



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Sasha Hnatkovich, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

EMAIL: sasha@philharmonia.org

PHONE: (415) 252-1288, ext. 315

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Nicholas McGegan and
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale
Announce 30th Anniversary Season**

**2010-2011 Season Expanded to Eight Concerts
with New Venues in Atherton and Walnut Creek**

**Beloved Baroque and Classical Masterworks
Including Handel's Messiah,
Haydn's Creation, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons
Share Spotlight with U.S. Premiere from Nathaniel Stookey**

**Music Director Nicholas McGegan Leads Seven of the Eight Concerts
Featured Guest Artists Include Frederica von Stade and Kirsten Blaise;
Countertenors David Daniels and Daniel Taylor;
and Fortepianist Robert Levin**

San Francisco, CA – Music Director Nicholas McGegan and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale celebrate 30 seasons of artistic excellence in 2010-2011 with an expanded season featuring many of the Baroque and Classical masterworks with which the orchestra is most associated -- Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Mozart's Jupiter Symphony, Bach's Wedding Cantata, Haydn's Creation, and Handel's Messiah. Ten of the Season's 21 programmed works are first Philharmonia Baroque performances, including two U.S. premieres. America's leading period-instrument orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra was recognized as Musical America's "Ensemble of the Year" in 2004. The Orchestra's musicians hail from throughout the United States and perform on historically accurate instruments, many dating from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Philharmonia Baroque is honored to present Frederica von Stade during her farewell season in performances of Gluck arias in addition to the U.S. premiere of Nathaniel Stookey's "Into the Bright Lights," a musical setting of Ms. von Stade's own poetry.

Two of the world's most well known countertenors also make appearances. David Daniels joins the ensemble performing Vivaldi's Stabat mater and arias from Handel's Giulio Cesare. Daniel Taylor will be heard in Handel's Messiah. Maestro McGegan, acclaimed throughout the world as one of the foremost interpreters of the Messiah, conducts the work here in the Bay Area for the first time in more than ten years. Performed with the acclaimed Philharmonia Chorale led by Bruce Lamott, Handel's Messiah also features soloists Kirsten Blaise, John McVeigh and Tyler Duncan. Among other highlights of the season is a return of fortepianist Robert Levin in an all-Mozart program including the U.S. premiere of newly discovered works arranged for orchestra by Mr. Levin.

Philharmonia Baroque will present eight concerts during the 2010-2011 Season, up from seven in prior years due to increased audience demand. And next season, Philharmonia Baroque changes two of its regional performance venues: the ensemble makes its debut appearances at the new Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center for its Peninsula concerts and returns to the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek for its Contra Costa series, where it performed from 1990 to 2003. In addition, the season has been re-configured so that all concerts are on the same night in each venue: Tuesdays at the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center; Wednesdays at the Hoffman Theater in the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek; Fridays at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco; and Saturdays and Sundays at First Congregational Church in Berkeley.

"I've been connected with Philharmonia for just over half my professional musical life," stated Nicholas McGegan. "I cannot imagine a more exciting post to hold and I'm truly honored to have been associated with such a terrific group of musicians for all these years. Together with our audiences, we undertake a wonderful odyssey of exploration through two and a half centuries of music. Along the way we've discovered so much about how it was played when it was written and the music continues to reveal the magic and mysteries of the past. As we celebrate Philharmonia Baroque's 30th Anniversary season, I am excited to look afresh at familiar works but also to uncover and re-discover hidden gems of the repertoire."

"Hearing the masterpieces of the baroque and classical era performed as Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, and Beethoven would have heard them has been a life-changing experience, even after a career presenting thousands of concerts," said Executive Director Peter Pastreich, who celebrates 50 years in orchestra management this season. "I have been moved in ways I didn't know music could move me, and I expect next season to be the most inspiring musical voyage I have ever taken."

As the first ensemble of its kind on the West Coast, San Francisco's Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale has been dedicated to historically informed performance of Baroque, Classical and early-Romantic music on original instruments for nearly 30

years. Led by Music Director Nicholas McGegan, who celebrates his 25th season of artistic leadership in the 2010-2011 season, the ensemble has made many U.S. and international tours; released 24 acclaimed recordings for labels such as harmonia mundi, BMG, Reference Recordings, and Avie; and commissioned a new work for period instruments - Jake Heggie's one act opera, *To Hell and Back*. Among the ensemble's most successful artistic collaborations has been one with the Mark Morris Dance Group – with performances at Berkeley's Cal Performances, New York's Lincoln Center and Brooklyn's Academy of Music. The two ensembles partnered in performances of Purcell's *King Arthur*, Handel's *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* and Rameau's *Platée*, among others. Philharmonia Baroque regularly features the world's most distinguished musicians on its Bay Area series, including such eminent guest conductors as William Christie, Andrew Parrott, Jordi Savall, and Trevor Pinnock. As part of the ensemble's community outreach, Philharmonia Baroque regularly sends chamber ensembles into local Middle and High Schools, performs free concert for students, and will present its first family concert in March of 2010. Philharmonia Baroque's concerts, recordings and education programs are sponsored in part by National Endowment for the Arts and Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.

