



## CRESCENDO'S 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON 2019-20



LATE SUMMER 2019 CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

### **A Due Stromenti**

17<sup>th</sup> Century Italian Music with Two Instruments

September 7, 2019 at 4 pm - Saint James Place (Great Hall), Great Barrington, MA  
 September 8, 2019 at 4 pm - Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

The season opening concert explores rarely-heard, exquisite repertoire for theorbo and harpsichord by Johann Hieronymus Kapsberger, Giovanni Pittoni and Bellerofonte Castaldi, and keyboard works by Girolamo Frescobaldi and Claudio Merulo. The theorbo is the largest member of the lute family of instruments that

was developed around the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century primarily to accompany small vocal and instrumental chamber ensembles as well as solo vocal music. Its use as a solo instrument was an afterthought, but innovators on theorbo left behind a small repertoire of high quality. Rarer still was its use as an obbligato instrument in chamber music.

Hideki Yamaya, theorbo and tiorbino, and Christine Gevert, harpsichord and organ

\$60 (Premium) / \$35 (General) / \$10 (under 18 years)



FALL 2019 CHORAL CONCERTS

### **Baroque Splendor: Bach's "Magnificat" and Handel's "Coronation Anthems"**

Crescendo Celebrates its 15th Anniversary!

October 26, 2019 at 4 pm - Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA  
 October 27, 2019 at 4 pm - Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT

Crescendo presents Baroque music for chorus, soloists, and a period instrument orchestra. Together they will perform two of choral music's greatest masterworks, Johann Sebastian Bach's "Magnificat" BWV 234 and George Frideric Handel's "Coronation Anthems" HWV 258-261. The program will include an Aria and Chorales from Bach's much-loved "Christmas Oratorio" BWV 248, with opportunities for audience participation. In its splendor and jubilation Bach's

"Magnificat" anticipates the great choruses of Bach's later works, such as the Mass in B Minor. Handel's festive "Coronation Anthems" were originally commissioned for the coronation of Great Britain's George II, and have become standard for later coronations.

Crescendo Chorus, and soloists Julianne Baird and Jennifer Tyo, sopranos, Nicholas Tamagna, countertenor, Philip Anderson, tenor, Joseph Charles Beutel, bass with period instrument orchestra, directed by Christine Gevert

\$100\* (Premium - \*Benefit Concert) / \$35 (General) / \$10 (under 18 years)



## HOLIDAY 2019 CONCERTS

### **A Tale of Divine Love and the River Spirit**

#### **Acis y Galatea—A Spanish Baroque Semi-Staged Comic Opera**

December 28, 2019 at 4 pm - Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA  
December 29, 2019 at 4 pm - Methodist Church, Lakeville, CT

Antonio de L teres’s “Acis y Galatea” (1708) is a *zarzuela* in two acts with a libretto by Jos  de Ca izares. The work quickly became one of the most famous of *zarzuelas*, the Spanish popular music-drama form that flourished in the late Baroque. *Zarzuelas* were a blend of sung and spoken episodes, usually performed by women actors who took both male and female roles, featuring characters that often are a mixture of gods, mythological creatures and rustic or pastoral comedy characters. This work tells of the love between mortal Acis and the sea-nymph Galatea. L teres brilliantly weaves together Italianate da capo arias, French sung minuets, and Spanish *seguidillas* (sung popular dances). The singers are accompanied by traditional Baroque instruments and castanets, which give a

typical Spanish flavor. A small group of ensemble singers act as a traditional ‘Greek Chorus’, commenting in fast-moving and rhythmical choruses on the dramatic action.

Salom  Sandoval, mezzo soprano (Acis), Baroque guitar, percussion and co-director, Catherine Hancock, soprano (Galatea), Malina Rauschenfels, mezzo soprano (Tisbe), Roman Testroet, baritone (Momo), Tom Schindler, (Polyphemo), are joined by Crescendo’s Vocal Ensemble Singers, and period instrument players Tricia Van Oers, recorder, Christa Patton, recorder and Baroque harp, Hideki Yamaya, Baroque guitar. Christine Gevert leads this semi-staged performance from the harpsichord.

\$60 (Premium) / \$35 (General) / \$10 (under 18 years)



## WINTER 2020 CONCERTS

### **Thanksgivings for Life and Love**

#### **16th Century Spanish Polyphony and Contemporary Latin American Folk Music**

February 1, 2020 at 4 pm - Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA  
February 2, 2020 at 4 pm - Methodist Church, Lakeville, CT

The concepts of Thanksgiving, The Dove, The Dew, Mary, Weeping and Remembrance are portrayed in Hispanic works of two different eras and styles. Featured are motets for four to six voices by Tomas Luis de Victoria, Francisco Guerrero and Antonio Lobo—some of the most

remarkable composers of 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish polyphony. Works include Victoria’s “Te Deum”, Guerrero’s “Maria Magdalena”, and Lobos’s “Versa est in luctum”, among others. In contrast, choral and instrumental arrangements of Latin American folk melodies of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries by Carlos Guastavino (Argentina), Violeta Parra and Victor Jara (Chile), and others are celebrated as *Canto Nuevo* (The New Song). Some of the most famous themes are Parra’s “Gracias a la vida”, and Guastavino’s “Se equivoc  la paloma”. The poetry of these newer works includes texts by Nobel Prize winner Gabriela Mistral, and one of the greatest literary figures of the Silver Age of Spanish literature, Rafael Alberti.

Crescendo Vocal Ensemble is joined by Alturas Duo, Carlos Boltes, charango and viola, and Scott Hill, guitar, and Gonzalo Cort s, quena, zampo a and percussion. Directed by Christine Gevert from the organ.

