

“He who sings scares away his woes.”
~ Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra ~

Pro Arte

CHORALE

June 2018

From the Podium



Welcome, Bryan Zaros!

The Pro Arte Chorale is very pleased to welcome Bryan Zaros as its new Music Director, effective July 1, 2018. The search for a new music director was launched late last year, following the announcement that the Chorale’s music director of six years, Steven Fox, was stepping down having accepted the position of Music Director for The Cathedral Choral Society in Washington DC. After a four-month selection process with several outstanding candidates that included auditions with members of the Chorale, Bryan Zaros was offered the position which he enthusiastically accepted.

“For over 50 years, the Pro Arte Chorale has been a leading musical presence in the New York metropolitan area,” said Bryan. “With a distinguished history performing the great masterworks, this community of committed musicians has continued to thrive and inspire audiences under a legacy of great conductors. It is my great joy and privilege to join Pro Arte as their next Music Director and continue the great performance legacy of this ensemble. I look forward to leading

them to a renewed era of artistry, impassioned music making and community engagement.”

“I am delighted that Pro Arte will be in such good hands with Bryan as their new musical leader,” said Steven Fox. “Having had the chance to meet Bryan a little over a year ago in New York, I think that he is just the right person for this special role. I am so happy for both the Chorale and for Bryan.”

Bryan is a young conductor recognized for his “strong musical imagination” and “deep sense of musicality and communication.” A native New Yorker, he received a Bachelor of Music in Sacred Music from Westminster Choir College and a Master of Music in Conducting from the University of Michigan. He is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting at the Manhattan School of Music.

Bryan began his professional musical training as a member of the Metropolitan Opera Children’s Chorus and as a boy chorister at The Church of the Transfiguration NYC. At the age of sixteen he was appointed the Assistant Choirmaster at Transfiguration while also serving as the Assistant Choirmaster at St. Bartholomew’s Park Avenue. Recent conducting engagements have included invitations with choirs and orchestras in England, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, Sweden, Argentina, Greece, Slovenia, Ireland and Romania. Most notably he has conducted concerts at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center and at American Choral Director’s Association Conferences. He is a recipient of several conducting awards including an American Prize award in Conducting.

Most recently, Bryan served as the Director of Choral Activities at Avon Old Farms School, as the Conductor of the Archdiocesan Choir and Orchestra at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, CT, and as a conductor of choirs at the University of Hartford.

Bryan is the Associate Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and made his conducting debut with the Cathedral's Choirs at Westminster Abbey, London. "I am extremely proud of the work Bryan Zaros has done as Associate Choirmaster at the Cathedral, and also through his doctoral studies at the Manhattan School of Music," said Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. "He embodies that rare combination of musicality, excellent people skills and a commitment to doing the hard work it takes to truly be a fine conductor. It gives me great joy to see him take on the music director position with the Pro Arte Chorale, and I look forward to witnessing his work with this cherished and esteemed ensemble!"

Bryan was recently featured in Met Chorus Artists (Where are they now – Growing up in the Met Family). To read more about him: MetChorusArtists.com.

The Pro Arte Chorale wishes Steven Fox continued success in his endeavors, and we are grateful for the years of musical excellence he brought to our singers and audience. We look forward to building on this success and level of excellence under Bryan's new leadership and talent.

Upcoming Events



~ Save the Dates for our Summer Sings ~

July 30: Choral Treasures of Mozart, Schubert, Haydn and Palestrina

August 27: A Mosaic Mass featuring movements from beloved masterpieces

Meet and sing with Pro Arte's new music Director, Bryan Zaros!

Summer Sings will be held at 7:30pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ridgewood.

Admission \$10, includes score rental. Refreshments will be served!

No reservations required.

Noteworthy



Henrique Neves

Henrique was featured in our October 2016 Newsletter during his 2nd season with Pro Arte Chorale. He had joined our ranks the previous season for our performance of Carmina Burana with the NJ Festival Orchestra, and has been a dedicated member ever since. When we first featured him in the Newsletter, he was just starting his studies as a Vocal Performance student at the prestigious Juilliard School Pre-College/Preparatory Division, studying under the instruction of Lorraine Nubar.

Over the past four years the members of the Chorale have had the great pleasure of getting to know Henrique, to enjoy his outgoing personality and wonderful voice at our rehearsals and concerts, and to celebrate his many musical achievements. Most recently, in addition to preparing for his finals at high school, Henrique gave his Senior Recital at Juilliard and was given an Honorable Mention by YoungArts. It should come as no surprise that we all celebrated with Henrique as he was receiving acceptances to prestigious universities this spring. So it is with pride, and some sadness, that we bid farewell to Henrique

after our June concert as he moves on to greater things as a student at Harvard University, and at the New England Conservatory! We wish him every success with his continued academic and music studies, and look forward to the day when we can say "I knew him when..."

