

ENSEMBLE

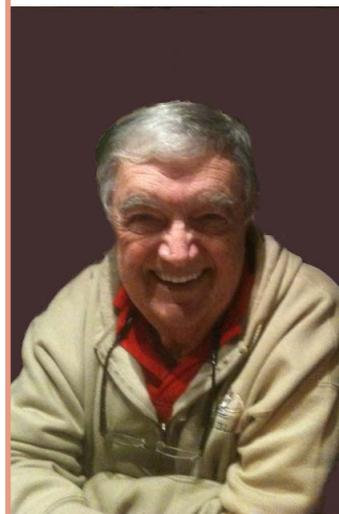
The voice of the choral art form in southwest Florida

September 2017, Volume 2. Issue 44

SEASON PREVIEW 2017-2018 ISSUE

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From the publisher



Jim George

It's September. Summer's over. Is it really that time again? Wasn't it just last weekend I saw the last concert of the 2016-17 season? Why is it that the older I get the faster time flies?

Anyway, it's a fun time of year as the September issue of Ensemble comes together and I get a preview of the offerings for the season. One thing that's changed in the past couple of years is that groups are firming up their concert schedules much earlier in the summer than they used to. Not much of the "seat-of-the-pants" planning from years ago when full schedules sometimes weren't set until late fall. It also gives me the opportunity to chat up some of the artistic directors of the different organizations and get some sense of their excitement for the season.

Impressive is the only word I can use when looking at the schedule of Choral Artists of Sarasota...Bach B Minor Mass, Carmina Burana and "Ein Deutsches Requiem" all in the same season. Bravo Joe Holt!

Opera companies are surging this coming season. All three opera companies in southwest Florida have really ambitious schedules.

Don't be confused! Some organizations have changed their names. After a few years many organizations really come to grips with just who they are and what they represent in their community, hence a name change. See page 3.

I encourage you to visit our website at www.ensemblemedia.org and click on the Performance Calendar page. The full choral performance schedule is shown there for southwest Florida for the entire season.

Who's doing what... A sampling

Naples Philharmonic Chorus

Artistic Director: Dr. James Cochran

Holidays personified with a Holiday Pops and two holiday performances of Messiah with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. A change of pace later on in the season with The Golden Age of Broadway: A Rodgers and Hammerstein Celebration!

The Venice Chorale

Artistic Director: Peter Madpak

A new tack by this chorus...A celebration of women composers, including music of Gweneth Walker, Vivian Fine & Hildegard of Bingen. That is a first for southwest Florida.

Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida

Artistic Director: Dr. Trent Brown

Kicking off their season with a "Summer Sing" of Elijah, the chorus plans two major Holiday concerts with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. The season will once again include their popular Choral Festival, Sing Out! which continues to grow each season. An additional performance with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra of Mozart's Requiem and a tribute to Leonard Bernstein will culminate the group's season.

Key Chorale

Artistic Director: Joseph Caulkins

As usual, Director Joseph Caulkins plans an eclectic season for Key Chorale's audience: From Christmas with Dale Warland to Beethoven's Choral Fantasy. Along the way Caulkins will also conduct a 200 voice choral festival and a 150 voice concert billed as the Mystical and the Devine and the popular Cirque Des Vois series.

Musica Sacra of Sarasota

Artistic Director: Dr. Robert Parrish

John Rutter is the featured composer in this groups season this year. Rutter's Magnificat and Requiem will presented in two separate concerts this season. Always an audience favorite, these concerts are sure to draw large audiences.

Opera Naples

Artistic Director: Ramon Tebar

Madame Butterfly and Marriage of Figaro headline Opera Naples' very full season this year, both with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra in fully staged productions. Don't miss these performances.

