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SEASON 2023-24



Baroque, Latin American, Gilbert & Sullivan

Crescendo Chorus & Vocal Ensemble • Soloists • Period Instrument Orchestra
Latin American & Chamber Music Ensembles





FREE Baroque Summer Concert #1

August 3, 2023 at 5 pm
Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

Perfection of Cantabile Art and Cosmic Harmony - A Tribute Concert for the legendary Wanda Landowska

Rodrigo Tarraza - traverso and Christine Gevert - harpsichord

A chamber concert with Johann Sebastian Bach's music for flute and harpsichord: Sonatas BWV 1032, BWV 1034, and Triosonata BWV 1039, arranged by the ensemble. These sonatas are a high point of Bach's expressive and technical compositional achievement. Bach's flute sonatas were written at a time when the transverse flute took the place of the recorder. Bach understood the qualities and tonal color that this new instrument offered him very well, and combined it masterfully with an instrument he was very familiar with: the harpsichord. Ms. Gevert will improvise short preludes to the flute sonatas. Remarks by the legendary harpsichordist and scholar Wanda Landowska on the transcendence of Bach's music will be read at the concert by town historian, Jean McMillen.



FREE Baroque Summer Concert #2

September 23, 2023 at 5 pm
Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

Your Favorite Baroque Works on Latin American and Early Instruments

Job Salazar - violin and bombo, Carlos Boltes - viola and charango, Gonzalo Cortés - flute, quena, and zampoña, Christine Gevert - virginal and percussion

With renewed interpretations of Baroque classics, the ensemble presents some of J.S. Bach's, Vivaldi's, Corelli's, Handel's, and Purcell's instrumental masterworks in a one-of-a-kind arrangement, creating a tapestry of global sounds. All four instrumentalists perform on Western traditional and Latin American folk instruments, and are equally at home in both styles. The ensemble creates a bridge between the Western European culture and the sounds of the New World. By celebrating the origins of Baroque music: peasant dances of the Renaissance, along-side the deeply captivating Latin American sounds and rhythms, a unique fusion of styles comes to life.



20th Anniversary Concerts

October 28, 2023 at 4 pm
Saint James Place, Gt. Barrington, MA
October 29, 2023 at 4 pm
Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

Sacred Poly-Choral Works and Opera Choruses from the early Baroque to the early Classical periods in Latin America and Europe

Crescendo Chorus, Soloists, and Period Instrument Orchestra, directed by Christine Gevert

Celebrating Baroque vocal music, this program features festive sacred and secular works for chorus, soloists, and orchestra. The motets, villancicos and choruses are by composers Manuel de Zumaya, Domenico Zipoli, Antonio Vivaldi, Marc-Antoine Charpentier, Georg Philipp Telemann, and Johann Sebastian Bach. The Baroque opera excerpts are by Tomás de Torrejón y Velasco (composer of the first Latin American opera), Henry Purcell, Jean-Philippe Rameau, and Christoph Willibald Gluck among others.

These concerts are underwritten by the Arthur F. & Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation.



Holiday Concerts

December 16, 2023 at 4 pm
St. Paul's Church, Stockbridge, MA
December 17, 2023 at 4 pm
Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

Festive Holiday Music with a New, Earth-Conscious Message, by Candlelight

Crescendo Chorus, Soloists, Chris Belluscio - trumpet, Tricia van Oers - recorder, Christa Patton - harp, directed by Christine Gevert from the organ

A special winter concert with candlelight and the harmonic voices of Crescendo Chorus singing favorites of the holiday season in a new version. Popular traditional Carols for Yuletide, Solstice and Christmas with new lyrics by Australian musician, lyricist, and writer Sophia Green are featured. Her words call for Earth Stewardship, and convey our connections with one another and nature. The familiar melodies and rich harmonies are skillfully arranged for chorus and instruments. Also on the program are contemporary English and Irish Carol settings by Oliver Barton, Tim Porter, and others. The vocal works are contrasted by early English instrumental pieces for trumpet, recorder, harp, and organ.



