

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra

Nicholas McGegan, Music Director

CALENDAR LISTING

Classical Music

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHO Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra – “America’s Period-Instrument Orchestra”
Nicholas McGegan, *Music Director*

WHAT *Orlando’s Madness*
HANDEL *Orlando*

FEATURING Nicholas McGegan, *conductor*
Dominique Labelle, *soprano*
Susanne Rydén, *soprano*
Diana Moore, *mezzo-soprano*
William Towers, *countertenor*
Wolf Matthias Friedrich, *bass-baritone*

WHEN/WHERE Thursday, April 8, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.
San Francisco – Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Avenue)
Saturday, April 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.
Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)
Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.
Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)
Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.
Palo Alto – First United Methodist Church (625 Hamilton Avenue)

TICKETS Tickets start at \$25 and are available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com. If available, Student Rush tickets are \$10 and go on sale one hour before the start of the concerts. To learn more about all of PBO’s concerts, visit the Orchestra’s website at www.philharmonia.org.

A tale of passion, madness and magic, *Orlando* is one of George Frideric Handel’s most stirring and imaginative operas. Based on the epic poem “Orlando furioso” written by Ludovico Ariosto in the 16th century, the plot of the opera follows the descent of the title character into a destructive dementia after the woman he loves rebuffs him. A sorcerer must then embark on a desperate quest for the cure. Join Music Director Nicholas McGegan as he conducts PBO and the original cast from the 2008 Göttingen Handel Festival and Drottningholm Theatre productions in this superb score.

– **MORE** –

“The greatest musical form of the Baroque is opera,” says Music Director Nicholas McGegan, “and Handel's works for the stage are among the era’s crowning glories. *Orlando* is a tale of a love so obsessive that it tips the hero into madness. Only at the last minute is he cured and the world saved from delirious destruction. We have an all-star cast that has done the work on stage at the Göttingen Handel Festival and at the Swedish Court Theatre in Drottningholm. You will have to imagine the flying machines, the dragon chariot and all the effects of the baroque theatre, but I hope that Handel's glorious music will conjure these up.”

McGegan and Philharmonia Baroque are renowned by critics for their interpretations of Handel. In his recent “Decade in Review,” Joshua Kosman of the *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote: “Purists may object to this one, since Nicholas McGegan’s nearly annual march through the musical bounty of Handel’s oratorios and operas dates back well into the 1990s and beyond. But when I look back on my year-end lists from the past decade, Philharmonia’s superb Handel performances show up like clockwork on practically every one.” Michael Zwiebach of *San Francisco Classical Voice* wrote after last year’s performances of *Athalia*: “It should be axiomatic among Bay Area music lovers, by now, that a mid-April evening must be reserved for Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Handel.”

Visit www.philharmonia.org/apr10.html to learn more about this concert and listen to arias from Handel’s *Orlando* and April 2007’s *Belshazzar*.

For more information, visit www.philharmonia.org or call (415) 252-1288.

ABOUT

For the last 28 years, San Francisco’s Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (PBO) has been dedicated to historically-informed performance of Baroque, Classical and early Romantic music on original instruments. Led by Music Director Nicholas McGegan since 1985, PBO is recognized as one of the finest chamber orchestras, as well as one of the most exciting period-instrument ensembles. Drawing on musicians from all over the United States and abroad, PBO performs seven concert programs in four Bay Area cities each season and tours the U.S. and internationally. The group has its own professional chorus, has commissioned new music for period instruments, and has collaborated with the Mark Morris Dance Group among others. PBO’s 24 recordings have won or been nominated for numerous awards.

Full biography: <http://www.philharmonia.org/bio.html>

High-resolution pictures: <http://www.philharmonia.org/resources.html>

To learn more and hear PBO’s music: www.philharmonia.org

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