Symphonic Chorale of South- west Florida Season Schedule

Summer Sing

Tuesday, August 29, 2017, 7pm
Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

Banquet of Song

Friday, November 17, 2017, 7pm
Sanibel Community Church, Sanibel

Saturday, November 19, 3pm
Covenant Presbyterian Church

"Holiday Pops" with the Southwest Florida Sym- phony Orchestra

Tuesday, December 12, 7:30 pm
Shell Point Retirement Community

Thursday, December 14, 7:30 pm
Saint Leo The Great Catholic Church

Saturday, December 16, 7:30 pm
BB Mann Performing Arts Center

"Mozart's Requiem" with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 7:30 pm
BB Mann Performing Arts Center

"Sing Out!" Southwest Florida Choral Festival

Saturday, February 17, 10:00am 5:00pm
New Hope Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 18, 2018
3:00pm 7:00pm
New Hope Presbyterian Church

"Tribute to Leonard Bernstein honoring his 100th Birthday"

Saturday, March 24, 2018, 7:pm
New Hope Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 25, 2018, 3:pm
Bower Chapel at Moorings Park

For Information: www.symphonicchorale.org

Season preview promises new musical adven- tures ahead

CHECK THE PERFORMANCE CALENDAR
ON OUR WEBSITE, [WWW.ENSEMBLE-
MEDIA.ORG](http://WWW.ENSEMBLE-
MEDIA.ORG) FOR FULL SCHEDULE AND
SPECIFIC DATES, VENUES AND TIMES
OF ALL EVENTS OF THE SEASON.

Holiday Pops, **Naples Philharmonic
Chorus and Orchestra**

Madame Butterfly, **Opera Naples**

Bach B Minor Mass, **Choral Artists of
Sarasota**

Rutter Magnificat, **Musica Sacra of
Sarasota**

La Traviata, **Sarasota Opera**

Mystical and Divine, **Key Chorale**

Holiday Pops, **Symphonic Chorale of
SW Florida** with Southwest Florida Sym-
phony Orchestra

Beethoven Choral Fantasy, **Key Chorale.**

Rigoletto, **Gulfshore Opera,**

Carmina Burana, **Choral Artists of Sara-
sota**

Le Nozze di Figaro, **Opera Naples**

Symphony on the Sand, **Anna Maria
Island Chorus and Orchestra**

Messiah Sing- a Long—**Voices of Naples**

Carmen, **Sarasota Opera**

Messiah - 73rd consecutive performance,
Sarasota Choral Society

Mozart Requiem, **Symphonic Chorale of
Southwest Florida, with Southwest
Florida Symphony Orchestra**

Celebration of Women Composers, **The
Venice Chorale**

Christmas with Dale Warland, **Key Cho-
rale**

Naples Philharmonic Chorus

Cabaret, **Gulf Coast Harmonizers**

Christmas Show, **Spirit of the Gulf**

Oratorio de Noel, **Musica Sacra of Sara-
sota**

A Time to Love, **Bion Cantorum**

Sarasota Choral Festival, **Key Chorale**

Deck the Halls , **Mastersingers**

Annual Spring Show, **Paradise
Coastmen**

Kristallnacht Commemoration, **Sarasota
Jewish Chorale**

Holiday Christmas Concert, **Sanibel Com-
munity Chorus**

Magnificent Joy, **Venice Chorale**

Beatles Tribute, **Charlotte Chorale**

The Christmas Story, **Musica Sacra of
Sarasota**

That's Amore, **Northport Chorale**

Life and Landscape, **Venice Chorale**



Gloria Musicae now known as Choral Artists of Sarasota

The classical vocal ensemble formerly known as Gloria Musicae announced a name change at a reception at the end of last season along with plans for its 39th season coming up in 2017-18.

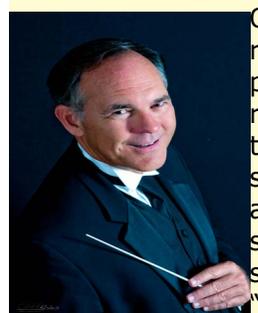
Now known as the Choral Artists of Sarasota, under the direction of Joseph Holt, Artistic Director, the group features 32 professional singers, who are joined each year by eight young performers between the ages of 16 and 22.



"A vital part of our mission is to engage young people to participate in choral music — both as singers and audience members," said executive director Susan Burke.

