



Baroquen Record

The Newsletter of the Baroque Choral Guild

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The Journey Begins

As always, I'm looking forward to our first concert of the season with great anticipation. One of my goals as Music Director of the Guild Chorus has been to develop a more mature and confident choral sound, working to improve the blend and vocal color in our performances. We've made great strides in the past two years, and I'm happy to report that we're continuing to grow in these areas this fall. Toward that end, we've welcomed eight new choristers to our ranks: Janis Arrigoni, Loren Chuse, Christine Doyle, Peter Gourevitch, Ruthann Lovetang, Beau McCrury, Liz Nielsen, and Dyana Vukovich. I think you'll be pleased with our progress.

If you're a regular subscriber then you'll know that I delight in performing offbeat repertoire. A key part of the Guild's mission is to discover and present little known works of great quality. This fits nicely with my own personal philosophy. Happily, many of our audience members have told me how much they appreciate our programming choices and look forward to the



Director Sanford Dole

discoveries we offer. While I can tell you that selecting repertoire is difficult, I'm also here to report that this season is full of wonderful music that will surprise and delight you. We're taking **The Grand Tour** this season in more ways than one. Buy your tickets and get ready for an exciting musical journey.

The season begins with an all-Baroque program on December 14 and 15. But don't expect Handel's *Messiah*, or even Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. Instead, we'll be fielding a strong line-up of little



Guest Lecturer Elaine Thornburgh

known works from around the world. Toward this end, I spent the summer preparing performance editions for the pieces on the concert. After I had done a lot of research looking for a nice blend of compositions, it turned out that for one piece, the only available edition was prohibitively expensive, for another piece, the one edition, found only after an extensive library search, was out of print, and for the other three, no edition in

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Guest Lecturer

The Baroque Choral Guild takes great pride in scheduling lecturers who are not only knowledgeable but also delightful to listen to. I am excited to announce that harpsichordist and lecturer Elaine Thornburgh will present a must-hear talk before the Guild Chorus's December concerts, **A Baroque Christmas Around the World**, the first program in a season we call **The Grand Tour**.

I came across Elaine's name in the latest Stanford Continuing Studies catalogue where her class, "A Baroque Musical 'Grand Tour'," caught my eye. "That is too coincidental," I thought and immediately made a call to discuss the possibility of her being part of our program. Out of her love of Baroque music and her interest in our programming, she accepted.

Elaine has a fine reputation as a harpsichordist and as a teacher. She has won national acclaim for her solo and chamber performances in recital halls throughout the United States, and you can often hear her on National Public Radio in ensemble with other leading Baroque specialists. As a lecturer, not only does she teach at Stanford University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, but she and Baroque violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock tour the nation presenting lecture-recitals together.

Make plans to come to the concert a half hour early to hear Elaine. In Palo Alto on Saturday, December 14, her talk is at 7:30, and it is at 7:00 in Berkeley on Sunday, December 15.

—Sonja Wohlgemuth

Opportunities to Support the Arts

One of the hallmarks of BCG is the training of choral singers of all ages, the children of Cantabile Children's Chorus, the youth of Peninsula Choral Workshop, and the adults of the Guild Chorus. Including music in their daily lives enriches them and fulfills a deep human need.

In these difficult economic times, funding sources in the government and corporations and even foundations that have consistently supported us in the past must make drastic cuts in their support for the arts. All arts organizations are working hard to sustain themselves. It will fall to us as individuals to underwrite the things we believe in. BCG has always operated prudently, but we need your help more than ever this year.

Did you know that you can make sure a concert happens, hire a top-notch instrumentalist for a concert, or make it possible for a child who can't afford it to sing with Cantabile or PCW?

Baroque Choral Guild has a myriad of opportunities for you to gain a closer relationship with our organization, including underwriting and sponsorship options from \$250 to \$5000 that provide primary funding for specific needs. For example, with resources from \$250 to \$500, you can sponsor scholarships for our youth programs. Supporters with resources of increased amounts can sponsor guest artists for a concert from \$500 to \$1000; support the production of a Guild concert set, help underwrite a director's chair for a season, a chamber orchestra for a concert or help to fund our annual Peninsula Choral Workshop at the \$2500 to \$5000 levels. A donation in any amount is invaluable to our organization and we welcome your generosity. For more information about additional support opportunities or other ways that you may play a vital role in our future, call (650) 969-4095. Join our family of donors today.

—Wendy Bartlett, *President of the Baroque Choral Guild*

BCG Board Expands

The Baroque Choral Guild welcomes Brian Steen as a new member of its board of directors. Brian became a part of the Guild just one year ago when he joined the bass section of the Guild Chorus. Looking for a quality choral organization, he was drawn by the reputations of Sanford Dole and the Guild Chorus. He has a long history of involvement in the performing arts. He was a founding member in 1972 of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus under Seiji Ozawa.

He sang for 18 years with the Carmel Bach Festival and was a founding member of the community chorus, I Cantori di Carmel.

Brian's business experience is also extensive. He was executive director of the Big Sur Land Trust for 18 years, completing land transactions to preserve over 15,000 acres of coastal property. As a consultant for the City of Monterey, he obtained public funding for the Window on the Bay project and established a capital development program for the Laguna Seca Recreation Area. In 1999 he joined the Sempervirens Fund, a land conservation organization preserving redwood forests, as executive director.

