

philharmonia
BAROQUE
Nicholas McGegan • Music Director

**SUCCESSFUL SUMMER FESTIVAL TOUR KICKS OFF
2011-2012 SEASON FOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR NICHOLAS MCGEGAN AND THE
PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA AND CHORALE**

**KDFC Radio Broadcasts Return Starting September 11
All Vivaldi Disc Scheduled for Release September 13**

San Francisco, CA – August 23, 2011 -- Music Director Nicholas McGegan and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale began the 2011-2012 Season in August of 2011 with a prestigious Summer Festival Tour including performances of Handel's *Orlando* at the Ravinia Festival, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival (a sold-out show), and Tanglewood to critical acclaim in all venues. Audiences gave standing ovations each night, and critics raved. The *New York Times* called the Orchestra "superb" and praised the "invigorating performance," while the *Boston Globe* said "their playing laced precision with a heady dose of abandon."



In advance of the Ensemble's first Bay Area performances, Philharmonia Baroque will return to the local radio airwaves on Sunday, September 11 at 9 p.m. with the first broadcast of a new series of monthly programs on KDFC. The first broadcast features the music of Mozart, with performances and interviews recorded last season with pianist Robert Levin and Music Director Nicholas McGegan. And on September 13, Philharmonia Baroque Productions will release an all-Vivaldi disc featuring Philharmonia Baroque Concertmaster Elizabeth Blumenstock, the third disc in the new project marking the institution's return to commercial recording.

Conducted by Mark Morris, the Orchestra and Chorale's first performances in the Bay Area take place September 16, 17, and 18 at Zellerbach Hall with the Mark Morris Dance Group in of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* featuring mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and baritone Philip Cutlip.



Music Director Nicholas McGegan, who begins his 26th season as Music Director, leads the Orchestra in five of the seven concert sets in addition performances of Handel's *Messiah* in Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall and at Disney Hall in Los Angeles. Five artists make their debuts in the 2011-2012 season including internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe in *Dido and Aeneas*; Italian conductor Ottavio Dantone, music director of Ravenna's *Accademia Bizantina*; British conductor and harpsichordist Richard Egarr, who serves as music direct or of the Academy of Ancient Music; mezzo-soprano Vivica Genaux in a program featuring arias written for famed castrato Farinelli; and Houston tenor James Taylor, currently one of the most sought after tenors for Baroque music.

Nicholas McGegan is known for innovative programming and a passionate commitment to discovering new and rarely performed works from the Baroque repertoire. Of the 40 works scheduled for performance during the 2011-2012 season, more than half will be first performances by the ensemble. Musical highlights of the season include a newly completed Mozart Horn Concerto featuring Principal Horn player R.J. Kelley; an orchestral suite from Rameau's *La Guirlande*, a one-act ballet that spurred the current Rameau revival when performed in 1903; the return of internationally acclaimed re-corder specialist Marion Verbruggen in concertos by Vivaldi and Sammartini for alto and soprano recorder, respectively; Bach's monumental B Minor Mass, conducted by Nicholas McGegan for the first time with Philharmonia Baroque; an English Baroque program featuring theater music of native sons Matthew Locke, Henry Purcell, Thomas Arne, and William Lawes in addition to England's beloved imported son, George Frideric Handel; and the return of acclaimed cellist Steven Isserlis in a musical program that confirms Philharmonia Baroque's embrace of music beyond the confines of the 17th and 18th centuries, including Schumann's Cello Concerto, Mendelssohn's *The Fair Melusine* and Brahms Serenade No. 2. The season will end with Handel's rarely performed masterpiece, *Alexander's Feast*, also known as "The Power of Music," conducted by Nicholas McGegan and featuring the Philharmonia Baroque Chorale and soloists Dominique LaBelle, James Taylor, and Philip Cutlip.



Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra has a presence throughout the Bay Area with regular season performances at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, Berkeley's First Congregational Church, and at two venues on the Peninsula: The Menlo/Atherton Performing Arts Center in Atherton, and the First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto. Single tickets to Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra are now on sale through City Box Office: www.cityboxoffice.com, (415) 392-4400.

To subscribe to Philharmonia Baroque or to request a season brochure, please call all 415-252-1288 or email brochure@philharmonia.org.

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

About Philharmonia Baroque: 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 Baroque has been named Ensemble of the Year by *Musical America*, and "an ensemble for early music as fine as any in the world today" by *Los Angeles Times* critic Alan Rich.

