

1981



2011

**MUSIC DIRECTOR NICHOLAS MCGEGAN
AND THE PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA AND CHORALE
ANNOUNCE 2011-2012 SEASON**

Highlights of the 31st Season Include Bach's Mass in B Minor, Handel's *Alexander's Feast*, and Debuts of Vivica Genaux, Richard Egarr, and Ottavio Dantone

Season Begins with East Coast Festival Tour Featuring Performances of Handel's *Orlando* at Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, and Tanglewood

Philharmonia Baroque Takes *Messiah* on Tour with Performances in Disney Hall and Performs Under the Baton of Mark Morris to Open Cal Performances' 2011-2012 Season

San Francisco, CA – March 4, 2011 -- Music Director Nicholas McGegan and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (PBO) and Chorale begin 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, and Tanglewood in addition to a special concert with the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. The Orchestra and Chorale first perform in the Bay Area next season at Zellerbach Hall with the Mark Morris Dance Group in performances on September 15, 16, and 17 of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, conducted by Mark Morris and featuring mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and baritone Philip Cutlip.

Music Director Nicholas McGegan, who begins his 26th season as Music Director next season, leads the Orchestra in five of the seven concert sets in addition to directing the Festival Tour performances and leading the Orchestra and Chorale in performances of Handel's *Messiah* in Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall and at Disney Hall in Los Angeles.

Six artists will be making debuts in 2011-12 including internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe in *Dido and Aeneas*. Also making their debuts during the Orchestra's subscription season this year are Italian conductor Ottavio Dantone, music director of Ravenna's *Accademia Bizantina*; British conductor and harpsichordist Richard Egarr, who serves as music director 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. Countertenor Clint van der Linde performs for the first time with Philharmonia Baroque in the tour performances of *Orlando*.

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 of them will be first performances by the ensemble. Musical highlights of the season include a newly reconstructed 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 recorder 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 Bizet's Symphony in C Major, performed in the U.S. for the first time on period instruments. 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.

For the third season, Philharmonia Baroque will offer both Family and Student Concerts. The brainchild of Lisa Grodin, violinist with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and its education director since 2009, the concerts offer very different introductory experiences to Baroque music. Once again, these concerts will provide a blend of education (through talks and demonstrations) and enjoyment, offering opportunities for audience interaction. A Student Concert on Friday, November 18 at 1:30 PM at Herbst Theatre will feature repertoire for the recorder performed by Marion Verbruggen. She will also perform in the Family Concert the following day, on Saturday, November 19 at 4 PM at First Congregational Church in Berkeley. A second Student Concert will be announced shortly.

In addition, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra brings music into concert halls, classrooms, and communities through a variety of education and outreach programs reaching upwards of 25,000 students and adults each year. Outreach activities include Family and Youth Programs, as well as Pre-Concert Programs. Educational programs for the middle and secondary school levels include In-School Programs and a Mobile Mentor Program, in addition to the Student Concerts. Philharmonia Baroque will again partner with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to provide Master Classes and Lectures which the public is welcome to attend.

In conjunction with the opening of the 2011-2012 season, Philharmonia Baroque Productions will release the third disc in the recently announced recording project marking the institution's return to commercial recording – an all-Vivaldi disc, featuring Philharmonia Baroque Concertmaster Elizabeth Blumenstock, includes *Le Quattro stagioni* (The Four Seasons), Op. 8, Nos.1-4, the Concerto for violin, in E minor, RV 277 "Il favorito," Concerto for violin in E major, RV 271 "L'amoroso," and Concerto for violin in B-flat major, RV 375. Two discs will have been released prior to the start of the 2011-2012 season. The first disc in the recording project, scheduled for release on March 8, 2011, features the late mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson performing Berlioz' *Le nuits d'été* and Handel opera arias. The second, scheduled for release in May 2011, will include Haydn Symphonies Nos. 104 "London," 88, and 101 "The Clock." These discs will be released on the Orchestra's own label, Philharmonia Baroque Productions, through harmonia mundi, and will also be available for digital download.

Music Director Nicholas McGegan stated, “I’m thrilled to present to Bay Area audiences the great variety of music – from the 17th century through Bizet – that will comprise my 26th season with Philharmonia Baroque. This season will be filled with masterworks, familiar ones like Bach’s B Minor Mass, as well as pieces we will be premiering in the U.S. on period instruments, such as Bizet’s Symphony in C Major. It is so exciting for the orchestra, and for me, to continue to innovate within the period instrument movement - performing a work that Bizet never heard during his lifetime on the instruments for which he wrote the work.”

