



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA AND CHORALE
PRESENT HANDEL'S MESSIAH IN FOUR BAY AREA PERFORMANCES
DECEMBER 3 THROUGH 7**

November 15, 2010, San Francisco, CA -- Music Director Nicholas McGegan conducts Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale in George Frederic Handel's *Messiah* in five Bay Area performances December 3 through 7. This will be the first time that it has been performed by the orchestra in more than a decade.



Praised for his interpretations of Handel's works, McGegan is known across the world for his acclaimed performances of the *Messiah* with Michael Church of *The Independent* writing "I have never heard a more uplifting *Messiah*, or a choral event which more perfectly answered the requirements of the Royal Albert Hall's vast space."

Handel's dramatic retelling of the birth and death of Jesus Christ has been known and loved since its premiere in Dublin in 1741 with the *Messiah* among the most frequently performed of all musical compositions. Philharmonia Baroque is joined by four soloists to help interpret this 18th-century masterpiece: soprano Mary Wilson, countertenor Daniel Taylor, tenor John McVeigh, and bass Tyler Duncan.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

WHO

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra – 30th Anniversary Season

Nicholas McGegan, *Music Director*

Mary Wilson, *soprano*

Daniel Taylor, *countertenor*

John McVeigh, *tenor*
Tyler Duncan, *bass*

Philharmonia Chorale, Bruce Lamott, *Director*

WHAT

HANDEL *Messiah*

WHERE

Friday 3 December, at 7:30pm	Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Saturday 4 December at 7:30pm	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Sunday 5 December at 7:00pm	First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Tuesday 7 December at 7:30pm	Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, Atherton

TICKETS

Tickets start at \$35 (\$35/\$55/\$67/\$85/\$95) and are available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com for all concerts. If available, Student Rush tickets are \$10 and go on sale one hour before the start of the concerts.

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

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.

About Philharmonia Chorale

Critically acclaimed for its brilliant sound, robust energy, and sensitive delivery of the text, the Philharmonia Chorale was formed in 1995 to provide a vocal complement whose fluency in the stylistic language of the baroque period matched that of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. The 24 members of the Chorale are professional singers with distinguished solo and ensemble

experience. Chorale members appear regularly with organizations such as the San Francisco Symphony, Carmel Bach Festival, and American Bach Soloists, are guest soloists with most of the area's symphonic and choral organizations, appear in roles with regional opera companies, and have been members and founders of some of the country's premier vocal ensembles, including Chanticleer, the Dale Warland Singers, and Theatre of Voices.

Founded by John Butt, a baroque keyboardist and one of the world's leading Bach scholars, the Chorale has been led by conductor and musicologist Bruce Lamott since 1997. In its first decade, the Chorale's repertoire included nine Handel oratorios, Bach's St. John Passion and Christmas Oratorio, Mozart's C minor Mass, and – in collaboration with other choral ensembles – Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. The Chorale made its New York debut at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 1998, and appeared with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra at the new Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Orange County. The Chorale appears on the Orchestra's recordings of Arne's Alfred, Scarlatti's Cecilian Vespers, and Beethoven's Symphony No.9.

ABOUT BRUCE LAMOTT

Bruce Lamott has been director of the Philharmonia Chorale for more than a decade. He first performed with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in 1989, as continuo harpsichordist for Handel's *Giustino*.

Lamott was previously the Director of Choruses and Conductor of the Mission Candlelight Concerts at the Carmel Bach Festival, where his 30-year tenure also included performing as a harpsichordist and presenting as a lecturer and education director. In eight seasons as Choral Director and Assistant Conductor of the Sacramento Symphony, he conducted annual choral concerts of major works, including both Bach Passion settings and Haydn's *The Seasons*, as well as preparing the chorus for most of the standard symphonic choral repertoire.

Lamott received a bachelor's degree from Lewis and Clark College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Musicology from Stanford University, where he researched the keyboard improvisation practices of the baroque period. LaMott joined the Musicology faculty at U.C. Davis, where he directed the Early Music Ensemble. He currently resides in San Francisco, where he teaches Choral Music and Music History at San Francisco University High School, and is part-time professor of Music History at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Among his other music-related activities, Lamott also teaches continuo realization in the Merola Program of the San Francisco Opera and lectures for the San Francisco Opera Guild.

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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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