The Orchestra has had numerous successful collaborations with celebrated musicians, composers, and choreographers. Philharmonia Baroque premiered its first commissioned work, a one-act opera by Jake Heggie entitled *To Hell and Back*, in November 2006. In collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Philharmonia Baroque gave the U.S. premieres of Morris' highly acclaimed productions of Henry Purcell's *King Arthur* and Jean-Philippe Rameau's ballet-opera *Platée*.

Among the most-recorded period-instrument orchestras in the United States or in Europe, Philharmonia Baroque has made thirty-two highly praised recordings - including its *Gramophone* award winning recording of Handel's *Susanna* - for harmonia mundi, Reference Recordings, and BMG. In 2011, the orchestra launched its own label, Philharmonia Baroque Productions, with an acclaimed recording of Berlioz' *Les Nuits d'été* and Handel arias featuring mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson.

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.

About Nicholas McGegan: Through twenty-five years as its music director, McGegan has established the San Francisco-based Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Philharmonia Chorale as the leading period performance ensemble in America - and at the forefront of the 'historical' movement worldwide thanks to notable

appearances at Carnegie Hall, the London Proms, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, and the International Handel Festival, Göttingen where he was artistic director from 1991 to 2011.

In Göttingen and with Philharmonia Baroque he has defined an approach to period style that sets the current standard: probing, serious but undogmatic, recognising that the music of the past doesn't belong in a museum or in academia but in vigorous engagement with an audience, for pleasure and delight on both sides of the platform edge.

Active in opera as well as the concert hall, he was principal conductor of Sweden's perfectly preserved 18th-century theatre Drottningholm 1993-6, running the annual festival there. And he has been a pioneer in the process of exporting historically informed practice beyond the small world of period instruments to the wider one of conventional symphonic forces, guest-conducting orchestras like the Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra and Philadelphia Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, Toronto Symphony, and Sydney Symphony, the New York, Los Angeles, and Hong Kong Philharmonics, the Northern Sinfonia and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, as well as opera companies including Covent Garden, San Francisco, Santa Fe and Washington.

Born in England, Nicholas McGegan was educated at Cambridge and Oxford and taught at the Royal College of Music, London. He was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours for 2010 "for services to music overseas." His awards also include the Halle Handel Prize, an honorary professorship at Georg-August University, Göttingen; the Order of Merit of the State of Lower Saxony (Germany); the Medal of Honour of the City of Göttingen, and an official Nicholas McGegan Day, declared by the Mayor of San Francisco in recognition of two decades' distinguished work with the Philharmonia Baroque.

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

NOTE: Several repertoire and performer changes have been made for the upcoming season since our original season announcement.

*Gregori's Concerto Grosso Op. 2, No. 2 in D major will be performed in October (instead of No. 6) *

Brahms' Serenade No. 2 in A major will be performed in March (instead of Bizet's Symphony No. 1).

*Soprano Sherezade Panthaki will make her Philharmonia Baroque debut in Bach's Mass in B minor in December (in place of Susanne Rydén)

*Dominique Labelle will be the featured soprano in Handel's *Messiah* that same month (also in place of Rydén)

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA 2011-2012 SEASON

Debut: Cal Performances

Thursday 15 September	Zellerbach Hall (8 PM)
Friday 16 September	Zellerbach Hall (8 PM)
Saturday 17 September	Zellerbach Hall (8 PM)

PURCELL *Dido & Aeneas*

Mark Morris Dance Group
Mark Morris, conductor
Dido/Sorcoress: Stephanie Blythe, mezzo-soprano †
Aeneas: Philip Cutlip, baritone
Philharmonia Chorale, Bruce Lamott, director

Thursday 22 September The Center for Performing Arts, Atherton (8 PM)
Friday 23 September Herbst Theatre, San Francisco (8 PM)
Saturday 24 September First Congregational Church, Berkeley (8 PM)
Sunday 25 September First Congregational Church, Berkeley (7:30 PM)

MOZART Symphony No. 38 in D major, K. 504
MOZART Concerto pasticcio for Horn in E-flat major, K. 370b/495/371 *

BECK Overture from *La mort d'Orphée* *
HAYDN Symphony No. 98 in B-flat major *

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
R. J. Kelley, horn

Thursday 27 October The Center for Performing Arts, Atherton (8 PM)
Friday 28 October Herbst Theatre, San Francisco (8 PM)
Saturday 29 October First Congregational Church, Berkeley (8 PM)
Sunday 30 October First Congregational Church, Berkeley (7:30 PM)

FASCH Concerto for Two Flutes, Two Oboes and Two Bassoons in D Minor *
VIVALDI Arias
TELEMANN Concerto for Strings in D major *

