

PhilharmoniaBaroqueOrchestra

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 *Handel's Wicked Queen*
HANDEL
Athalia

WHEN/WHERE Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)
Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)
Friday, April 24, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
San Francisco – Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Avenue)
Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Palo Alto – First United Methodist Church (625 Hamilton Avenue)

TICKETS Tickets available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400 or on-line at www.philharmonia.org. Tickets range from \$30 to \$75. Student Rush \$10.

FEATURING Nicholas McGegan, *conductor*
Dominique Labelle, *soprano*
Marnie Breckenridge, *soprano*
Céline Ricci, *soprano*
Robin Blaze, *countertenor*
Thomas Cooley, *tenor*
Roderick Williams, *bass-baritone*
Philharmonia Chorale
Bruce Lamott, *director*

Join Music Director Nicholas McGegan and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra as they close out their 28th Season with a performance of Handel's *Athalia*, which will bring together the best of all that PBO has to offer – a dramatic story, a musical style the musicians play with virtuosity and verve, a cast of the best vocal soloists from around the world and the Philharmonia Chorale, who are unmatched in singing the works of this orchestra's signature composer.

— MORE —

“In commemoration of Handel, one of PBO’s signature composers,” says conductor Nicholas McGegan, “I’ve chosen his oratorio *Athalia*, based on the story of the Biblical queen Athaliah, to close our season. This work brings together the best of what PBO offers – a dramatic story, a musical style the musicians play with virtuosity and verve, an international cast of the best vocal soloists from around the world and the fabulous Philharmonia Chorale, a chorus unmatched in singing the music of Handel. For me, conducting Handel with PBO is like driving a Rolls Royce!”

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

MORE:

San Francisco’s Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra has been dedicated to historically-informed performance of Baroque, Classical and early-Romantic music on original instruments since its inception in 1981. Under Music Director Nicholas McGegan, Philharmonia was named Musical America’s 2004 Ensemble of the Year, and, according to Los Angeles Times critic Alan Rich, is “an ensemble for early music as fine as any in the world today.” The Orchestra performs an annual subscription season in four cities in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is regularly heard on tour in the United States and internationally. The Orchestra has its own professional chorus, the Philharmonia Chorale, and also welcomes eminent guest conductors to its podium. Among the most-recorded period-instrument orchestras in the United States and Europe, Philharmonia has made twenty-four highly praised recordings for Harmonia Mundi, Reference Recordings and BMG, and has also released a number of self-produced compact discs and digital recordings.

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