



St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

20th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

HANDEL

Messiah

PART I and HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Vaughan Williams

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

New Music by Maine Composer

Richard Francis

with Chamber Orchestra and
Nina Tilander, Soprano ~ Jazmin DeRice, Alto
David Myers, Jr., Tenor ~ Josh Miller, Bass

Fri., Dec. 11, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
2nd Congregational Church
Newcastle

Sat., Dec. 12, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Bowdoin College Chapel
Brunswick



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A Case Study in Geothermal

In 2013, Tod Brown, a retired physics teacher, attended a “Geo-Night” seminar hosted by MCES. He and his wife, Merrilee, had been looking to cut energy expenses for their circa 1875 farmhouse, located in a rural setting complete with farm pond. According to Brown, the cost of fuel totaled \$4,668 for the year. In addition, they were using an average of 15,700 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually without air conditioning.



The Browns hired an energy auditor to provide suggestions on how to tighten up the home. Based on the auditor’s information, MCES determined the appropriate size and design of a new geothermal system that would replace the Browns’ existing furnace. MCES swapped out the furnace for a two-and-a-half-ton water-to-air unit. Outside, MCES utilized the Browns’ farm pond by installing a 3-ton Pond/Lake Loop System. The vertical unit connected easily to the existing relatively new ductwork. The geoexchange system was up and running by late summer.

Inaccurate Audit.... “Our mistake was to accept the auditor’s report as accurate information,” says Bill Morgner, MCES President. “As it turned out, it was not accurate, so even though the insulation contractor performed everything as specified, when winter came, we learned that our *little GEO that could* ...actually **couldn’t**....not even with backup.” In the spring of 2014, Bill Morgner made a company decision to remove the existing heat pump and replace it with a four-ton unit at his company’s expense. In the summer of 2014, as promised, Mid-Coast Energy exchanged the units. According to Morgner, the only expense the Browns absorbed for the new larger geo unit, was the cost of changing the ductwork necessary to accommodate the horizontal heat pump—a cost they would have incurred anyway, had the system been properly sized initially. Aside from that, Morgner says “we picked up the tab.”

February of 2015 was Maine’s coldest on record. Despite the record-breaking heating season, the Brown’s geothermal system performed flawlessly. In fact, the much larger unit proved to use less electric in a colder winter. Homeowner Tod Brown reported a 72% improvement in performance and a savings of \$3,446 over the baseline. Brown noted that “we can’t thank Mid-Coast Energy Systems enough for the time and effort they spent on making our system work as it should, despite the fact that it wasn’t their fault from the beginning.” Read the case study in its entirety at midcoastenergysystems.com. For more information on Geothermal Heating & Cooling, please call MCES at 563-5147 or stop by the showroom to see geothermal in action.



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Beth Preston, Director

WOVEN IN SONG

Sean Fleming, organ

Jazmin DeRice, Mezzo

Suki Flanagan, Harp

Abe Steinberger, Oboe

Saturday, December 19, **7:30**

Sunday, December 21, **4:00**

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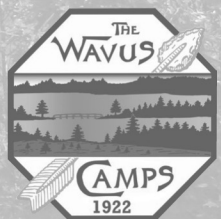


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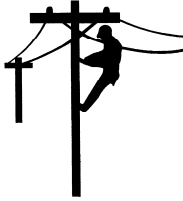
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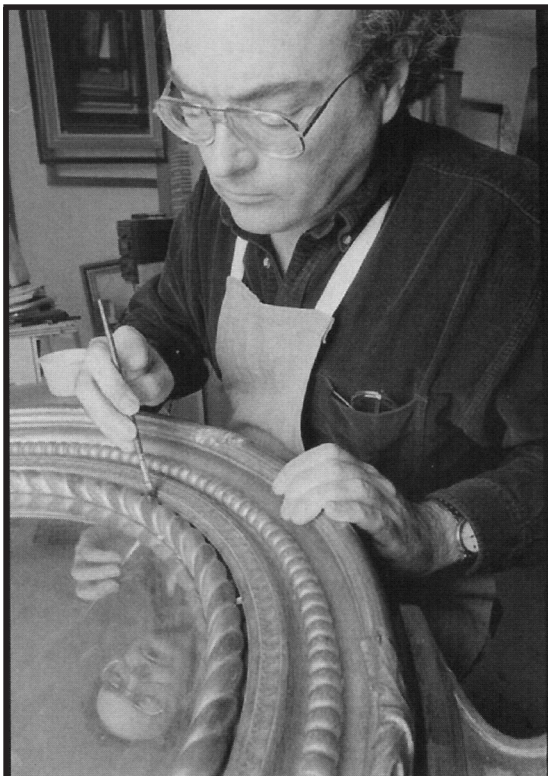
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**St. Cecilia Chamber Choir
20th Anniversary Program**