VARIOUS Arias for Farinelli *
RAMEAU Orchestra suite from *La Guirlande* *

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Vivica Genaux, mezzo-soprano †

Thursday 17 November The Center for Performing Arts, Atherton (8 PM)
Friday 18 November Herbst Theatre, San Francisco (8 PM)
Saturday 19 November First Congregational Church, Berkeley (8 PM)
Sunday 20 November First Congregational Church, Berkeley (7:30 PM)

CORELLI Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 2 in F major
GREGORI Concerto Grosso Op. 2, No. 2 in D major *
GEMINIANI Concerto Grosso Op. 3, No. 4 in D minor *
VIVALDI Concerto for Alto Recorder in F major, RV 433 "La tempesta di mare"

SAMMARTINI Concerto for Soprano Recorder in F major
SCARLATTI Concerto Grosso No. 4 in G minor *
VIVALDI Concerto for Strings in D minor, RV 128 *
CORELLI Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 4 in D major

Ottavio Dantone, conductor †
Marion Verbruggen, recorder

Friday, November 18 Herbst Theatre, San Francisco (1:30 PM)

Student Concert:

VIVALDI Concerto for Alto Recorder in F major, RV 433 “La tempesta di mare”
SAMMARTINI Concerto for Soprano Recorder in F major

Ottavio Dantone, conductor †
Marion Verbruggen, recorder

Saturday, November 19 First Congregational Church, Berkeley (4 PM)

Family Concert:

VIVALDI Concerto for Alto Recorder in F major, RV 433 “La tempesta di mare”
SAMMARTINI Concerto for Soprano Recorder in F major

Ottavio Dantone, conductor †
Marion Verbruggen, recorder

Friday 2 December Herbst Theatre, San Francisco (8 PM)
Saturday 3 December First Congregational Church, Berkeley (8 PM)
Sunday 4 December First Congregational Church, Berkeley (7:30 PM)
Tuesday 6 December First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto (8 PM)

BACH Mass in B minor, BWV 232

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Sherezade Panthaki, soprano †
Daniel Taylor, countertenor
Thomas Cooley, tenor
Nathaniel Watson, baritone
Philharmonia Chorale, Bruce Lamott, Director

MESSIAH

Saturday 10 December Zellerbach Hall (7:30 PM)
Tuesday 13 December Walt Disney Concert Hall (7:30 PM)
Wednesday 14 December Walt Disney Concert Hall (7:30 PM)

HANDEL *Messiah*

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Dominique Labelle, soprano
Daniel Taylor, countertenor
Thomas Cooley, tenor

Nathaniel Watson, baritone
Philharmonia Chorale, Bruce Lamott, Director

Thursday 26 January The Center for Performing Arts, Atherton (8 PM)
Friday 27 January Herbst Theatre, San Francisco (8 PM)
Saturday 28 January First Congregational Church, Berkeley (8 PM)
Sunday 29 January First Congregational Church, Berkeley (7:30 PM)

HANDEL Symphony from *Saul*
LOCKE Music from *The Tempest*
PURCELL Suite from *The Fairy Queen*

ARNE Concerto for Harpsichord No. 5 in G minor *
LAWES String Fantasy à 6 *
HANDEL Concerto Grosso Op. 3, No. 5 in D minor, HWV 316
HANDEL “Arrival of the Queen of Sheba” from *Solomon*

Richard Egarr, harpsichord and conductor †

Friday 9 March Herbst Theatre, San Francisco (8 PM)
Saturday 10 March First Congregational Church, Berkeley (8 PM)
Sunday 11 March First Congregational Church, Berkeley (7:30 PM)
Tuesday 13 March First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto (8 PM)

MENDELSSOHN *The Fair Melusine*, Op. 32 *
SCHUMANN Concerto for Violoncello in A minor, Op. 129 *

BRAHMS Serenade No. 2 in A major, Op. 16

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Steven Isserlis, violoncello

Thursday 19 April The Center for Performing Arts, Atherton (8 PM)
Friday 20 April Herbst Theatre, San Francisco (8 PM)
Saturday 21 April First Congregational Church, Berkeley (8 PM)
Sunday 22 April First Congregational Church, Berkeley (7:30 PM)

HANDEL *Alexander's Feast*

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Dominique Labelle, soprano
James Taylor, tenor †
Philip Cutlip, baritone
Philharmonia Chorale, Bruce Lamott, Director

* first performances by Philharmonia Baroque
† debut performances with Philharmonia Baroque