

ARTS CHORALE

Winter Concert – February 24, 2009

Mass in D Minor (Lord Nelson)

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

I. Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth.

II. Agnus Dei

Lord, we pray thee to help thy servants: Show thy mercy unto us.

Soprano: Carole Marvin

Alto: Cheri Johnson

Tenor: Zach Durlam

Bass: Michael Guthrie

III. Dona nobis

Hallelujah, Amen.

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Paul Christiansen

Baritone: Matt Begale

Zigeunerleben (Gypsy Life)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Conductor: Zach Durlam

Libiamo ne' lieti, calici (from La Traviata)

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Soprano: Carole Marvin

Tenor: Zach Durlam

Lass Dich Nur Nichts Nicht Dauren
(Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1899)

Sanctus and Benedictus (from African Mass)

Norman Luboff (1917-1987)

Soprano: Angela Boardman

Drums: Jonathan Weber

“Love Is a Many Splendid Sing”

Richard Fracker, Tenor

And a many tended spring . . .

It Was a Lover and His Lass
Russian Picnic

Coates
Enders

And a many bended cling . . .

Am Feierabend from Die Schöne Müllerin
Ich Grolle Nicht from Dichterliebe

Schubert
Schumann

And a many wended string . . .

Questa o quella from Rigoletto

Verdi

And a many rended swing . . .

Ch'ella mi creda from La Fanciulla del West

Puccini

And a many ended fling . . .

Softly, as in a Morning Sunrise from The New Moon

Romberg

And a many fended, friended, and blended thing . . .

Down by the Sally Garden
Oh Danny Boy
The Little Irish Girl

Hughes
Weatherly
Löhr

And a many mended wing . . .

Steal Away
Deep River
Amazing Grace

Burleigh
Burleigh
arr. Hayes

Ride the Chariot

arr. Smith

Richard Fracker and The Arts Chorale

Richard Fracker

Richard Fracker is associate professor of voice (tenor) and Area Chair of Vocal Arts at the Michigan State University College of Music. Prior to joining the MSU faculty in September 2003, Fracker performed regularly in opera houses and concert halls throughout the world, including nine seasons at New York's Metropolitan Opera (MET). Known for his versatility both vocally and dramatically, he enthusiastically explores both traditional and contemporary repertoires ranging from Britten and Beethoven, to Verdi and Philip Glass. Some of Fracker's MET performances include: appearances in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, *The Gambler*, *Turandot*, *Moses und Aron*, and *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, and the leading tenor role in Philip Glass' *The Voyage*. He has appeared several times in Texaco's "Live from the MET" national radio broadcasts.

Recent international credits include performing with three other Metropolitan Opera singers in gala performances of arias, duets and quartets in Guangzhou, China. Fracker also performed four gala concerts in Norway. Career highlights include world debuts of Philip Glass's *Hydrogen Jukebox* and *Orpheus*, as well as Fracker's Carnegie Hall debut as the tenor lead in Glass's demanding *Civil Wars*. He has performed leading tenor roles in Spain, Italy, and Iceland, and with companies throughout the United States. Fracker has participated in the prestigious Spoleto Festival (Italy) and the Saito Kinen Festival (Japan) and has worked with such illustrious conductors as James Levine, Seiji Ozawa, Carlos Kleiber, Nello Santi, Valery Gergiev, and Marco Armiliato.

Dale Bartlett

Dale Bartlett joined the Michigan State University School of Music faculty in 1969. He is currently Professor Emeritus, having retired in 1996. Professor Bartlett earned his Bachelor and Master degrees from Michigan State University in 1955 and 1956, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Kansas in 1969. His professional career includes seven years of public school music in Michigan, six years as instructor of French horn at the University of Kansas, and twenty-seven years at MSU teaching such courses as music psychology, conducting, acoustics, measurement, and research. His research focus has been in music and medicine, physiological response to music, and music perception and memory. During his tenure at MSU, he served the School of Music as Assistant and Associate Director for 13 years. Although his professional performance career primarily has included French horn, he has been involved in choral music as conductor of church choirs since 1955, serving as music director at the University Lutheran Church in East Lansing from 1972 through 1982. He conducted the MSU Collegiate Choir for two years (1978-1980) and joined the Arts Chorale as conductor in 1983.

Judy Kabodian

Judy Kabodian received her Bachelor's Degree in organ performance from M.S.U. in 1982. She is currently the organist at The Peoples Church in East Lansing and has been a church organist for over 30 years. Judy is currently the accompanist for the MSU Chorale, the Greater Lansing Arts Chorale, the MSU Children's Choir and the East Lansing High School choirs. She continues to be in demand as a concert and recital accompanist at MSU and in the Greater Lansing area.

PROGRAM NOTES

Mass in D Minor by Joseph Haydn: The Mass in D Minor was written in the summer of 1798, about five years before ill health forced an end to Haydn's composing. He had just completed his premier oratorio, *The Creation*, inspired by the works of Handel, heard on his London visits. The title, *(Lord) Nelson Mass* was applied to this music by others after 1800, probably because the work was among those performed for Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton when they visited Prince Esterhazy at Eisenstadt Castle in September of 1800. Ironically, the Battle of Aboukir, in which Nelson's fleet took the French victoriously by surprise, occurred while Haydn was at work on the Mass; Haydn, however, could not have known of Nelson's victory until weeks after the Mass was finished, and apparently never sanctioned naming the mass for the English hero. The Mass has also been known in some venues as the "Coronation" or "Imperial" mass.

Given Haydn's own title, Mass in D Minor, it is puzzling that this composition does not exhibit an obvious character of sorrow, stress, or fear. Much of the work, to the casual listener, evokes joy and feelings of hope, which seem unrelated to the somber title. It must be remembered that Haydn's assignment, for all six of the last masses, was to write such works for the name day of Princess Esterhazy, this one in September, 1798. Obviously, one does not celebrate such an important event with somber music, and that probably accounts for the overall cast of this work.

Robert Schumann (1810-1856) was a German composer, aesthete and influential music critic. He is one of the most famous Romantic composers of the 19th century.

He had hoped to pursue a career as a virtuoso pianist, having been assured by his teacher Friedrich Wieck that he could become the finest pianist in Europe after only a few years of study with him. However, a hand injury prevented those hopes from being realized, and he decided to focus his musical energies on composition. His published compositions were, until 1840, all for the piano; he later composed works for piano and orchestra, many lieder, four symphonies, an opera, and other orchestral, choral and chamber works. His writings about music appeared mostly in *Die neue Zeitschrift für Musik* ("The New Journal for Music"), a Leipzig-based publication that he jointly founded.

In 1840, after a long and acrimonious legal battle with her father, he married pianist Clara Wieck, a considerable figure of the Romantic period in her own right. For the last two years of his life, after an attempted suicide, Schumann was confined to a mental institution.

Schumann's fascination with gypsies grew out of his encounter with Emanuel Geibel's 'gypsypoems,' and finally found expression in his *Zigeunerleben*, opus 29, no. 3. Schumann musically portrays Geibel's colorful description of a gypsy campfire. The piece begins with the mysterious quiet of 'woods filled with shadows and whispering branches,' and then rising vocal lines depict the flames as they 'flare up to illumine the trees. The close of the piece captures the nomadic aspect of gypsy life with the final text, 'But where do they go? Who knows where?'"

La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi: La traviata is an opera in three acts set to an Italian libretto by Francesco Maria Piave. It is based on the novel *La dame aux Camélias* by Alexandre

Dumas, fils, published in 1848. The title "La Traviata" means literally *The Woman Who Strayed*, or perhaps more figuratively, *The Fallen One*.

Programmed tonight is only a small portion of this popular opera which has become a staple of the standard operatic repertoire. It is third on Opera America's list of the 20 most-performed operas in North America, behind only *Madama Butterfly* and *La bohème*. In Act I, in a Paris salon, the courtesan Violetta Valéry greets party guests and is introduced to a new admirer, Alfredo Germont. This young man, having adored Violetta from afar, joins her in a drinking song (Brindisi: "Libiamo").

Libretto: Let us drink from festive cups that with beauty are adorned, and the fleeting hour with sensuous pleasure will be replete. Let us drink with a sweet excitement arising out of love; because of a glance that reigns supreme, after having pierced the heart. Let us drink, love, for within the cup lie the warmest kisses of love. . . Ah, let's make merry; wine and song and laughter beautify the night. May the dawn still find us in this paradise.

TRANSLATION

Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren

by Johannes Brahms

Let nothing ever grieve thee, distress thee, nor fret thee;
Heed God's good will, my soul, be still, compose thee.
Why brood all day in sorrow?

Tomorrow will bring thee God's help benign and grace sublime in mercy.
Be true in all endeavor and ever ply bravely;
What God decrees brings joy and peace, He'll stay thee.

Amen.

Sopranos
Allison Berg
Angela Boardman
Rachel Boardman
Kristin Evon
Rosemary Faiver
Lynn Fendler
Shantel Hamilton
Barbara Harris
Jean Kocher
Carole Marvin
Amy Rittenhouse
Diane Singletary
Barbara Whitney
Kristie Wiggert

Altos
Kim Allan
Kathy Ballard
Nancy Bieber
Lois Brennan
Barbara Fuller
Ellen Grafius
Cheri Johnson
Mimi LaLonde
Meredith Miller
Karen Nault
Bonnie Olson
Mary Robison

Tenors
Jamal Butler
**Zach Durlam
Mark Gary
Dallas Henney
Kermit Johnson
Will Mahoney
Bill Ruddock
Bob Ward

Basses
Jon Allan
*Matt Begale
Monty Bieber
Miguel Cabanas
Jerry Fuller
Michael Guthrie
Kyle Jubenville
Tom Kaplan
Jim Kocher
Mike Lipsey
Bill McHarris
Richard Njus
John O'Doherty
John Speck
****Brad Walker

The Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing will present its next concert on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. at the University Lutheran Church in East Lansing.

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Jeff English, Choral Director

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If you wish to place an ad or contribute financially to the *Arts Chorale*, call Kathy Ballard at 332-1848 or visit our website at:

www.artschoralegl.org

The *Arts Chorale* has openings for experienced singers. Contact Manager Kathy Ballard at **332-1848** or Conductor Dale Bartlett at **332-4495** or email him at **bartle17@msu.edu** for audition information.

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