Bravo Henrique!



Did You Know?

Masters of Baroque: Vivaldi and Handel



Vivaldi



Handel

- **Vivaldi's undiscovered music** – Despite the fact Vivaldi wrote around 800 different works, his music was rarely played after his death in 1741, when his manuscripts were locked away or even attributed to other composers because he was deemed to be out of favor. Much of Vivaldi's music that was lost or hidden is being gradually rediscovered. In 1926 Dr. Alberto Gentili was asked to appraise some old manuscripts from a monastery in Piedmont. Dr. Gentili realized he was dealing with some of Vivaldi's original manuscripts, and was able to acquire and save all of the collection in the Turin Library. It was as if Vivaldi had been born a second time, and had a very short, implausibly prolific career. By the 1950s, his music held a unique place in the canon. Vivaldi's flute concerto, *Il Gran Mogol*, was rediscovered in October 2010 in Scotland, and a previously undiscovered manuscript of his opera *Orlando Furioso* was found in July 2012.
- **Vivaldi the priest** – As was common for the eldest son in a wealthy family, Vivaldi was ordained in 1703 as a Catholic priest after studying for the position for ten years. He soon acquired the nickname *il Prete Rosso* ("The Red Priest") because of his red hair. However, within a year of being ordained, Vivaldi was excused from the daily celebration of Mass because of a "tightness of the chest".
- **Vivaldi the teacher** – Alongside his religious duties, the composer spent 37 years of his life as a composer, teacher, and conductor at the Pio Ospedale della Pietà asylum for orphaned girls. The original building is now a hotel restaurant, but the nearby church was completed in 1761, 20 years after Vivaldi's death
- **Vivaldi Gloria** – Often known simply as the Vivaldi Gloria, the enduring piece isn't Vivaldi's only setting of the religious text: he's known to have written at least three. Only two survive,

but it's not confirmed which one was written first. When Vivaldi's now famous Gloria was rediscovered, Alfredo Casella loved the composer so much, he organized 'Vivaldi Week' where the Gloria and *l'Olympiade* were revived in 1939.

- **Handel and the secret clavichord** – Handel's lawyer father was not a huge fan of his son's musical ambitions. In fact, when he was a boy, Handel had to sneak to the attic to play a clavichord that had been hidden up there. While on a trip with his father, someone placed Handel on an organ stool and, to everyone's surprise, he began to play! The Duke of Johann Adolf I was present and became so impressed that he convinced Handel's father to let the young boy study music.
- **Duel with Mattheson** – A bizarre incident in 1704 might have seen Handel's composing career cut tragically short after a set-to with fellow composer Johann Mattheson. For reasons apparently unknown, the two had a fierce quarrel in which Mattheson almost killed Handel with his sword, which fortunately struck a button on Handel's chest rather than the chest itself.
- **London calling** – Handel was a hit in London, as evidenced by the very generous salary of £200 he received from Queen Anne when he moved there in 1712. Handel's successes in London continued, and he was eventually made the musical director of The Royal Academy of Music. In 1711 the London stage was treated to its first ever opera composed specifically for it. The premiere performance of Handel's *Rinaldo* took place at the Queen's Theatre in Haymarket.
- **Divas at the opera** – Handel was such a popular opera composer that he was allowed to pick his own leading ladies. However, this perk led to an almighty bust-up between sopranos Faustina Bordoni and Francesca Cuzzoni, two rival singers of the day, who ended up having a scrap on stage during a performance of Bononcini's *Astianatte*. They both had to be dragged off stage to stop them pulling bits off each other's costumes.

Support the Pro Arte Chorale



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The Pro Arte Chorale is committed to enriching the lives of its audience and the broader community by exploring a variety of classical musical traditions over more than six centuries, up to and including Opera Choruses, American Spirituals and Broadway Show Tunes. However, producing excellent musical experiences with talented leadership, soloists, and musical accompaniment is costly. Contributions from our loyal supporters and broader community are critical to our success as we continue to present quality concerts for our audiences. We hope you will join us in keeping the music alive by supporting the Pro Arte Chorale. Thank you!

To donate by mail, please make check payable to Pro Arte Chorale
PO Box 662, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

For online donations: www.proartechorale.org

The Pro Arte Chorale welcomes voices in all sections. We will be hosting auditions throughout the season on Monday nights @7pm. Singers interested in auditioning will be asked to prepare a piece of music that best highlights their voice, and will also be tested for range and reading ability. To schedule an audition, please contact us via email (info@proartechorale.org) or via phone (201) 497-8400. We rehearse on Monday nights, 7:30 – 10:00pm at The Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ridgewood.



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Pro Arte Chorale is a registered 501(c)3. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