Midwinter Concerts

February 3, 2024 at 3 pm
Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT
February 4, 2024 at 4 pm
Saint James Place, Gt. Barrington, MA

Early Polyphony for Low Voices from Ockhegem to Palestrina

Crescendo Low-Voice Vocal Ensemble, directed by Christine Gevert

The Renaissance is considered the Golden Era of vocal music. The evolution of polyphonic music started in the early 15th century in the lowlands. Franco-Flemish composer and singer Johannes Ockhegem alongside his contemporaries, such as Heinrich Isaac, were succeeded by Josquin des Prez, the greatest innovator in the technique of melodic imitation between voices. Polyphony spread in Western Europe, and English composers John Taverner, and later Thomas Tallis, excelled in this style. In Italy the polyphonic style culminated with Giovanni Pierluigi Palestrina. The program features sacred four- to six-voice works by those composers.



Baroque Chamber Music Concerts

March 2, 2024 at 4 pm
Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT
March 3, 2024 at 4 pm
Saint James Place, Gt. Barrington, MA

J.S. Bach's famous Sonatas, Suites and Chamber Works for Violin and Cello

Edson Scheid - Baroque violin, Serafim Smigelskiy - Baroque cello,
Christine Gevert - harpsichord

Several of Johann Sebastian Bach's works, such as the Brandenburg Concertos, and his cantatas and oratorios, feature the solo violin prominently. Even after publication, Bach's violin solo works were largely ignored, until the celebrated violinist Joseph Joachim started performing them. When Bach set out to write his solo cello suites around 1720 there were few others attempting similar compositions. As was often the case, Bach blazed a trail and set new standards for others who followed him. The high technical and artistic ability required to perform these works, reflects the growing emphasis placed on instrumental performance during their time of composition.



Early Baroque Oratorio Concerts

March 23, 2024 at 4 pm
Saint James Place, Gt. Barrington, MA
March 24, 2024 at 4 pm
Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

A Dramatic Early Baroque Oratorio and a Twelve-Voice Mass

Crescendo Vocal Ensemble, Pablo Bustos - *Jephthe* and Agnes Coakley Cox - *Filia*, Soloists, and Period Instrument Ensemble, directed by Christine Gevert

The Italian composer Giacomo Carissimi – who continued Claudio Monteverdi's legacy of dramatic vocal music – tells the story of a human tragedy in one of the first oratorios, "Jephthe." The Israelite general Jephthe and his people celebrate a great military victory, and then sink into despair over the loss of Jephthe's beloved daughter.

Carissimi's twelve-voice mass of the Early Baroque is based on the famous medieval folk tune "The Armed Man." It is the last one of more than 40 masses composed on this tune over 170 years, and also the one with the largest cast.



Choral Spring Concerts

May 4, 2024 at 6 pm
Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT
May 5, 2024 at 4 pm
Saint James Place, Gt. Barrington, MA

Trial by Jury and "The Trials of Love in the Spring!" - favorite opera excerpts...

Crescendo Chorus, Soloists, and an Instrument Ensemble, co-directed by Christine Gevert and John-Arthur Miller

The duo of Gilbert and Sullivan are famous for their ridiculous twists and turns of the plot. Virtually all of their works are spoofs and satires of the British legal and social class system. Their wit and sense of irony go beyond musical theater to comedy in general. The popular one-act comic opera *Trial by Jury* is presented in a semi-staged, costumed version. The story is a "breach of promise of marriage" lawsuit in which the judge and legal system are the objects of lighthearted satire. The second part of this performance is entitled "The trials of love in the spring!," and features some of the most favorite solo and ensemble numbers from Gilbert & Sullivan operas *Patience*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Iolanthe*, *The Mikado*, *Ruddigore*, and *Princess Ida*. This lighthearted musical and theatrical production concludes our 20th anniversary season.