
ROBERT DALE CHORALE

Dr. Steven Thomas, Music Director • (570) 586-3921 • www.robertdalechorale.org

Notes

Dear Friends of Choral Music,

It may be winter in Northeast Pennsylvania, but the ever-lengthening days can only mean one thing: the NEPA Bach Festival is right around the corner. And this may well be the most exciting Bach Festival ever. To back up that ambitious claim, I present to you the following:

- the Friday evening concert not only features Fr. Seán Duggan, back by popular demand, but has him collaborating with violinist Sophie Till
- the Organ Concert features Dr. Timothy Smith, who was for many years the Director of Music and Organist of New York's famed Riverside Church, and who has played many of the great concert venues both in the U.S. and in Europe
- the Chamber Music Concert features no less than six Vivaldi concertos, including the second U.S. performance (after the Philadelphia Orchestra) of the recently rediscovered "Il Gran Mogol" flute concerto
- the Choral Concert features the combined forces of the Chorale and the Wilkes University Choral Ensembles performing two of the great works of the choral canon, the Vivaldi *Gloria* and the Bach *Ascension Oratorio*

It's going to be a great Festival, and I know you'll want to experience it all!

Fr. Seán Duggan's performance at last year's Festival was so inspiring that we couldn't pass up the opportunity to bring him back

again. This year he will be joining our Bach Festival Orchestra concertmaster, Sophie Till, to perform the first three Bach Violin Sonatas. Fr. Duggan will also perform Bach's *Fantasia and Fugue in A Minor* and the *English Suite No. 3 in G Minor*. We are also pleased to announce that Fr. Duggan will be presenting a master class at Marywood University on Saturday morning.

Our guest organist, Dr. Timothy Smith, is an exceptional musician with an impressive artistic resume. We are very excited to be able to help introduce him to NEPA audiences! For more on Dr. Smith and the program he will be presenting, please see the article later in this newsletter. Please also note that this year's Organ Concert will take place in Elm Park United Methodist Church, which is a change of venue from previous years.

For this year's Chamber Music Concert, we are presenting a program consisting entirely of Vivaldi concertos. We have many talented soloists in the Bach Festival Orchestra, and the concerto program allows us to feature several of them: Tom Heinze on oboe, Gayle Klaber on cello, Melinda Lewis on bassoon, and Ed Wargo on flute. Vivaldi's long-lost "Il Gran Mogol" flute concerto, which Mr. Wargo will perform, was recently rediscovered in the National Archives of Scotland. Our performance of it will be only the second in the U.S., after the Philadelphia Orchestra. Don't miss your chance to hear this "new" work!



Photo credit: Pamela Suchy, Scranton Times-Tribune

Two seasons ago the Chorale and the Wilkes Choral Ensembles collaborated for performances of the *St. John Passion* and Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit*. Those collaborations were so successful that we're doing it again! The Wilkes University Chamber Singers join the Chorale for Bach's *Ascension Oratorio*, and the University Chorus joins the Chorale for the Vivaldi *Gloria*. Like the rediscovered flute concerto, Vivaldi's *Gloria* lay hidden in a library for centuries, and since its discovery has become one of the most beloved of all choral masterworks. Featured soloists for the performance are Kathy Brink, Larry Hickernell, Gina Lupini, Fran McMullen, Kathleen Shucosky, and Jennifer Smeraldo.

We finish the season in April with our 4th Annual Pops Concert, and we are excited to be able to collaborate again with the incomparable Doug Smith Jazz Trio. This year we "celebrate" tax day on April 15 with a program we're calling *For Love or Money*.

I hope you can join us!

Sincerely,

Steven Thomas



Spotlight on... *Dr. Timothy Smith*

TIMOTHY SMITH - NEW YORK'S LOSS, SCRANTON'S GAIN

The Robert Dale Chorale is delighted to welcome renowned organist Timothy Smith to the Scranton area as well as to the 26th Annual NEPA Bach Festival. Dr. Smith, who has performed at prestigious venues in both the United States and Europe, will grace the sanctuary of Elm Park United Methodist Church in Scranton on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

For his organ recital, Dr. Smith has selected a few larger works, interspersed with three short chorale preludes. One of the major pieces on the program is the *Concerto in A minor*, a solo organ composition that Bach "lifted" from Vivaldi, who originally composed it for two violins. Dr. Smith points out that this work provides "nice continuity between the organ recital and choral concert," as the Chorale will be performing Vivaldi's *Gloria* on the Sunday of the Festival.