“Entering our fourth decade, we are so proud of Philharmonia Baroque’s unequaled level of artistic expression, of our innovative programming, and especially of the special connection we make with you, our audience, our friends, our family,” said Executive Director Peter Pastreich. “I know that next season we will bring you great musical experiences, and the joy of hearing great masterpieces performed as near to the way their composers would have heard them as can be achieved.”

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. Subscriptions to Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra go on sale March 15 and are priced from \$70 to \$570.

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

Single tickets, priced from \$25 to \$99, go on sale August 5, 2010 through City Box Office: www.cityboxoffice.com, (415) 392-4400.

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

About Philharmonia Baroque: As the first ensemble of its kind on the West Coast, San Francisco’s Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale has been dedicated to historically informed performance of Baroque, Classical and early-Romantic music on original instruments for three decades. Led by Music Director Nicholas McGegan, who begins his 26th season during the 2011-2012 season, the ensemble has made many U.S. and international tours; released 24 acclaimed recordings for labels such as harmonia mundi, BMG, Reference Recordings, and Avie; and commissioned a new work for period instruments - Jake Heggie’s one act opera, *To Hell and Back*. Among the Ensemble’s most successful artistic collaborations has been one with the Mark Morris Dance Group – with performances at Berkeley’s Cal Performances, New York’s Lincoln Center and Brooklyn’s Academy of Music. The two ensembles have partnered in performances of Purcell’s *King Arthur*, Handel’s *L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* and Rameau’s *Platée*, among others. Philharmonia Baroque regularly features the world’s most distinguished musicians on its Bay Area series, including such eminent guest conductors as William Christie, Andrew Parrott, Jordi Savall, and Trevor Pinnock. As part of the ensemble’s community outreach, Philharmonia Baroque regularly sends chamber ensembles into local middle and high schools, performs free concerts for students, and presents family concerts each

season. 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: Nicholas McGegan is known internationally for performances that match authority with enthusiasm, and scholarship with exuberance. In addition to his 25 years of leadership with Philharmonia Baroque, he has been a pioneer in the process of exporting historically informed practice beyond the world of period instruments to the one of conventional symphonic forces, working with renowned American symphony orchestras in Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, New York and Los Angeles, and international orchestras such as Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and the Sydney Symphony. Equally appreciated as an opera conductor, he has appeared at Covent Garden, San Francisco Opera, Scottish Opera, the Edinburgh Festival, Washington National Opera, Santa Fe Opera and the International Handel Festival, Göttingen where this summer he concludes a 21-year appointment as Artistic Director. Born in England and educated at Cambridge and Oxford, Maestro McGegan's many awards include the Halle Handel Prize and an honorary professorship at Göttingen University.

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US Tour

Thursday 11 August Martin Theatre, Ravinia Festival (7 PM)
Sunday 14 August Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center (4 PM)
Tuesday 16 August Seiji Ozawa Hall, Tanglewood (7:30 PM)

HANDEL *Orlando*

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Dominique Labelle, soprano
Susanne Rydén, soprano
Diana Moore, mezzo-soprano
Clint van der Linde, countertenor †
Wolf Matthias Friedrich, bass-baritone

Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (and alternate program for US Tour)

Monday 15 August, 8 PM

VIVALDI *Overture to Bajazet* *
VIVALDI “Armatae face et anguibus” from *Juditha Triumphans* *
“Mentre dormi amor” from *L’Olimpiade* *
“Nel profondo cieco mondo” from *Orlando furioso* *
Diana Moore, mezzo-soprano
CORELLI *Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 4 in D major*

HANDEL “Va tacitò” from *Giulio Cesare*
“Verdi allori” from *Orlando*
“Venti turbini” from *Rinaldo* *
Diana Moore, mezzo-soprano
HANDEL *Water Music Suite in F major*

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
Diana Moore, mezzo-soprano

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. 6 in A minor *
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 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
Susanne Rydén, 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

Susanne Rydén, 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 *

BIZET

Symphony in C major * (first US performance on period instruments)

Nicholas McGegan, conductor

Steven Isserlis, violoncello

Thursday 19 April

Friday 20 April

Saturday 21 April

Sunday 22 April

The Center for Performing Arts, Atherton (8 PM)

Herbst Theatre, San Francisco (8 PM)

First Congregational Church, Berkeley (8 PM)

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