

# The Alumni of the Harvard Bach Society Orchestra

## Concept Proposal

### Mission Statement

The Alumni of the Harvard Bach Society Orchestra strives to promote the growth of a vibrant alumni community and support the mission of Harvard's Bach Society Orchestra.

### About the Bach Society Orchestra

The Bach Society Orchestra, Harvard's premier undergraduate chamber orchestra, is devoted to the study and performance of works for smaller orchestras, from intimate chamber pieces to mid-sized symphonies, taken from a wide range of historical periods. Each season includes four performances throughout the year, often including collaboration with student guest soloists or Harvard choral groups.

Popularly known as BachSoc, the Bach Society Orchestra has been staffed, managed, and conducted entirely by students since its founding in 1954. Each year, the roughly 40 members of the orchestra select a student, always an undergraduate, to be their conductor for the following year. In turn, at the beginning of the new year the inaugurated conductor re-auditions every member of the orchestra, ensuring that the quality of the orchestra remains high. BachSoc's rehearsals and concerts provide a refreshingly egalitarian ethos combined with the highest standards of musical performance.

### Goals

1. To reconnect the BachSoc's alumni with the Orchestra and with one another through regular social activities, an annual newsletter, and other appropriate means.
2. To provide financial, logistical, and advisory support to BachSoc as required in order to help the Orchestra increase its outreach and carry out its mission.
3. To create an active personal and professional network for BachSoc's alumni.

### Proposed Initiatives

1. Facilitate the distribution of a semiannual newsletter to alumni with information on current orchestra activities, upcoming social events, events in the lives of BachSoc's alumni, personal interest stories, and other appropriate topics.
2. Organize regular reunion events on Harvard's campus organized by class decade and scheduled to coincide with a Bach Society concert. Such reunions would include performances, food and drinks, conversation, and, if possible, the chance for the alumni to play a piece of music together.

3. Organize similar reunions for the entirety of the alumni community to honor special milestones in the Orchestra's history, such as its 70th anniversary.
4. When plausible, organize informal social and networking events for BachSoc alumni in their hometowns.
5. Oversee fundraising activities for the Orchestra so as to enable it to fund its concerts through its endowment fund, engage in increased community outreach, conduct tours, and undertake other projects related to its mission.

### **Founding Board**

Richard J. Millett, '15, Interim Chairman  
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### **Membership**

Membership will be open and automatic for all graduating Orchestra members, including, but not limited to, musicians, composers, arrangers, music directors, conductors, managers, and other staff. Membership will be updated annually through submission of a list of graduating members to the Alumni Records Office. Membership will also be open, by request, to all interested alumni, faculty, and employees of Harvard University and their spouses, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or physical disability. There will be no required dues payments.

## **Governance**

The Alumni of the Harvard Bach Society Orchestra shall be governed by a Board of Directors, which in turn will receive support from an Advisory Board. A more detailed description of this governing structure is discussed in the organization's bylaws. All members of the Board of Directors and the Advisory board as well as the current Founding Board shall serve as volunteers and receive no form of financial compensation for their services.