Nicholas McGegan is known internationally for performances that match authority with enthusiasm, and scholarship with exuberance. In addition to his 25 years with Philharmonia Baroque, he has been a pioneer in the process of exporting historically informed practice beyond the world of period instruments to the one of conventional symphonic forces, working with renowned American symphony orchestras in Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, New York and Los Angeles, and international orchestras such as Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and the Sydney Symphony. Equally appreciated as an opera conductor, he has appeared at Covent Garden, San Francisco Opera, Scottish Opera, the Edinburgh Festival, Washington National Opera, Santa Fe Opera and the International Handel Festival, Göttingen where he has been artistic director since 1991. Born in England and educated at Cambridge and Oxford, Maestro McGegan's many awards include the Halle Handel Prize and an honorary professorship at Göttingen University.

Subscriptions to Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra go on sale March 15; subscription packages range from \$100 to \$595.00. Call 415-252-1288 or email brochure@philharmonia.org to request a season brochure. Single tickets range in price from \$25.00 to \$95.00 and go on sale August 5, 2010 through City Box Office: www.cityboxoffice.com, (415) 392-4400.

For more information, call Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra at 415 252-1288.

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra 2010-2011 Season Calendar

September – Robert Levin plays Mozart

Friday 24 September	Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Saturday 25 September	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Sunday 26 September	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Tuesday 28 September	Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, Atherton
Wednesday 29 September	Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Robert Levin, fortepiano

MOZART Incidental Music from Thamos, King of Egypt *
MOZART Concerto for Fortepiano No. 20 in D minor, K. 466 *

MOZART Fragments of newly found works for Fortepiano and Orchestra (U.S. Premiere)

MOZART Symphony No. 41 in C major, KV 551 “Jupiter”
(Last performed by Philharmonia Baroque on March 2001)

October – Bach’s Wedding Cantata

Friday 15 October	Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Saturday 16 October	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Sunday 17 October	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Tuesday 19 October	Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, Atherton

Lars Ulrik Mortensen, conductor and harpsichord †
Maria Keohane, soprano †

BACH Orchestral Suite No. 1 in C major, BWV 1066
BACH Concerto for Harpsichord in D minor, BWV 1052

BACH “Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten,” Cantata BWV 202
(February 1982 – Philharmonia Baroque’s first public concert)
BACH Concerto for Harpsichord in D major, BWV 1054

November – Vivaldi’s Four Seasons

Friday 5 November	Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Saturday 6 November	First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Sunday 7 November First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Tuesday 9 November Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, Atherton
Wednesday 10 November Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Elizabeth Blumenstock, violin (concertmaster)

VIVALDI The Four Seasons, Op. 8, Nos. 1-4 (March 1991)
CORELLI Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 11 in B-flat major
PERGOLESI Sinfonia in F major *
DURANTE Concerto No. 5 in A major *
ZAVATERI Concerto decimo a Pastorale, Op. 1 *

December – Handel’s Messiah

Friday 3 December Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Saturday 4 December First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Sunday 5 December First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Tuesday 7 December Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, Atherton

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Kirsten Blaise, soprano †
Daniel Taylor, countertenor
John McVeigh, tenor
Tyler Duncan, bass †
Philharmonia Chorale, Bruce Lamott, director

HANDEL Messiah (December 2002)

January – David Daniels

Saturday 15 January First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Sunday 16 January First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Tuesday 18 January Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, Atherton
Friday 21 January Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
David Daniels, countertenor

VIVALDI Stabat mater, RV 621 *
HANDEL Arias from Giulio Cesare
TELEMANN Suite in F major, TWV 55:F11 “Alster Overture” *

February – Hummel’s Concerto for Keyed Trumpet

Friday 11 February	Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Saturday 12 February	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Sunday 13 February	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Tuesday 15 February	Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, Atherton

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Gabriele Cassone, keyed trumpet †

SPOHR Symphony No. 2 in D minor, Op. 49 *
HUMMEL Concerto for Keyed Trumpet in E major *

MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 11 *

March – Flicka!

Friday 4 March	Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Saturday 5 March	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Sunday 6 March	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Tuesday 8 March	Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, Atherton
Wednesday 9 March	Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Frederica von Stade, mezzo-soprano †

REBEL Les Caractères de la danse *
Nathaniel STOOKEY Into the Bright Lights (poetry by Flicka) (U.S. Premiere)
RAMEAU Les Indes galantes suite d’orchestre
GLUCK Arias

April – Haydn’s Creation

Friday 8 April	Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Saturday 9 April	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Sunday 10 April	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Tuesday 12 April	Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, Atherton
Wednesday 13 April	Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Dominique Labelle, soprano
Thomas Cooley, tenor
Philip Cutlip, baritone
Philharmonia Chorale, Bruce Lamott, director

HAYDN The Creation (April 1994)

* – Philharmonia Baroque premiere
† – Philharmonia Baroque debut

Press and Media Relations Contact:

Karen Ames Communications, Communications Consultant:
Karen@karenames.com or (415) 641 7474

Sasha Hnatkovich, Philharmonia Baroque Director of Marketing and Public Relations:
Sasha@philharmonia.org or (415) 252-1288, ext. 315

For complete biography, visit www.philharmonia.org/bio.html. Press photos are available at www.philharmonia.org/resources.html or by contacting Sasha Hnatkovich, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at sasha@philharmonia.org or (415) 252-1288, ext. 315.