Messiah

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

1. Symphony
2. Tenor Recitative: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people
3. Tenor Aria: Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
4. Chorus: And the glory, the glory of the Lord
5. Bass Recitative: Thus saith the Lord
6. Bass Aria: But who may abide the day of His coming?
7. Chorus: And He shall purify
8. Alto Recitative: Behold, a virgin shall conceive
9. Alto Recit. & Chorus: O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion
10. Bass Recitative: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth
11. Bass Aria: The people that walked in darkness
12. Chorus: For unto us a Child is born
13. Pifa: Pastoral Symphony
14. Soprano Recitative: There were shepherds abiding in the field
15. Soprano Recit: And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them
16. Soprano Recit: And suddenly there was with the angel
17. Chorus: Glory to God in the highest
18. Soprano Aria: Rejoice greatly, o daughter of Zion
19. Alto Recitative: Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened
20. Duet Aria: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd
21. Chorus: His yoke is easy, His burden is light
44. Chorus: Hallelujah!

Nina Tilander, Soprano Jazmin DeRice, Alto
David Myers, Jr., Tenor Joshua Miller, Bass

~ Intermission ~

Magnificat

Richard Francis
b. 1969

O Magnum Mysterium - *premiere*

R. Francis

Hodie - *premiere*

R. Francis

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Joshua Miller, Bass

Silent Night

Franz Gruber
(1787-1863)

Hermione Blanchard-Fleming and Tristan Hearth

In Memoriam
John Allan Blanchard
April 15, 1932 - Nov. 30, 2015



St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Director

Linda Blanchard

Accompanist

Sean Fleming

Sopranos

Cally Aldrich
Maya Bailey*
Sarah Begin*
Ann Creamer
Kriss Hunold
Helen Newell*
Lili Pugh
Amelia Rosko*

Altos

Mary Benner
Cheryl Dilts
Sidney Harvey
Cayleigh Hearth*
Cathy Johnson
Molly Pitcher
Nadine Raley
Susan Russell
Anna Shaw
Georgi Thompson

Tenors

Laurie Asche
Richard Bates
Mal Briggs
Mark Freese
Del Merritt
John Ward

Basses

David Blanchard
Tommy Davis
Danny Evarts
Richard Francis
Kit Hayden
Andy Sherrill
Stephen White
David Wright

*Student Member

Chamber Orchestra

Violin 1: Madeline Kapp MacDonald
Violin 2: Kathryn Pillsbury
Viola: Linda Theriault
Cello: Shannon Allen (Friday) & Evan Pillsbury (Saturday)
Bass: Alyson Ciechomski
Trumpet: Allen Graffam, Alan Kaschub
Timpani: Nancy Rowe

Soloists

Nina Tilander, soprano, is an oratorio and recital soloist who has also performed with opera and theater companies in Massachusetts and Maine including PORT, Surry Opera, Heartwood, and Lakewood. She has



served as a guest artist with the Oratorio and Androscoggin Chorales as well as the Maine Gilbert & Sullivan “qwerty” productions. Last spring she performed the Brahms *Requiem* with the St. Cecilia Chamber Choir and the Sheepscot Valley Chorus and most recently she performed the Saint-Saëns *Christmas Oratorio* with the Sheepscot Valley Chorus.

While living in Seattle, she soloed several seasons at the Northwest Mahler Festival under the baton of Geoffrey Simon, two seasons with the “Mostly Nordic” series, and was invited to perform at the Swedish-American Heritage

Society’s 30th international celebration. Other performances include the Sherman Clay Series and principal roles in a number of Gilbert & Sullivan productions. She has won vocal competitions on both coasts and coached with opera and Broadway artist Nancy Hermiston, vocal pedagogue Richard Miller, and British Wagnerian soprano Jane Eaglen. She currently studies with Charles Peterson of Seattle.

