

CRESCENDO CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTS

Bach Society of Saint Louis

SUNDAY, December 12, 2010 AT 3:00 P.M.

FOUNDRY ART CENTRE
520 NORTH MAIN CENTER, SAINT CHARLES MO

WITH MAJOR ASSISTANCE FROM



The Bach Society of Saint Louis
Centene Center for the Arts
3547 Olive Street, Suite 120
Saint Louis, MO 63103
314-652-BACH

www.bachsociety.org

Hear us on <www.InstantEncore.com/bachsociety

THE BACH SOCIETY OF SAINT LOUIS

A. Dennis Sparger, Music Director and Conductor

Stephen Mager, Composer-in-Residence

Sandra Geary, Accompanist

The Program

A Procession of Carols..... arr. A. Dennis Sparger

Once in Royal David's City
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
While by the Sheep We Watched at Night

O Magnum Mysterium..... Morten Lauridsen

A great mystery, and wondrous sacrament,
That animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gesu Bambino.....Pietro Yon

Elise Bahr, Soprano

Gloria Francis Poulenc

Gloria in excelsis: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all those of good will.*

Laudamus te: *We praise thee. We bless thee. We worship thee. We glorify thee.*

We give thanks to thee according to thy great glory.

Domine Deus: *Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father almighty.*

Stephanie Ball, Soprano

Domine Fili unigenite: *Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.*

Ave Maria..... Bach-Gounod

Joshua Stanton, Tenor

O Holy Night arr. Mack Wilberg

Heather Patterson, Soprano

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen.....arr. David Willcocks

15-Minute Intermission

- Angels We Have Heard on High arr. Barlow Bradford
- Dona nobis pacem, from *Mass of the Children* John Rutter
Debra Hillabrand, Mezzo soprano Tom W. Sitzler, Baritone
- Caroling, Caroling..... Alfred Burt
- Carol of the Bells Mykola Leontovich
- Caroling, Caroling.....arr. Michele Weir
- The Christmas Song..... Mel Tormé and Bob Wells
Nicole Weiss, Mezzo soprano
- Baby, It's Cold Outside.....Frank Loesser
Melissa Payton, Soprano Steven Slusher, Tenor
- Still, Still, Still arr. Barlow Bradford
- The Twelve Days after Christmas.....Frederick Silver
Karen Kaibel, Soprano
- A Christmas Jazz Trioarr. Michele Weir
Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town
O Christmas Tree
Winter Wonderland
- Sussex Carol..... arr. Barlow Bradford

The Bach Society of Saint Louis, founded in 1941 by William B. Heyne, is St. Louis' oldest continuous chorus. After attending the Bach Festival in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Dr. Heyne returned home with the vision of giving St. Louis exciting and uplifting performances of Bach's music. Beginning with a performance of Bach's Mass in B minor, a major work by Bach was presented each spring. In 1951 the Christmas Candlelight Concerts were added to the season.

Since Heyne's retirement in 1972, the Bach Society Chorus has been led by five distinguished conductors: James Paul (1972-74), Dr. Ronald Arnatt (1974-80), Dr. Donald Chen (1980-82), William Partridge (1982-86) and, since 1986, Dr. A. Dennis Sparger. The vision of our founder to share the great music of Bach continues while repertoire has expanded to include major choral-orchestral works by Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and other composers. The Chorus has also performed significant a cappella works, including Rachmaninoff's Vespers and Frank Martin's Mass for Double Chorus. To strengthen its commitment to the creation of new music the Bach Society, in 2004, named Stephen Mager its first Composer-in-Residence. A. Dennis Sparger, Music Director and Conductor of the Bach Society of Saint Louis since 1986, has earned

critical acclaim as “a conductor equipped with insight as well as craftsmanship.” Under his direction the Chorus has been labeled as “right up there with the best this city has to offer.”

During his tenure Dr. Sparger has led the Bach Society Chorus in 88 performances of the major works by Bach and other composers, including several premieres. Performances have included established soloists Christine Brewer, Susan Graham, Kristine Jepson, Erie Mills, Phyllis Pancella, and William Warfield, and have nurtured outstanding young singers Thomas Barrett, Rochelle Ellis, Kristen Frost, Angela Horn, Lester Lynch, Mary Wilson and Sherezade Panthaki.

Under Dr. Sparger’s leadership the Bach Society introduced a scholarship program for Young Artists, providing financial support and solo opportunities for aspiring soloists under the age of 30. He also established a professional core of Principal Singers, bringing employment opportunities for trained choral singers.

In 1998 Dr. Sparger was presented with the prestigious award named for his mentor, the Harold A. Decker Award, by the Illinois chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. He was named Choir Director of the Year by the St. Louis chapter of the American Guild of Organists in 2003, and was honored as one of Eastern Illinois University’s 50 Outstanding Graduate Alumni in 2005. In 2008 Dr. Sparger was selected to participate in a Liberty Fund colloquium on Redemption and Human Freedom in Bach’s St. Matthew Passion. He is a member of ACDA, Chorus America and the National Society of Arts & Letters, and serves on the board of Artist Presentation Society and the advisory board of the St. Cecilia Academy.

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We gratefully acknowledge generous financial support:

SFORZANDO LEVEL (Contributions of \$500 and above)

City of St. Charles Arts & Culture Commission	Laura & David Helling Robert Oker	Beth & George Morris Nancy & William Rubenstein
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FORTISSIMO LEVEL (Contributions of \$100 - \$499)

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Elizabeth Grygo & David Smith*		Judith P. Hodge	Betsy & Gerard LeDoux
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Michael Yang			

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Paula & Ronald Wepprich		

**Memorial gift in honor of Herbert O. Pundmann (1/2/28-2/17/10)*

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Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

FREE CHILDREN’S CONCERT: PERCUSSION DISCUSSION #2

First United Methodist Church Atrium, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles

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