2014 Winner of Chorus America’s ASCAP/Alice Parker Award
Christine Gevert, Founding Artistic Director

CONCERT SEASON
2018-19

Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT
Saint James Place, Gt. Barrington, MA

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Crescendo is a non-for-profit 501(c3) organization.
SPECIAL SUMMER 2018 EVENT*
“Paintings in Song—The Video of a Multimedia Premiere”
August 11, 5:30 pm at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA

This event is a video showing of the 2017 premiere performance of John Myers’ work “Paintings in Song,” commissioned by Crescendo. A multimedia composition of nine choral pieces based on Norman Rockwell’s paintings, including the Four Freedoms, was premiered by Crescendo Chorus and soloists, the Berkshire Children’s Chorus and instruments, with projection of an animation of the images. The composer John Myers, Stephanie Plunckett, Deputy Director/Chief Curator at the Norman Rockwell Museum and Crescendo’s founding artistic director Christine Gevert will share insights about the collaboration process.

*This video presentation is hosted and organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum.

SUMMER 2018 CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT
“Melancholy, Desire and Joy”
The Sonatas of Corelli, Bach & Handel
August 24, 6 pm – Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA
August 25, 4 pm – United Methodist Church, Lakeville, CT

The warm and expressive tone of the Baroque flute (traverso) so moved its audiences when it emerged toward the end of the 17th century in Paris that it quickly became a very popular instrument there and in the rest of Europe. Corelli’s Sonatas Op. 5, originally written for violin, were arranged in his lifetime for the traverso. The Op. 5 collection is a masterpiece, and it influenced Baroque composers like Handel and Bach, who admired and studied them.
Duo Les Inégaless - Rodrigo Tarraza, traverso, and Christine Gevert, harpsichord, perform some of the greatest sonatas of these three composers.

FALL 2018 CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT
“A Tribute to Wanda Landowska”
Music by Froberger, and Louis and François Couperin
October 6, 6 pm in Lakeville, CT

World-renowned Polish harpsichordist Władysław Klosiewicz comes to Lakeville CT, former home of the visionary performer Wanda Landowska, to play works by Johann Jakob Froberger, Louis Couperin and François Couperin.
The harpsichord was one of the most popular Baroque keyboard instruments. Its plucked strings have a rich sound, whose clarity informs the complex contrapuntal texture of Baroque music. Almost every baroque composer wrote for the harpsichord! The 17th century keyboard virtuoso Johann Jakob Froberger was the first composer writing titled, descriptive pieces for the harpsichord. He influenced his contemporaries, among them the French composer Louis Couperin and his famous nephew, François Couperin. The harpsichord suffered a long period of neglect through all of the 19th century. It was brought back to the concert platform by Ms. Landowska (1879-1959). This concert honors her legacy.

This concert is funded in part by Narol Enterprise and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute.
FALL 2018 CHORAL CONCERT
“The Sound of the Trumpet”
Celebrating Life in England and New England
November 10, 6 pm – Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA
November 11, 4 pm – Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

This program features two “Requiems” and two “Jubilates” of different eras. From the 17th century: Henry Purcell’s “Funeral Sentences and Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary” and Purcell’s “Jubilate Deo,” also written for Queen Mary the year before her death. From the 20th and 21st centuries: composer Scott Perkins’ “A New England Requiem,” his “Jubilate Deo,” and Sir John Taverner’s “A Song for Athene,” that was performed at Lady Diana’s funeral.

The Crescendo Chorus and Vocal Ensemble will be joined by soloists including internationally-renowned countertenor Nicholas Tamagna, period brass, strings, basso continuo and organ. Christine Gevert conducts.

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING 2018 CONCERT*
“Music in the Museum: Paintings in Song—Visions of Norman Rockwell”
November 24, 5:30 pm at the Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA

John Myers’ “Paintings in Song,” a multimedia composition of nine choral pieces based on Norman Rockwell’s paintings, including the Four Freedoms, will be performed in the Galleries of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA. You will hear Norman Rockwell’s images come alive with a fusion of Classical styles and American 20th century popular music genres, surrounded by his paintings. One of the highlights of this concert is “Freedom from Want,” which portrays the American values associated with the Thanksgiving celebration.

Performers are singers of the Crescendo Vocal Ensemble, the Berkshire Children’s Chorus and instrumentalists, including the composer, all directed by Christine Gevert.

*This concert is hosted by the Norman Rockwell Museum and is a collaboration between the Museum, Bard College at Simon’s Rock, Berkshire Children’s Chorus and Crescendo.

HOLIDAY 2018 CONCERT
"Sublime Love”—A Celebration of the Life of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz
December 28, 6 pm – Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA
December 29, 3 pm – Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

Called ‘The Tenth Muse’ and ‘Mexican Phoenix,’ the nun Sor Juana Inés De la Cruz is considered one of the finest poets of the Spanish New World Golden Age. She was also a philosopher, scholar and composer. Her life will be depicted through music, artwork and poetry readings.

Crescendo collaborates with “El Fuego,” an early music ensemble from North Carolina, in a program designed by their Artistic Director, Salomé Sandoval. The program features a selection of sacred and secular cantatas from the 1600s New World Colonies, featuring vocal compositions by Tomás de Torrejón y Velasco and his contemporaries.

Performers are the Crescendo Vocal Ensemble, Salomé Sandoval (voice, baroque guitar and archlute), Malina Rauschenfels (voice and violoncello), and Christine Gevert (organ and direction).
WINTER 2019 CONCERT
“Concerto delle Donne—Consort of Ladies” Revolutionary Italian Vocal Music of the late Renaissance
February 16 (snow: 22) 6 pm – Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA
February 17 (snow: 24) 4 pm – Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

In 1580 in Ferrara, Italy, an ensemble of professional female singers—probably the first one of their gender—became renowned for their technical and artistic virtuosity. This ensemble, the ‘Concerto delle Donne’, performed formal concerts for members of the inner circle of the Ferrara court and important visitors, and revolutionized the role of women in professional music.

Sopranos Catherine Hancock, Rebecca Palmer and Jennifer Tyo, accompanied and directed by Christine Gevert on the organ and harpsichord, will perform works by the Ferrara court composer, Luzzascho Luzzaschi, as well as early Italian Baroque arias and duets by Monteverdi, Barbara Strozzi and others.

SPRING 2019 CHORAL CONCERT
“The Mystical 16”—Psalm 116 in Motets from the 1616 Collection, and in Early and Contemporary Versions
April 6, 6 pm – Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA
April 7, 4 pm – Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

In the year 1616 Burckhard Grossmann, a merchant from Jena, Germany, after surviving a near death experience, in gratitude commissioned 16 composers from central Germany to write settings of Psalm 116. Among them were master composers of church music such as Heinrich Schütz, Christoph Demantius and Johann Hermann Schein. Our program will feature motets from this collection by these three composers, as well as Gregorian Chant, and works by Benedictus Ducis and Orlando di Lasso and J.S. Bach. Modern settings of the psalm by composers Jonny Priano and others will use contemporary poetry written for Crescendo by Bruce McEver, Frances Roth and Juliet Mattila. Three works have been commissioned for Crescendo, and will be premiered at this performance.

Performers are Crescendo Chorus, Vocal Ensemble and Soloists, with Period Instruments, directed by Christine Gevert.

LATE SPRING 2019 CONCERT
“Prince of Light and Prince of Darkness”—Motets and Madrigals by Monteverdi and Gesualdo
May 18, 6 pm – Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA
May 19, 4 pm – Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

Claudio Monteverdi lived in a time of great change, as the vocal polyphony of the Renaissance gave way to the textures of the early Baroque. He harnessed both styles with great skill, sometimes contrasting them in the same work, and wrote successfully in every vocal genre. His contemporary Carlo Gesualdo’s vocal music is among the most experimental and expressive of the late Renaissance. One of the most obvious characteristics of his music is the extravagant text setting of words representing extremes of emotion. This program features sacred and secular motets and madrigals by the two composers.

Crescendo Vocal Ensemble is directed by Christine Gevert from the organ.