\$60 (Premium) / \$35 (General) / \$10 (under 18 years)



EARLY SPRING 2020 CHORAL CONCERTS

## Music Across Borders

17th Century and Contemporary Choral Music  
from Poland, Latvia, Czech Republic and Germany

March 28, 2020 at 4 pm - Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT  
March 29, 2020 at 4 pm - Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA

As Italian Baroque music influenced all countries strongly in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, national styles then developed, and started to influence each other. This program explores repertoire of some of the countries in Eastern Europe and the influence composers there had on composers of

other regions such as Germany. The festive Baroque choral works by Szarzyński, Gorczycki, Telemann, Meder and Černohorský feature strings and Baroque trumpets in the orchestra. They will be contrasted with contemporary works by Ešvalds (Latvia), Lukaszewski (Poland), and Lukáš (Czech Republic). Works include Szarzyński's "Completorium", Gorczycki's "Laetatus sum", Meder's "Jubilate Deo omnis terra", Ešvalds's "Stars" (accompanied with seldom-heard tuned musical glasses), and Lukáš's "Pater noster" op. 263 among others.

Crescendo Chorus and soloists, with period instrument players, directed by Christine Gevert.

\$60 (Premium) / \$35 (General) / \$10 (under 18 years)



SPRING 2020 CONCERT

## An Evening in the Home of J.S. Bach

Julianne Baird Sings Arias by Bach and His Children

April 18, at 6 pm - Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA

The world-renowned Early Music soprano, Julianne Baird, offers a solo recital, which provides a glimpse into the domestic music of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the musical tastes of the Bach family. Most of the works are from the "Notebook for Anna Magdalena", a manuscript notebook that Johann Sebastian Bach presented to his second wife, Anna Magdalena. The recital will include arias: "Gedenke doch", "Bist du bei mir", "Willst

du dein Herz mir schenken", Schlummert ein", arias from Bach's "Hunt Cantata" BWV 208, and from his "Wedding Cantata" BWV 202; and harpsichord works, such as the "First Prelude" of "The Well-Tempered Clavier" BWV 846/1, and the "Aria" of the "Goldberg Variations" BWV 988/1, among others. Songs and arias from his sons Carl Philipp Emanuel and Johann Christian Bach, and from his grandson Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst Bach will round out the program.

Julianne Baird, soprano, and Christine, harpsichord

\$100\* (Premium - \*Benefit Concert) / \$35 (General) / \$10 (under 18)



FREE OUTREACH EVENT: CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH OUR COMMUNITY  
IN HARMONY WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

## **Caroling to the Cows**

**Crescendo leads the Community at Churchtown Dairy Farm  
in a Christmas Serenade to the Dairy Herd**

December 1, at 5 pm - Churchtown Dairy Farm, Hudson, NY

A selection of carols from the Oxford Book of Carols will be performed from the balcony in the iconic round barn at Churchtown Dairy. Owned now by Abby Rockefeller—and in the Rockefeller family for many years—Churchtown is a working Biodynamic farm that intends to serve as a beacon for those promoting sustainable agriculture and regenerative communities. For more information about Churchtown Dairy go to [churchtowndairy.org](http://churchtowndairy.org). Crescendo singers provide a short prelude with carol settings, teach a few new carols to the community singers, and then lead the caroling in the presence of the cows.

Crescendo Chorus Singers, Singers of the Community, led by Christine Gevert.

A free event, presented in collaboration with Churchtown Dairy Farm, Hudson, NY. (Photo credit: Phougkeepsie Journal)



EDUCATIONAL EVENT: LECTURE DEMONSTRATION

## **The Commitment to Music Education by George Washington, the Nation's First President**

**The history around the music education of Washington's  
step-grandchildren, presented by Dr. Julianne Baird**

April 17, 6 pm - (Location TBD) Salisbury/Lakeville, CT

Music education was considered of great value in the times when the United States formed. The lecture will go into details about the music education and its value in Washington's times, and in his own household. It will include Dr. Baird's research of the repertoire and works from Eleanor ("Nelly") Parke Custis's - Washington's step-granddaughter's - collection, and its parallel to Jane Austen's musical collection. A previously undiscovered singing method of an Italian voice teacher employed by Washington, Filippo Trisobio, and other music masters of the era will be discussed.

Musical examples will be sung by Dr. Baird.

Dr. Julianne Baird, soprano, and Distinguished Professor of Music at Rutgers University, has been hailed as "one of the most extraordinary voices in the service of early music that this generation has produced." She is an active teacher and scholar, with degrees from the Eastman School, a Diploma from the Salzburg Mozarteum in performance and a PhD in music history from Stanford University. Recognized internationally as one of the few who can both demonstrate the full range of the singer's art and explain it, Dr. Baird is regularly asked to provide lectures and master classes at universities and music schools throughout North America.

Dr. Julianne Baird, lecturer and soprano, Christine Gevert, harpsichord



EDUCATIONAL EVENT: MASTERCLASS FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS  
AND ADVANCED STUDENTS

## **Baroque Ornamentation for Singers**

**Voice Masterclass with Julianne Baird**

April 18, 10 am to 1 pm - Saint James Place, Great Barrington, MA

Advanced voice students or professional singers coach solo repertoire from Purcell to Handel with Julianne Baird. The special emphasis of this session is the art of ornamenting according to national style, genre and era. The masterclass will have up to six active students, and unlimited auditors.

Dr. Julianne Baird, voice teacher, with Christine Gevert, harpsichord accompanist

\$10 (Auditors, tickets sold at the door) – Singers: apply at [crescendo@worldclassmusic.org](mailto:crescendo@worldclassmusic.org)