

philharmonia
—BAROQUE—
Nicholas McGegan • Music Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA PRESENTS
COUNTERTENOR DAVID DANIELS
IN FOUR BAY AREA PERFORMANCES
JANUARY 15 THROUGH 21**



December 16, 2010, San Francisco, CA -- Music Director Nicholas McGegan conducts Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and world-renowned countertenor David Daniels in a program of Baroque music originally written for the castrato voice, in four Bay Area performances **January 15 through 21**. During this concert period, Daniels will also lead a free public master class for Conservatory voice students on January 19 as part of the new "Philharmonia Baroque Master Class and Lecture Series" at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. One of the leading countertenors today, Daniels appears around the world in opera and recital, including appearances this season with the Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago.

He made history as the first countertenor to give a solo recital in the main auditorium of Carnegie Hall and has been recognized as "today's gold standard among countertenors". He is considered by *Gramophone* as one of the "Top Ten Trailblazers" in classical music for his contribution to recorded excellence as well as his expansion of the countertenor repertoire.

Male voices that can be developed naturally into a beautiful soprano or alto are very rare, though in the Baroque period, such voices were immensely popular and were filled by the castrati.

Today the castrato voice is replaced by that of a countertenor, a man who is able to develop a high singing range naturally. The orchestra's guest artist, David Daniels, is renowned for a voice of singular warmth and beauty, a magnetic stage presence and the skillful expansion of the countertenor repertoire. In addition to selections from George Frederic Handel's operas, Daniels sings Antonio Vivaldi's powerful and compelling setting of the sacred work, *Stabat Mater*.

“Over the last 30 seasons, the orchestra has invited a whole galaxy of vocal stars to perform with us,” says Music Director Nicholas McGegan. “One of the most beloved by the musicians and audiences alike is David Daniels. He is certainly the best known countertenor of his generation, especially here in the U.S.”

The program also includes two works by Georg Philipp Telemann that feature the natural horn, a pre-cursor to the valved modern horn including the imaginative “Alster Overture,” which musically depicts a German lake replete with clever imitations of frogs, swans, and crows.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

WHO

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra – 30th Anniversary Season
Nicholas McGegan, *Music Director*
David Daniels, *countertenor*

WHAT

TELEMANN: Concerto for Two Horns in D major
VIVALDI: *Stabat mater*, RV 621
HANDEL: Opera Arias
“Crede, l’uom ch’egli riposi” from *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*
“Otton, qual portentoso fulmine... Voi che udite il mio lamento” from *Agrippina*
“Perfido! di a quell’empio tiranno” from *Radamisto*
TELEMANN: Suite in F major, TV 55:F11 “Alster Overture”

WHEN/WHERE

Saturday, January 15, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.
Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)
Sunday, January 16, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.
Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)
Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.
Atherton – The Center for Performing Arts (555 Middlefield Road)
Friday, January 21, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.
San Francisco – Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Avenue)

TICKETS

Tickets are priced at \$30 to \$90 and are available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com. 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 or call (415) 252-1288.

SPECIAL EVENT (NEW)

"Philharmonia Baroque Master Class and Lecture Series" presents *A Masterclass with David Daniels*

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

San Francisco – Recital Hall, San Francisco Conservatory of Music (50 Oak Street)

During Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra's January concert set, David Daniels, countertenor, opera star and one of *Gramophone's* "Top Ten Trailblazers" in classical music, leads a master class for Conservatory voice students as part of the new "Philharmonia Baroque Master Class and Lecture Series" at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The Series is free, open to the public and features the orchestra's eminent guest artists.

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

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.

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