Also on the program will be Bach's *Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue in C Major* and the *Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor*, which Dr. Smith believes will be more palatable to the audience than the typically predictable prelude and fugue. The *Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue* is an early work of Bach, hearkening back to the likes of Bruhns and Buxtehude, "while the *Passacaglia* is a mature work of 20 short variations and a concluding figure."

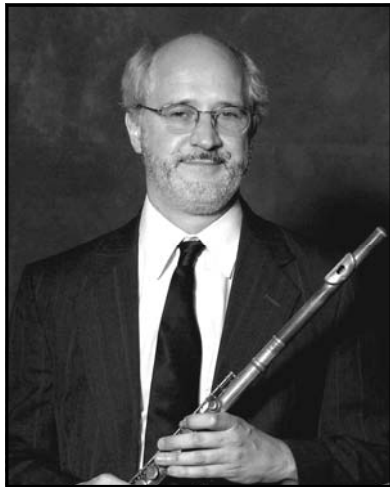
The concluding piece will be *Fantasy and Fugue on B-A-C-H* by Franz Liszt - not only a fine tribute to Bach, but also celebratory of Liszt's birth year (1811-1886). A grand, Romantic work, it offers a contrasting, yet gratifying, end to the otherwise all-Bach program.

Dr. Smith, formerly a resident of New York City, began to phase out his full-time commitments there in 1994 when, along with his partner David, he purchased a weekend/summer home at Lake Wallenpaupack. At that time, he was commuting to NYC five days a week where he was the musical director and organist at New York's Riverside Church. Now, performing the same role at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Scranton, he considers himself a full-time resident of Pennsylvania - fulfilling duties at Columbia University "on an 'as needed' basis." Indeed, a fortunate turn of events for NEPA. ♪

TIMOTHY SMITH served as Director of Music and Organist of New York's famed Riverside Church from July 1992 until December 2008. Prior to that appointment, he served six years on the music staffs of Trinity Church, Wall Street, and Christ Episcopal Church, Greenwich, Connecticut. A graduate of Yale University, Smith holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Manhattan School of Music. He has performed with numerous orchestras throughout the New York City area including the Fairfield Chamber Orchestra, the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, the Yale Philharmonia, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Since the fall of 2000, Smith has held the post of University Organist at Columbia University, and was appointed Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem, in February 2009. In September 2010, he accepted the post of Director of Music and Organist at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Scranton, PA.

Together with conductor James Simms and the Choir of Trinity Church, he has recorded the Organ and Choral Works of Larry King, former Director of Music at Trinity - Volume 5 of the series, *Music from Trinity Church, Wall Street*. He served as contributing author for *The Hymnal, 1982, Companion, Vol. II.*, which was published by the Church Hymnal Corporation of the Episcopal Church. Dr. Smith and the Riverside Church organ were featured on *Great Organs of New York* (J&B Records), an anthology of organists and their instruments throughout New York. Together with the American Boy Choir and the St. Thomas Choir (Fifth Avenue), he and The Riverside Choir can be heard with soprano Jessye Norman on her most recent Christmas Recording, *In the Spirit* (Philips Classics). He has recorded four solo albums for the JAV Recordings and Pro Organo labels, including *On a Summer's Evening*, which was recorded live during Riverside's Annual Series of Summer Organ Recitals and was praised by the *American Record Guide* as "glorious," "superb playing," and "impressive." Together with The Riverside Choir, he has recorded four choral discs including two Christmas recordings, *Behold the Star* and *Carols by Candlelight*, a disc of spirituals, *Touch the Spirit*, and *Anthems from Riverside*, a disc of festival anthems for choir, organ and brass.

As a recitalist, Smith has performed in some of the most beautiful and historic houses of worship in this country and abroad, including the cathedrals of Chartres, Beauvais, Notre-Dame, and the Church of St. Germain-des-Prez in France, as well as Lincoln and Wells Cathedrals in Great Britain. He has also performed as a featured soloist at the Cardiff Organ Festival in Wales.



