia Festival.
- Through its "**Strong Voices**" **education program**, MOB's singers work in six Chicago public high schools, supporting choral programs and teaching singing to some 1,200 students in underserved communities.
- Funding for concerts and education programs is greatly boosted by a very successful gala – **A Musical Feast** – at the Fairmont, Chicago in October each year.

WHY JOIN OUR BOARD?

- **Great people:** We have a wonderful board of professionals and music enthusiasts from all walks of life: attorneys, doctors, media executives, academic professionals, financiers, business owners and musicians.
- **Make an immediate impact:** Unlike larger organizations, MOB has a small board in which every director has a direct influence on the organization.
- **Learn new things:** Directors gain insight into the inner workings of a professional music organization, from artistic planning and audience development to sponsorship and special events.
- **Hone your leadership skills:** Directors have opportunities to influence specific areas in the strategic plan such as audience growth, community events, education initiatives, DEI, board development, and good governance.
- **Continue the legacy of great music:** The Baroque period (1600-1750) is the very bedrock of classical music, a period of invention that gave rise to genres such as the symphony, concerto, opera, and oratorio.
- **Networking and social opportunities:** Invite family, friends, and colleagues to experience something special. Additional events include "soirées" in some of Chicago's most beautiful spaces and A Musical Feast gala.

TIME AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

- We encourage a minimum **two-year term**, attending as many performances as possible in our **8-concert season** and **5 lunchtime board meetings** in downtown Chicago.
- In addition, our directors attend and support **A Musical Feast** gala at The Fairmont, Chicago. This fun event includes a short concert, cocktail reception, dinner, dancing, and raffle (prizes include music trips to various parts of America, and our musicians performing in winners' homes). Proceeds fund our education program and community work.
- We suggest an annual minimum **personal donation of \$50 per week or \$2,500 annually** (with a matching gift from employer, where possible). We also ask directors to either sponsor a table themselves or seek sponsorship from their employer or another party (tables start at \$5,500).

WHY JOIN NOW?

- **New energy:** As we expand our community and DEI program, new directors are joining our board. We need talent and expertise in many areas as we develop and deliver a new strategic plan spanning 2023-2026 which includes goals to expand our audience through new and exciting initiatives.
- **Exciting times:** The organization has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. Recent highlights include a recording of Bach's St. Matthew Passion, the largest-scale work in the Baroque repertoire. We are expanding our reach across Chicago including new venues in the south and west side, our opening concert of the season at Symphony Center, and a free open-air concert at the Pritzker Pavilion.

WHAT WILL MY ROLE BE? (THE 10-POINT PLAN)

Participatory/Advocacy:

1. **Understand:** the history and operations of Music of the Baroque
2. **Attend:** board meetings and concerts
3. **Support:** subscribe and donate to the season, and seek sponsorship of a gala table
4. **Attract:** friends and colleagues to MOB (patrons, sponsors, potential board directors)
5. **Diversify:** support a more diverse MOB (on stage, in the audience, on the board)

Leadership/Governance:

6. **Advise:** contribute professional expertise and services to Music of the Baroque
7. **Guide:** help formulate sound policies and strategies for the organization
8. **Plan:** ensure short- and long-term goals are achievable and sound succession planning is in place
9. **Support:** ensure adequate resources are in place to support the ensemble's mission and vision
10. **Assess:** help monitor and assess the artistic, financial, operational, and DEIA goals of MOB

FIND OUT MORE

Please visit baroque.org/welcome to see an overview of our mission and activities. We are particularly excited to share our [MOB in the Community](#) work which has expanded considerably since 2022.

For further information please contact:

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