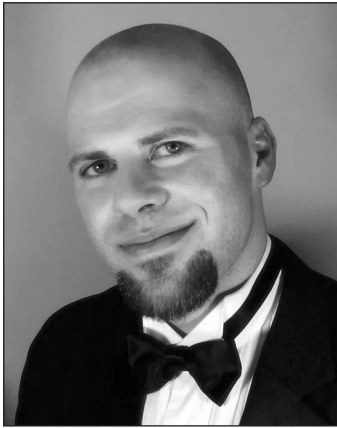
Jazmin DeRice, mezzo soprano, is a Maine-based singer and performer. Recently, she has been seen as “Genevieve” in Floating Opera NY’s production of *Pelleas et Melisande*, “Dryad” in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Utopia Opera, cover of “Nancy” in *Albert Herring* with Bronx Opera, and “Hansel” in a Bunraku-style puppet opera of *Hansel and Gretel* at Mayo Street Arts. DeRice



has been featured as alto soloist in Handel’s *Messiah*, Mozart *Requiem*, Vivaldi *Gloria*, and Bach *B minor Mass*—to name a few—with oratorio societies and ensembles throughout New York, New Jersey and New England. DeRice is a recipient of the prestigious Lilian Nordica Award. Upcoming performances include December Concert Series with Tapestry Singers in Newcastle, Maine, Britten’s

Canticle II: Abraham and Isaac with the Rossini Club in January 2016, and Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis* in April 2016.

David Myers, Jr. performs as a tenor and baritone soloist with various choral and theater groups in Midcoast Maine. His most recent portrayals include Jesus



in the Down East Singers production of Delmar Dustin Small's oratorio *As it Began to Dawn*, both the drunken monk and the roasted swan in Lincoln Arts Festival's production of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and tenor soloist in the Down East Singers Latin American Christmas concert, "Navidad Nuestra," showcasing work by Ariel Ramirez. He will be featured as the Evangelist in Bowdoin Chorus' production of J.S. Bach's *St John Passion* this spring. David is currently serving as vice president on the Down East Singers board of directors.

Originally from Clear Spring, Maryland, David holds a music degree from Frostburg State University where he studied voice with Dr. Karen Soderberg-Sarnaker and Mr. Allen Emerick. He now resides in Waldoboro, Maine, where he builds darkroom materials for wet-plate collodion photographers and advises clients on collodion processes.



Joshua Miller is a baritone from Southwest Harbor Maine. He studied vocal performance at the University of Southern Maine with Ellen Chickering and Judith James. He now lives in New York City but he returns to Maine every summer to help grow Maine's classical music scene. Joshua is passionate about getting young people excited and involved with Opera and so he and group of young singers have been putting on shows in the greater Portland area to expose people to the joys of this music.



Richard Francis received his Bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College, and his Master's from the University of Michigan. Born and raised in New York city, he fell in love with Maine while attending Bowdoin. After spending some years working in New York and Florida, he decided not to wait for retirement and moved to Maine. He is a freelance 'cellist and recording engineer and teaches in Bristol and Freeport, in addition to his work as a composer.

Commissions have come from the Choral Art Society, the American Guild of Organists, St.

Richard Francis (cont'd)

Andrew's Church, St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, and private patrons. He has written numerous chamber works as well as orchestral, band, and choral works. His teachers have included Elliot Schwartz, William Bolcom, Michael Daugherty, Stephen Albert, Leslie Bassett, and, most importantly, the 10,000 recordings in his studio.

Music Director **Linda Blanchard** earned her MA in Choral Conducting from University of Michigan School of Music, Ann Arbor, and her BA in Music from Bowdoin College. She is recipient of the Susan Winchell Burnett Music Prize, the Abraham Goldberg Prize for theatrical directing and the St. Botolph Emerging Artist Award. She studied orchestral conducting with Gustav Meier and Zae Munn, and choral conducting with Theodore Morrison, Jerry Blackstone, and Robert Greenlee. Ms. Blanchard is founding director of St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, directs the Sheepscot Valley Chorus and is Director of Choirs at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Newcastle. She has worked as a festival adjudicator and clinician, directed the Bowdoin College Chamber Choir, University of Michigan Residential College Choirs and Orpheus Singers, worked in Maine and Michigan as a church organist and choir director, taught junior high and high school chorus in Maine, taught voice at Bowdoin College, and worked extensively as a musical theater director.



Sean Fleming performs regularly with the Bowdoin Chorus, Coastal Chorale, Down East Singers, Lincoln Academy Lincolnaires, Lincoln Festival Chorus, Maine Friends of

Music, St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, Sheepscot Valley Chorus, and Tapestry Singers. He is the assistant director of Midcoast Community Chorus, and is also the music director for the Hearts Ever Young Chorus. He regularly accompanies many high school and junior high festivals. He has worked with Ann Arbor Camerata, Bowdoin Chamber Choir, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival Chorus, Colby College Chorale, Maine Pro Musica, Oratorio Chorale, Renaissance Voices, University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society, University of Southern Maine Chorale, University of Southern Maine Chamber Singers, and Vox Nova Chamber Choir.