Susan Burke

The 2017-18 season, with a theme of "Celebrating the Classics," will feature six programs, beginning Nov. 18-19 with "J.S. Bach: Mass in B Minor," one of the composer's last completed works. Soloists Adelaide Boedecker, Thea Lobo, Blake Friedman and Calvin Griffin will perform in the program at Church of the Redeemer.



Joseph Holt
Artistic Director

On Dec. 10, the group reprises last year's hit program (with a few revisions) of "Too Hot to Handel," featuring soloists, a gospel choir and a jazz-inspired score, giving a new sound to Handel's "Messiah" at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

The ensemble will join with Sarasota Contemporary Dance for a performance of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," with vocal soloists Catherine Wethington, Jason Stearns and the Sarasota Young Voices. The program will be performed Feb. 3 and 4 at Church of the Palms.

On April 15 at First Church, the soprano Emily Martin and baritone Marcus deLoach take part in a program featuring Johannes Brahms' "Ein Deutsches Requiem" and

Clara Schumann's Piano Trio in G Minor.

Music of the silver screen is featured in the May 13 concert "Showtime" with soloists Jennifer Sheehan and Tad Czyzewski. The program is a joint venture with the Artist Series Concert.

The season's final concert continues a July 4 tradition with "A Patriotic Spectacular,"

Cape Chorale is now Gulf Coast Harmonizers

After 25 years the Cape Chorale Barbershop chorus has a new look, a new identity and a new home, all a result of a broader appeal and a broader membership, according to President, Larry Cunningham. The group originated in Cape Coral where most of its members lived. That's no longer the case. The idea of the change now reflects that more than half the membership lives outside Cape Coral. "Now you can live anywhere in the area and sing with us," Cunningham said. The group is now rehearsing at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church.

"Harmonizers is a lot more descriptive of what we do", said Duane Fenn, the groups director. "The word, Chorale, brings to mind Bach and classical music, which isn't really our thing."

The groups 45 members perform all over southwest Florida. During the late 1990's the group participated in competition and at that time were crowned Florida State Champions.

Bach Ensemble Calls it quits

For fifteen years The Bach Ensemble, Inc. has put a little Baroque music in the lives of people of Southwest Florida, but following the conclusion of last season, Founder Vic Silverstri announced that the group was suspending operations. "It has been a wonderful journey and a privilege for all of us to work with the great music of Bach, Vivaldi, Handel, Charpentier, Telemann, Mozart and many others — as well as to work with many in the community. Now it's time to end the journey," Silverstri said.

In recent years the group has changed artistic directors several times following the resignation of long time director, Ron Doiron. Membership had dropped in the past two years and most concerts were held in Bower Chapel in Naples which seats less than 200 people.

It's always unfortunate when a choral group ceases operation, especially one with a long history like the Bach Ensemble. The community is deprived of an outlet for singers who can continue their hobby well into the eighties.

In the Bach Ensemble's case it also deprives the community of a path for young artists since the Ensemble hosted a young artist competition each year and awarded scholarships.

They will be missed.



Key Chorale Auditions

Key Chorale is open to anyone high school age and up.

Auditions for the 2017/2018 Season will be held on:

- Tuesday •
- Saturday •

To schedule an audition please contact Joe Waldron 941/378.4786.

Your audition is an opportunity for our team to hear your voice, evaluate your musicianship, and get to know something about you. The audition team is comprised of the Artistic Director and Section Leaders. The process takes about 10 minutes.

Singers re-audition every three to four years to ensure the Chorale maintains its excellence.

Joseph Caulkins, Artistic Director

Attention Singers

Naples Orchestra and Chorus Auditions

Qualified musicians may audition for The Naples Orchestra & Chorus throughout the season. We strive to make auditions comfortable. Those auditioning will be asked to play or sing a short selection of their choice, and sight read or sight sing a short passage.

