



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA  
AND PHILHARMONIA CHORALE PRESENT  
HAYDN'S GREAT MASTERPIECE "THE CREATION"  
IN FIVE BAY AREA PERFORMANCES  
APRIL 8 THROUGH 13**

March 28, 2011, **San Francisco, CA** – Music Director Nicholas McGegan and Philharmonia Baroque present one of the great masterpieces of the Viennese Classical period, Haydn's epic oratorio *The Creation*, in a season ending celebration of the ensemble's 30th Anniversary year. McGegan will present this piece as Haydn heard it, on the instruments he composed for, directing the forces of an augmented orchestra, the Philharmonia Chorale directed by Bruce Lamott, and soloists Dominique Labelle, Thomas Cooley, and Philip Cutlip .



His first oratorio, Haydn composed *The Creation* over a period of one year after visits to London in the 1790s where he first heard the oratorios of Handel. The 1798 premiere in Vienna was a huge success. Because it was such a summation of the idealism of the Age of Enlightenment, the work was neglected in the 19th Century, but has returned to the center of the repertoire with Haydn's modern revival, and the rise of period instrument performance practice.

Soprano Dominique Labelle is a long-time collaborator with McGegan, and a renowned Baroque music specialist. Tenor Thomas Cooley is another frequent collaborator with McGegan, last season appearing with great success in a new production of Handel's *Tamerlano* at the International Handel Festival Göttingen. And baritone Philip Cutlip is a rising and versatile performer who earned strong reviews this season at the Houston Grand Opera for his lead performance in their revival of *Dead Man Walking*.

This will be the second appearance this season of the Philharmonia Chorale and director Lamott, following their December 2010 triumph in Handel's *Messiah*.

For more information, visit [www.philharmonia.org](http://www.philharmonia.org) or call (415) 252-1288.

## **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

### **WHO**

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra – 30th Anniversary Season

Nicholas McGegan, *conductor*

Dominique Labelle, *soprano*

Thomas Cooley, *tenor*

Philip Cutlip, *baritone*

Philharmonia Chorale

Bruce Lamott, *director*

### **WHAT**

HAYDN: *The Creation*

### **WHEN/WHERE**

Friday, April 8, 2011 at 8 PM

San Francisco – Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Avenue)

Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 8 PM

Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)

Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 7:30 PM

Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 8 PM

Atherton – The Center for Performing Arts (555 Middlefield Road)

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 8 PM

Walnut Creek – Leshner Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Drive)

### **TICKETS**

Tickets are priced at \$25 to \$80 and are available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400 or online at [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com). If available, Student Rush tickets are \$10 and go on sale one hour before the start of the concerts.

Tickets for the Walnut Creek performance are available from the Leshner Center at (925) 943-7469 or online at <http://www.lesherartscenter.org/onstagenow/apr2011>.

To learn more about all of Philharmonia Baroque's concerts, visit the Orchestra's website at [www.philharmonia.org](http://www.philharmonia.org).

### **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

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/](http://www.philharmonia.org/about/history/).

Press photos are available at [www.philharmonia.org/press-room/resources](http://www.philharmonia.org/press-room/resources).

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