Sean has directed or accompanied over sixty-five musical theater productions nationwide. Most recently he was the music director for "Fiddler on the Roof", "Godspell", and "Sunday in the Park with George" with Heartwood Regional Theater Company, and "Shrek", "Aida", and "Little Shop of Horrors" at The

Sean Fleming (cont'd)

Waldo Theater. An organ recitalist who has performed throughout the United States, Sean studied organ and piano with Ray Cornils, John Doney, Michael Lindsey, and Gerald McGee. For the past nineteen years he has served as organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Newcastle.

He was the recipient of a 2009 St. Botolph Club Foundation grant award for achievements in music.

Texts and Translations

1. Sinfony (Overture)

2. Tenor Recitative

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(Isaiah 40: 1-3)

3. Tenor Aria

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry moutain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

(Isaiah 40: 4)

4. Chorus

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

(Isaiah 40: 5)

5. Bass Recitative

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come.

(Haggai 2: 6-7)

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom you delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

(Malachi 3: 1)

6. Bass Aria

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

(Malachi 3: 2)

7. Chorus

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

(Malachi 3: 3)

8. Alto Recitative

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us.

(Isaiah 7: 14; Matthew 1: 23)

9. Alto Aria and Chorus

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your god!

(Isaiah 40: 9)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

(Isaiah 60: 1)

Chorus

O thou that tellest. . . (etc.)

10. Bass Recitative

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

(Isaiah 60: 2-3)

11. Bass Aria

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

(Isaiah 9: 2)

12. Chorus

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9: 6)

13. Pifa (“Pastoral Symphony”)

14a. Soprano Recitative

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

(Luke 2: 8)

14b. Soprano Recitative

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

(Luke 2: 9)

15. Soprano Recitative

And the angel said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

(Luke 2: 10-11)

16. Soprano Recitative

And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

(Luke 2: 13)

17. Chorus

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men."

(Luke 2: 14)

18. Soprano Aria

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.
Rejoice greatly. . . (da capo)

(Zechariah 9: 9-10)

19. Alto Recitative

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

(Isaiah 35: 5-6)

20. Soprano and Alto Duet

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

(Isaiah 40: 11)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

(Matthew 11: 28-29)

21. Chorus

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

(Matthew 11: 30)

44. Chorus

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

(Revelation 19: 6)

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord,
and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.

(Revelation 11: 15)

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

(Revelation 19: 16)

Hallelujah!

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my
Saviour.

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in
the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the
humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent
empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he
promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

(Luke 1: 46-55)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

— Translations: *Book of Common Prayer*



O Magnum Mysterium

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.
Alleluia.

Hodie

Hodie Christus natus est
hodie Salvator apparuit:
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli:
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
saying:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluja.
Alleluia!

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of Love:
Therefore don't turn me from your door
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I will relate
Is that God did man create,
The next thing which to you I'll tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain, from evil free,
Except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin,
Ruined themselves, both you and me
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes.
Till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run,
That he would redeem us by his Son.

O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament
that animals should see
the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
Christ the Lord
Alleluia.

Today is Christ born;
today the Savior has appeared;
today the Angels sing,
the Archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice,

Glory to God in the highest.



Come all you worthy gentlemen that may be standing by,
Christ our blessed Saviour was born on Christmas day,
The blessed Virgin Mary unto the Lord did pray
O we wish you the comfort and tidings of joy!

Christ our Blessed Saviour now in the manger lay,
He's lying in the manger, while the oxen feed on hay.
The blessed Virgin Mary unto the Lord did pray
O we wish you the comfort and tidings of joy!

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring;
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before thy grace,
Then life and health come in its place,
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new-born King.

God bless the ruler of this house, and long may he reign,
Many happy Christmases he live to see again!
God bless our generation, who live both far and near
And we wish them a happy New Year.

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To present outstanding performances of the very **best choral repertoire**;
To provide challenging musical **opportunities for gifted local youth**;
To support our community with **outreach programs**; and
To **support Maine composers** through the commissioning of new music.

Since the Choir's inception, **twenty-two gifted young students** have sung with us, many continuing to study music in college and beyond. In recent years the Choir has twice provided scholarship grants to young members of the Choir going on to college.

Community outreach concerts have benefited the Damariscotta Baptist Church Steeple Fund, the Great Salt Bay School lunch program, Skidompha Library, Round Top Center for the Arts, the Kennedy Leadership Center at Kieve, the historic Old German Church in Waldoboro, the historic St. John's Church in Dresden, and the Waldo Theater.

To date, we have performed **eighteen new works by Maine composers**, twelve of which were especially composed for the Choir.



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