For information about joining the CHORUS

Please call:

John Ostrowski

Home: 239-348-0938 (All year)

johnostrowski@comcast.net

Max Rabinovitzj, Artistic Director

Gulf Coast Community Choir Auditions

The Gulf Coast Community Choir has weekly rehearsals on Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (except for a few holidays) in early September, at the First Church of the Nazarene, 3375 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, Florida. Our final benefit performance is held in early May. We are seeking individuals who have experience singing in a choir or professional setting and who are able to read music. Auditions may be held throughout the year depending on our voice part needs.

Edwina Stanley, Artistic Director

For audition information: info@gulfcoastcommunitychoir.org

Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida

Resident Chorus of the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra

Singers age 15 and up are eligible. Please bring a prepared vocal selection along with two copies of the music. You will also be asked to sing scales and to sight read. A modest financial commitment is required for member dues, purchase of some music, and concert attire.

Auditions for the 2017-2018 season will be held September 5th, 6 to 9 pm at:

Lamb of God Church, 19691 Cypress View Drive, Estero, FL

Weekly rehearsals at Lamb of God Church on Tuesdays 7 - 9:30 pm

Those interested may call 239-560-5695 for info and an appointment.

Dr. Trent Brown, Artistic director

Bion Cantorum

Bion Cantorum, a small vocal chamber group, announces a call for singers for the 2017-2018 concert year. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Music Suite of the First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte

Applicants must have previous singing experience and be able to sight read music and will be asked to sing scales, match pitch and sight read music of the Director's choice.

Positions are available for all vocal ranges

For further information and to schedule an audition, please email director Roy Engler at maestro@bioncantorum.com or call him at 239.826.7947.

Naples Philharmonic Chorus Auditions

The 100-voice Philharmonic Chorus participates in both pops and classical concerts each season with the Naples Philharmonic orchestra, including the orchestra's popular Holiday Pops and Patriotic Pops programs.

Auditions for Naples Philharmonic Chorus will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 from 5-7 pm in the Daniels Pavilion at Artis—Naples.

For more information about auditions for the Philharmonic Chorus, please call Michele Byrd - 239-592 -5398.

Dr. James Cochran, Philharmonic Chorus Conductor

The Chorus of the Keys introduces new Musical Director

Drew Kirkman joins Chorus of the Keys from Terra Haute, Indian, via Tampa, Florida and now Lakeland, FL, bringing a long line of barbershop experience with him. He has been a front line director with two other choruses in Indiana and Florida and is also currently



associate director with Tampa's Heralds of Harmony.

He has been a barbershopper for over twenty years, singing with many quartets over

that time, rising to a victory with the 2001 International Champion Quartet, Michigan Jake. They, with Drew on tenor, won the gold in Nashville, the hometown of the Barbershop Harmony Society and continue to occasionally get together for reunion shows since retiring in 2004. Drew now sings with Vantage Point, a new quartet made up of other chorus members.

The chorus has grown to an organization of 100 members. At full strength, with the return of the Snowbirds during the winter, the singing unit of the chorus grows to 40 -60 men.



Gulfshore Opera Season



The Phantom Gala | February 25th, 2018

WITH BROADWAY PHANTOM STAR, JOHN CUDIA
VANDERBILT PRESBYTERIAN & THE STRAND COUNTRY CLUB

Rigoletto | March 10th & 13th, 2018

OUR FULL SCALE PRODUCTION
CHARLOTTE CULTURAL CENTER & ST LEO PARISH LIFE CENTER

Vocal Tour de France | January 31st, 2018

THE BEST OF FRENCH OPERA, ART SONG & OPERETTA
ARTIS—NAPLES DANIELS PAVILION

Very Verdi | January 19th, 2018

ARIAS, DUETS & SCENES FROM POWERFUL MOMENTS
IN THE FAMOUS VERDI OPERAS
MARCO ISLAND - ROSE AUDITORIUM

Regional Tours | January - March 2018

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - BOOKING IN ALL 3 COUNTIES!