In his new seat on the board, Brian offers the Baroque Choral Guild his expertise in fund development and organizational management.

Welcome Brian!

The Journey Begins:

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modern notation existed at all. For the results, however, all this activity behind the scenes is well worth it.

We travel first to Germany for J. S. Bach's exquisitely crafted *Missa Brevis in A major*, then to Italy for Alessandro Scarlatti's haunting *O Magnum Mysterium*, and on to France for Marc-Antoine Charpentier's charming account of the angel's announcing to the shepherds the birth of Christ, *In Nativitatem Domini Canticum*. These pieces alone make our trip worthwhile, but this is a world tour that includes stops in Mexico and Bolivia. Along with the missionaries, the influences of European musical styles came to the Americas in the 16th century. The way local musicians adapted the Old World forms and made them their own is intriguing. Mexico's leading composer of the Baroque era, Francisco López Capillas, is represented with *Magnificat tertii toni*, one of his eight Magnificats. And *Dime Amor*, a villancico by Bolivian composer Juan de Araujo, brings our program to a lively conclusion.

You won't want to miss any of the stops on **The Grand Tour** this season. We'll have a great time together. So pack your bags and get ready for an exciting excursion. While you're at it, share the fun and bring a friend—or three.

—Sanford Dole

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Baroque Choral Guild is now part of the eScrip funding program. BCG will earn funds based on your normal everyday spending at the myriad of participating merchants. Visit www.escrip.com and sign up today. BCG ID is #1103931.

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Tickets	No.	Price	Subtotal	Location
Guild Chorus Subscriptions				
General	_____	x \$50 = \$_____		<input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> BK
Senior/student	_____	x \$40 = \$_____		<input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> BK
March tickets for San Francisco?				<input type="checkbox"/> YES

Single tickets

December: Baroque Christmas

General _____ x \$22 = \$_____ PA BK

Senior/student _____ x \$17 = \$_____ PA BK

March: English Choral

General _____ x \$22 = \$_____ SF PA BK

Senior/student _____ x \$17 = \$_____ SF PA BK

June: A Musical Journey

General _____ x \$22 = \$_____ PA BK

Senior/student _____ x \$17 = \$_____ PA BK

Handling fee

\$2.00

Tax deductible contribution \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

Reputation for Excellence

Our musicians are much sought after even with the wealth of quality performing arts organizations in the Bay Area. Beyond the regular seasons of the Guild Chorus and Cantabile Children's Chorus, this is a busy year with several premiere performances in the area.

In November, 16 singers from our Guild Chorus will sing the premiere of Lawrence Pech's ballet *Angels: Fallen & Otherwise*. Guild Music Director Sanford Dole is preparing the singers and will also conduct the four performances.

This is a premiere not only for the choreography but also for the musical score by Bay Area composer Kurt Erickson. Because various Bay Area personnel in the performing arts arena had recommended us and told him of

Dole's reputation for preparing quality ensembles, the composer called in August to ask about the availability of our music director and choristers.

Besides the Guild Chorus, the performing forces that Dole will conduct are the Lawrence Pech Dance Company, the boys' chorus Ragazzi, and the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble. Performances are November 21-24 at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 701 Mission Street, San Francisco. The four shows are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 and a Sunday matinee at 2:00. Tickets are available by calling (415) 978-ARTS (2787).

The talent within our organization extends to our children's chorus as well. With many past guest appearances to their credit, the Chamber Ensemble of Cantabile Children's

Chorus, under the direction of Signe Boyer, will be the youth choir featured in the premiere of Craig Bohlmer's *Sisters* with the Mission Chamber Orchestra, directed by Emily Ray.

Sisters weaves together the cultures and music of San Jose and its seven sister cities: Veracruz, Mexico; Ykaterinber, Russia; Dublin, Ireland; San Jose, Costa Rica; Okayama, Japan; T'ainan, Taiwan; and Pune, India. The 25-minute piece has eight movements, one for each city. This premiere performance will be at St. Joseph's Basilica in San Jose on February 8, 2003.

Congratulations to the wealth of talent in the singers and directors of the Baroque Choral Guild family. ♪

The Spirit of the Holidays

After their weeks of preparation, including Saturday workshops, our talented Cantabile Children's Chorus will present another exciting concert, **I Will Sing with the Spirit**, at 4:00 on December 8 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Saratoga.

Cantabile has a rich tradition of presenting music that is both entertaining and educational. Under the direction of Signe Boyer and Peggy Spool, the singers enrolled this season have the opportunity to encounter several different styles of music as well as new languages. **I Will Sing with the Spirit** is

an eclectic assortment of music with such old favorites as "Winter Wonderland," "Pat-a-Pan," "Sleigh Ride," and the popular Fred Waring medley "Twas the Night Before Christmas," with a variety of songs from different cultures including a Yugoslavian gypsy dance song, a Norwegian carol, a Hebrew song, an Afro-American spiritual, and a Franciscan chant, and with a number of songs by contemporary American, English, and Canadian composers that add even more diversity to the program. ♪