



T. Herbert Dimmock, Founder & Music Director

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 135**

**Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council**

Thank you for your consideration of HB135. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision from the 2016 bill and continues the \$1 million allocation for the Maryland State Arts Council from the Preservation Of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

Bach in Baltimore strongly supports this bill, as it has been the grateful recipient of MSAC grants for the past two decades. Without this support, we would not be able to offer the 10+ First Sunday concerts featuring the music of J. S. Bach and his contemporaries across the Greater Baltimore Area. Without this support, we would not be able to offer 10+ FREE performances for seniors in retirement communities who would otherwise not be able to attend our First Sunday performances. Without this support, we would not be able to offer our newest Beyond Bach Series of 3 unique concerts featuring music beyond the Baroque era. Without this support, we would not be able to support the dozens of local Maryland musicians who comprise our orchestra, choir, and soloists. Without this support, we would not be able to sustain our Student Voice Exchange Program, a youth-in-music initiative, offering monthly opportunities for Bach in Baltimore to share the stage with these up-and-coming musicians. And without this support, we would not be able to continue to provide quality, affordable classical music experiences across the Greater Baltimore Area to our over 5,500 patrons.

For these reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 135.

T. Herbert Dimmock  
Founder & Music Director

Rebecca Fanning  
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