GRAND OPERA NIGHTS

JAN 28 | FEB 8 & 17 | MAR 2

CLASSIC CABARET

JAN 20 & 22

Gulfshore Tenors

NOV 17 | FEB 2 | APR 5

A Taste of Opera

DEC 7 - THE STRAND, JAN 25 - COLONY BAY CLUB, FEB 1 -
HIDEAWAY, MARCO ISLAND, FEB 11 - ISLES YACHT CLUB,
FEBRUARY 13 - SHANGRIHA SPRINGS, BONITA SPIRINGS

Handel's Messiah 73rd consecutive performance

Sarasota Choral Society to perform Messiah for 73rd consecutive performance. This tradition is unique in southwest Florida. The society is probably the oldest choral organization in the state and their 73 year tradition of performing this masterful work draws audiences from all over southwest Florida.

Geneviève Beauchamp serves as the Artistic Director of The Sarasota Choral Society, a position she has held since 2009. She also serves as the Founder and Artistic Director of Sarasota Young Voices (SYV), a community children's choir that serves Sarasota and Manatee Counties, and is the Director of Music at Church of the Palms Presbyterian Church.

Information: www.sarasotachoralsociety.org



2017-18 SEASON

THE VENICE CHORALE

at the
Venice Performing Arts Center



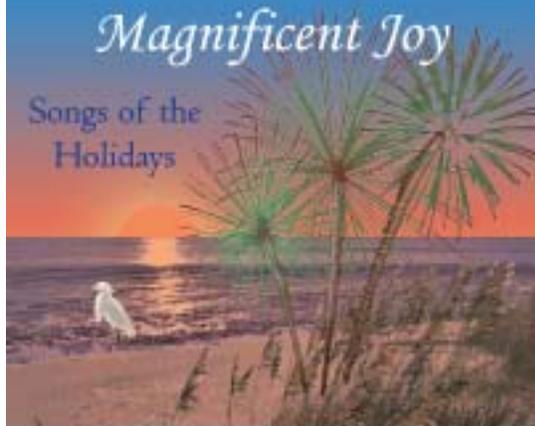
Peter Madpak,
Artistic Director

December 3, 2017 3:30 p.m.

Featuring the *Magnificat* by John Rutter

Magnificent Joy

Songs of the
Holidays



BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

A Celebration of Women Composers
February 11, 2018 3:30 p.m.

Including music of Gweneth Walker,
Vivian Fine & Hildegard of Bingen



April 8, 2018 3:30 p.m.

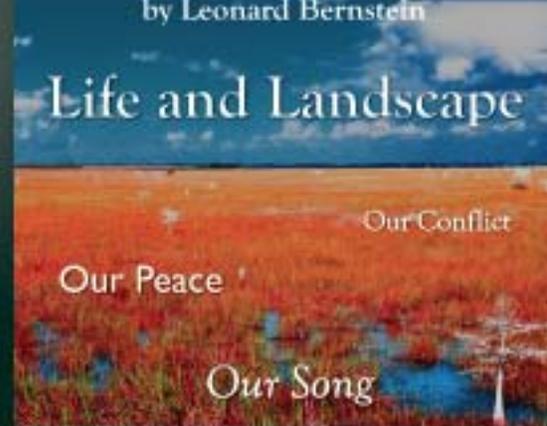
Featuring the *Chichester Psalms*
by Leonard Bernstein

Life and Landscape

Our Peace

Our Conflict

Our Song



Tickets: TheVeniceChorale.org or 941-484-8491
Season ticket packages and group discounts available.

Come sing with us!

Singers from 4th grade to post-retirement are invited to join the Venice Chorale for our 2017-18 season.

Youth Chorus informational meeting and registration on September 11 at 5:30 is open to 4th-8th graders. No audition is necessary. Rehearsals Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Auditions for the Concert Choir on September 25 at 7:00 p.m. are open to adults and high school students. Come prepared with an informal piece. No appointment necessary. High school students can also apply for our Apprentice Program. Rehearsals Mondays, 7:00 – 9:15 p.m.

Location: Building 42 at Venice High School, behind Venice Performing Arts Center. Membership dues \$75 or \$140/couple for adults and \$25 for students. Scholarships available. Visit venicechorale.org or email venexs@gmail.com for more information.