



CALENDAR LISTING

Classical Music

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 8, 2010

- WHO** Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra – 30th Anniversary Season
Nicholas McGegan, *Music Director*
- WHAT** *Vivaldi's Four Seasons*
CORELLI: Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 11 in B-flat major
PERGOLESI: Sinfonia in F major
VIVALDI: *Le Quattro stagioni* (The Four Seasons). Op. 8, Nos. 1-4
DURANTE: Concerto No. 5 in A major
ZAVATERI: *Concerto decimo a Pastorale*, Op. 1
- FEATURING** Nicholas McGegan, *conductor*
Elizabeth Blumenstock, *violin*
- WHEN/WHERE** Friday, November 5, 2010, at 8:00 p.m.
San Francisco – Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Avenue)
Saturday, November 6, 2010, at 8:00 p.m.
Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)
Sunday, November 7, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.
Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)
Tuesday, November 9, 2010, at 8:00 p.m.
Atherton – The Center for Performing Arts (555 Middlefield Road)
Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at 8:00 p.m.
Walnut Creek – Hofmann Theatre, Leshner Center (1601 Civic Drive)
- TICKETS** Tickets start at \$25 (\$25/\$50/\$62/\$75/\$85) and are available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com for concerts in San Francisco, Berkeley and Atherton. Tickets to concerts in Walnut Creek are available through the Leshner Center for the Arts Ticket Office at (925) 943-7469 or online at www.lesherartscenter.org. 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 Philharmonia Baroque's concerts, visit the Orchestra's website at www.philharmonia.org.

– MORE –

Music Director Nicholas McGegan conducts a program that features Antonio Vivaldi's *Le Quattro stagioni*, known more commonly as the Four Seasons.

Given Vivaldi's current renown, it is a surprise to recall that the Venetian composer barely merited a footnote in musical history until 1926, when most of his works were rediscovered. The first recording of the Four Seasons did not appear until 1942. Yet, in the years since, these concertos have become perhaps the best-known work of the entire Baroque repertoire. Philharmonia Baroque's historically informed performance will allow audiences to rediscover Vivaldi's most dramatic work – to hear the textures often lost in modern performances.

To provide context for Vivaldi's masterwork, the program includes four other Italian Baroque compositions: an elegant concerto from Arcangelo Corelli's Opus 6 (which Philharmonia Baroque recorded in 1992), uplifting works by Neapolitan composer Giovanni Battista Pergolesi and his teacher Francesco Durante, and an airy *pastorale* for two violins by the Bolognese master Lorenzo Zavateri, a figure often forgotten but well worth knowing.

"When programming each season," says Music Director Nicholas McGegan, "I try to make sure that there is a balance between well-known music and rarities that most of our audience will be hearing for the first time. November's program is a case in point: what could be more familiar than Vivaldi's Seasons but who has ever heard Zavateri's concertos? I am thrilled that Elizabeth Blumenstock, who played *Winter* with such aplomb last December, now has the chance to perform the whole Seasons."

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

ABOUT

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary Season in 2010/11, San Francisco's Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra is dedicated to historically-informed performance of Baroque, Classical and early Romantic music on period instruments. Led by Music Director Nicholas McGegan since 1985, Philharmonia Baroque is recognized as one of the finest chamber orchestras, as well as one of the most exciting period-instrument ensembles in the country. Drawing on musicians from all over the United States and abroad, Philharmonia Baroque performs eight concert programs in four Bay Area cities each season and regularly tours the U.S. and internationally. Attracting such talented guest artists as mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, conductor Jordi Savall, violinist Monica Huggett, recorder player Marion Verbruggen and soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, the group has its own professional chorus, has commissioned new music for period instruments, and has collaborated with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Alonzo King LINES Ballet and Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco among others. Philharmonia Baroque's 24 recordings have won or been nominated for numerous awards.

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

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