Spotlight on... *Ed Wargo*

Local flutist Edward Wargo is an active performer and teacher who is currently on the faculty of Marywood University. A graduate of The Manhattan School of Music and Temple University, where he received the Essie Baron Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in the field of music, he has also studied with Murray Panitz, Harold Bennett, Samuel

Baron, and Sandra Miller. Over the years, he has performed as principal flutist in several orchestras including the Houston Metropolitan Symphony and the Galveston Symphony in Texas, where he was also a member of the Houston Flute Quartet. Locally, Mr. Wargo performs regularly with the Wargo-Steveskey Flute and Guitar Duo, the Robert Dale Chorale Bach Festival Orchestra and chamber groups, and with various freelance ensembles. His solo and chamber music performances have been broadcast on WVIA-TV and WVIA-FM.

At this year's Chamber Music Concert, Ed Wargo will be featured in the recently rediscovered Vivaldi flute concerto, "Il Gran Mogol." The work was found in the National Archives of Scotland, and was re-premiered this past January and will be performed for only the second

time in this country at this year's NEPA Bach Festival. Of the event, Mr. Wargo remarks, "This is a very rare and exciting experience to perform a piece by a major composer that hasn't been heard for centuries." Thankfully, musical director Steven Thomas was successful in acquiring the rights to perform this much anticipated work.

No stranger to the Robert Dale Chorale stage, Mr. Wargo shares these comments about his experiences over the years: "I've been able to perform some of the most beautiful Baroque repertoire ever written, both orchestral and chamber music. We're lucky to have this type of music festival in our area. It's rewarding to work with such top-notch musicians, and Bob Herrema and Steven Thomas have always maintained high musical standards." ♪

26th Annual NEPA Bach Festival

A three-day festival celebrating the music of J.S. Bach and his contemporaries

PIANO AND VIOLIN CONCERT

A program of Bach violin sonatas

Featuring Father Seán Duggan, professor of piano at SUNY Fredonia, and renowned violinist Sophie Till

Friday, March 18th 8:00 pm
Marian Chapel at
Marywood University - Scranton

ORGAN CONCERT

A concert of organ works by J.S. Bach

Featuring Dr. Timothy Smith, Covenant Presbyterian Church's Organist and Director of Music

Saturday, March 19th 4:00 pm
Elm Park United Methodist Church -
Scranton
Free Admission - Offering Gladly Accepted

CHORAL CONCERT

A performance of the Vivaldi *Gloria* and Bach *Ascension Oratorio*

Featuring the Robert Dale Chorale, the Wilkes University Choral Ensembles, and the Bach Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Steven Thomas

Sunday, March 20th 3:00 pm
St. Luke's Episcopal Church - Scranton

For Tickets and Information:

Call (570) 586-3921 or visit www.robertdalechorale.org

Piano and Violin, Chamber and Choral Music Concerts:

\$15 general admission
\$12 seniors or WVIA members
\$7 students
Free for children under 12 when accompanied by a parent

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

A program of Vivaldi concertos

Featuring Tom Heinze, Gayle Klaber, Melinda Lewis, and Ed Wargo, and the Bach Festival Orchestra

Saturday, March 19th 8:00 pm
St. Luke's Episcopal Church - Scranton

*Intimate performances
of some of the world's
most beautiful music*



For

Love or
Money...

Friday, April 15, 2011

7:30 pm

Shopland Hall at the
Scranton Cultural Center

*with the Doug Smith
Jazz Trio*

*The Chorale's newest tradition:
The Doug Smith Jazz Trio joins the
Chorale in a cabaret-style program*

Tickets:
\$15 General admission
\$12 Senior Citizen/WVIA members
\$7 Students
Free for children under 12 accompanied by a parent

Robert Dale Chorale

301 Tulip Circle • Clarks Summit PA 18411
(570) 586-3921 • www.robertdalechorale.org

US POSTAGE
PAID
NON-PROFIT
PERMIT NO. 111
CLARKS SUMMIT PA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED