

ENSEMBLE

The voice of the choral art form in southwest Florida

September 2018, Volume 2, Issue 52

SEASON PREVIEW 2018-2019

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From the publisher



Jim George

The new season is upon us and it's time to look forward to a season of great music. But first we're excited that we begin this season with a new website... a new look. We've

re-done our chorus and artistic director's galleries, instituted a new performance calendar and cleaned up the Chorus Links page. We hope you like our new look and encourage you to visit our site, www.ensemblemedia.org, at your earliest opportunity.

I encourage you to click on the Performance Calendar page. The full choral performance schedule is shown there for southwest Florida for the entire season. It is our most active page during the season as many supporters of the choral art form use it as a source for planning their choral entertainment.

As always we also encourage your feedback on the website and/or Ensemble Choral Newsletter. As we enter our eighth year of publication we are ever cognizant that our readers are our primary focus. The success of this publication and the constant positive feedback we receive has been a gratifying experience. Our original objective was to be the voice of the choral art form in southwest Florida. We feel that objective has been consistently met based on what our readers tell us.

Southwest Florida offers some of the best in choral entertainment whether it's classical, Barbershop, show choruses, professional or amateur. Audiences are growing as the quality of the music has improved and I think that now the choral art form is here to stay with an ever brightening future.

So once again we begin a new season...
Enjoy!

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 Holst's Planets.

The Venice Chorale

Artistic Director: Peter Madpak

The Brahms Requiem and John Rutter will be featured in the Chorale's upcoming season

Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida

Artistic Director: Dr. Trent Brown

Kicking off their season with a "Summer Sing" of John Rutter's Requiem, the chorus plans 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. A performance with Opera Naples of Aida and a performance with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra of Verdi's Requiem will round out their season

Key Chorale

Artistic Director: Joseph Caulkins

As usual, Director Joseph Caulkins plans an eclectic season for Key Chorale's audience: Misatango, a tango mass from Argentina, combines the passion of tango with the ancient beauty of the Latin mass sung to the melodies and rhythms of the streets of Buenos ...

World-renowned organist Craig Williams, brass sextet, flute and percussion join Key Chorale in a holiday program of carols and seasonal music. James Whitbourn's Missa Carolae, commissioned for the 1400th anniversary of England's Rochester Cathedral.

Musica Sacra of Sarasota

Artistic Director: Dr. Robert Parrish

Going Baroque at Christmas -AGAIN! features the Christmas Story, Heinrich Schutz and JS Bach Cantata 140 Wachet Auf followed in February with Karl Jenkins' Stabat Mater. Like much of Jenkins' earlier work, his Stabat Mater incorporates both Western music (orchestra and choir) with ethnic instruments and vocals, this time focusing on the Middle East.

Opera Naples

Artistic Director: Ramon Tebar

The company begins its season with two performances of the ever popular Aida.

CALLING ALL SINGERS!
AUDIENCE MEMBERS WELCOME, TOO!

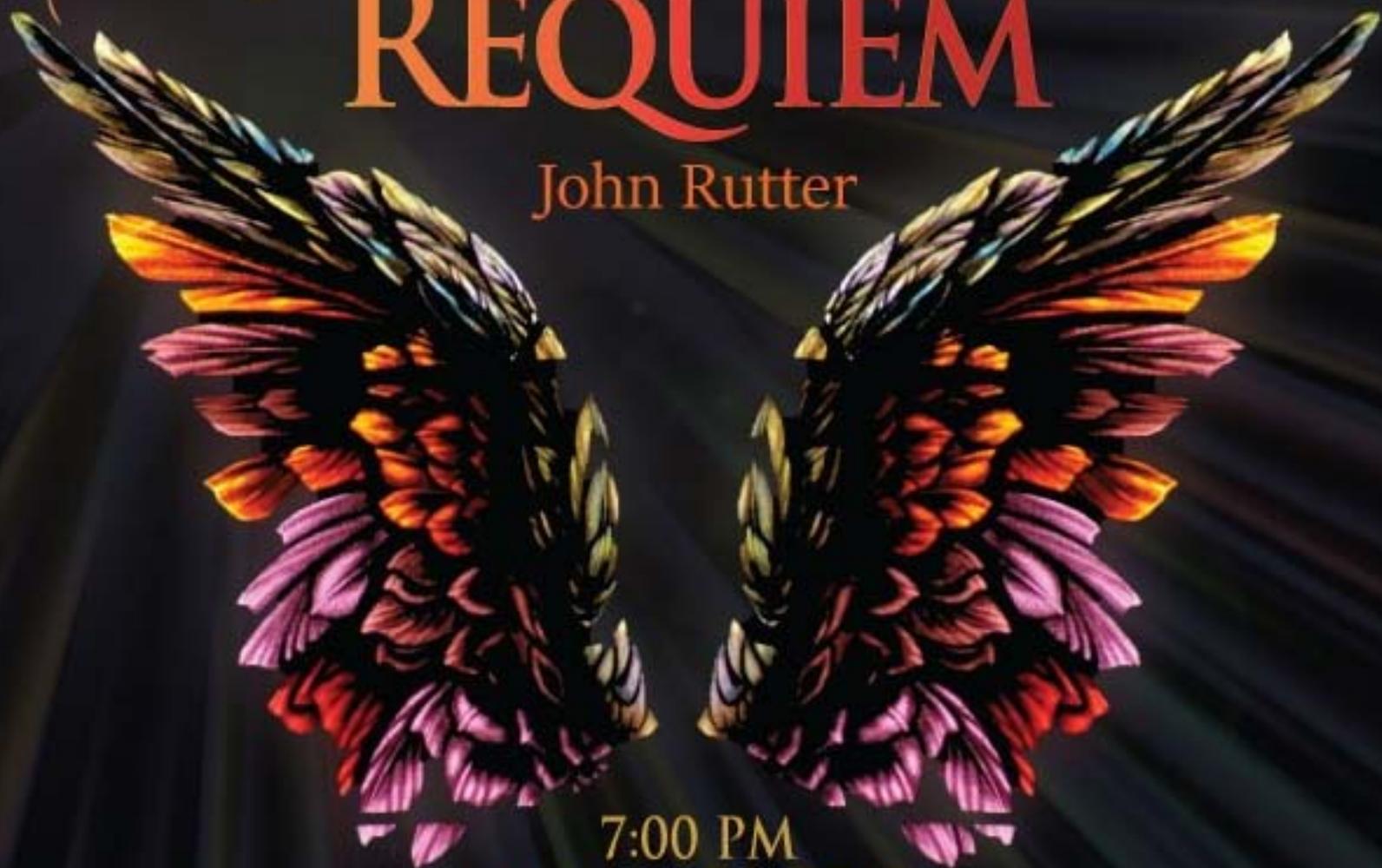
FREE ADMISSION



Come sing through selected movements of

REQUIEM

John Rutter



7:00 PM

AUGUST 28, 2018

SIDNEY & BERNE DAVIS ART CENTER

Bring your voice & enthusiasm!

Music will be provided, or bring your own score.

For more information/registration go to:
www.SymphonicChorale.org
or call 239-560-5695

Special Thanks to:



Symphonic
Chorale
of Southwest Florida

Dr. Trent Brown, Artistic Director

Symphonic Chorale of South- west Florida Season Schedule

Summer Sing- John Rutter

Tuesday, August 28, 2018, 7pm
Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

My Spirit Sang All Day

Friday, November 2, 7pm
Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Corall

Sunday, November 4, 4pm
Sanibel Community Church

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

Thursday, Friday,, Saturday, December 6, 7,
8 , 7:30 pm
BB Mann Performing Arts Center

Sing Out! Southwest Florida

Friday, January 18, 2019, 6 pm - 9pm
New Hope Presbyterian Church

Saturday, January 19, 10am - 7:30pm
New Hope presbyterian Church

"Verdi Requiem - with Southwest Florida Sym- phony Orchestra

Saturday, March 2, 8:00 – 10:00pm
Barbara B Mann Performing Arts Hall

Some Strings Attached

Friday, April 12, 7pm
St Mary's Episcopal Church, Bonita Springs

Sunday, April, 14, 4 pm. Faith United Method
ist Church, Fort Myers

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**

Aida, **Opera Naples**

Brahms German Requiem, **Choral Artists
of Sarasota**

Stabat Mater, **Musica Sacra of Sarasota**

Poulenc Mass in G, **Seraphic fire**

The Barber of Seville, **Sarasota Opera**

Fauré's Requiem, **Key Chorale**

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

Misatango, **Key Chorale.**

La Traviata, **Gulfshore Opera,**

Then Sings My Soul, **Choral Artists of
Sarasota**

Aida, **Opera Naples**

Best of Gilbert and Sullivan, **Anna Maria
Island Chorus and Orchestra**

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

Turandot, **Sarasota Opera**

Messiah - 74th consecutive performance,
Sarasota Choral Society

Brahms Requiem, **The Venice Chorale**

Elijah, **Key Chorale**

Cabaret, **Gulf Coast Harmonizers**

Christmas Show, **Spirit of the Gulf**

Going Baroque at Christmas - AGAIN!,
Musica Sacra of Sarasota

, **Bion Cantorum**

Sarasota Choral Festival, **Key Chorale**

, **Mastersingers**

Annual Spring Show, **Paradise
Coastmen**

Kristallnacht Commemoration, **Sarasota
Jewish Chorale**

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

Tis the Season, **Venice Chorale**

Bach to Bacharach, **Charlotte Chorale**

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

A Christmas Tale, **Northport Chorale**

Shades of Love, **Venice Chorale**

Don Pasquale, **Gulfshore Opera**

Holst's Planets - **Naples Philharmonic
Chorus**



THE BENEFITS OF CHORAL SINGING

WHY PEOPLE SING IN CHOIRS.

Singers were asked to indicate their top reasons for singing in a choir (and responses were examined with respect to demographic data. The most frequently selected reason for choral singing among study participants was neither skill-oriented nor socially driven. In fact, the pure joy of singing had the highest selection rate (76.8%). Above all other reasons, the act of singing itself was the primary motivation for choral participation, substantiating previous findings. The second most popular reason was the opportunity to sing under a good conductor (50.3%). Choral singers are most certainly motivated by the personality and character of their choral leaders.

Going beyond the question of why they sing in a choir, singers were asked to relate the benefits they gleaned from their choral experiences as well as any negative aspects of participation. To explore this, singers were asked to rate, on a 5-point scale, their range of agreement or disagreement with sixty statements, each of which (without the singers' knowledge) represented one of six overarching categories: 1) Aesthetic Benefits, 2) Skill Benefits, 3) Social Benefits, 4) Health Benefits, 5) Self Benefits and 6) Costs. As with reasons for participation, perceived benefits were considered in relation to demographics and musical background.

The highest rated statements were those related to Aesthetic Benefits (for example, exposure to quality repertoire and a variety of musical styles, enjoyment of a challenge, desire to improve one's sense of discipline, and greater appreciation for and understanding of the arts). These types of benefits had the highest ratings among those who had taken or were taking private lessons in both voice and piano. Second to Aesthetic benefits were those pertaining to Skill. However, people who had sung in their high-school or college/university choirs were considerably less likely to value benefits related to skill-development in comparison to singers with less previous choral experience. The Social benefits of choral participation were well acknowledged by most of the singers, which was interesting given that very few indicated this as a main reason for participation. As with some of the other categories, those of a Social nature were rated much higher among the fe-

males. Also worth mentioning is that the Social benefits were the only ones for which education played a significant role: that is, the higher the degree earned, the less value placed on the social aspect of choral participation. Conversely, the perception of Social benefits rose steadily in relation to years of community choir experience—more years of choir participation showed greater appreciation for the social benefits it provides.

It was surprising that the Health benefits among singers were not more prominent. However, singers showed considerable agreement with two particular statements categorized under Health, one pertaining to stress reduction and the other, improved breath capacity. An interesting relationship also emerged between the Health and Self benefits: these were the only two categories of responses that varied in accordance to church choir participation. Specifically, church choir participation corresponded with higher estimations of both. Perhaps the setting and spiritual purpose of their singing increased these singers' awareness of benefits they received. As with the Social benefits, those related to Health and Self were rated higher by females than by males, and were also more present among singers presently or previously involved with private voice or piano lessons. These singers appeared to be well attuned to the impact of music participation on their physical and mental well being. Overall, males were more prone than females to lament the Costs of choral singing, a category

that captured some of the challenges faced by singers (for example, loss of family time or financial strain). Education was found to be a significant factor in singers' responses to these statements. Following the trend related to Social benefits, the perception of burden decreased with education level. Singers' estimations of the costs and commitments of choral singing were significantly higher among those with high school degrees than those holding masters or doctoral degrees. People with music experiences beyond or prior to their participation in a community choir were the least likely to experience the Costs of choral singing, suggesting that a heightened sense of the negative aspects of choral participation might be associated with lower levels of musical aptitude or experience.

The results of this study provide a small, but representative, account of who adult singers are and why choral singing is important to them. Choral singing plays a vital role in forming individuals and communities, and the satisfaction that comes from singing is best met when social, spiritual, physical, psychological and musical benefits are mutually fostered and encouraged.

This is a partially summarized article based on a study. In 2003 and 2009, Chorus America put out the Chorus Impact Study. In 2004, Bell published An Update on Community Choirs and Singing in the United States. This article was derived from a similar type of study carried out in Canada. Ten choirs (452 singers in total) were surveyed from across south-central Ontario.

Submitting news, photos, concert information?

We welcome news, photos and concert schedules and information from your organization.

Ensemble, like any publication operates under deadlines. Our final deadline for any information to be published is the 15th of the month prior to the month published. For example, for publication in the December issue, our deadline is November 15. Information received after the 15th will not be published the following month.

As a general rule we receive more information each month than we can publish in the newsletter so the earlier we receive your information the more likely it is to be published. We will make every effort to publish your information. In some cases we will publish a Flash with overflow information.

Information pertaining to concerts are more effective and more visually appealing if you have art work or generate a poster for the event. Be sure to include date, time, venue and any information about soloists and accompaniment as well as details about the program.

Submittals should be made to www.ensemblemedia.org

Key Chorale Auditions

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

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

Saturday, August 25, 10 am-1PM
Tuesday, August 28, 6-9PM

To schedule an audition please contact Joe Waldron 941/378.4786 or jwcommerce@verizon.net.

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

AUDITION for Our Exciting 2018-2019 Season!

Audition appointments for Volunteer, Professional Core or Student Apprentice Scholarship Singers are primarily held in August/September and again in January.

Email or call for information/to schedule an audition:
Contact@SymphonicChorale.org or call 239-560-5695

Dr. Trent Brown, Artistic Director

Bion Cantorum

Bion Cantorum, a small vocal chamber group, announces a call for singers for the 2018-2019 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 in September 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



Handel's Messiah 74th consecutive performance

Sarasota Choral Society to perform Messiah for 74th 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

Choral Artists of Sarasota

2018-2019 Season

Then Sings My Soul

Sunday, October 14, 2018, 4pm
Church of the Redeemer

Rejoice!!

Sunday, December 9, 2018, 4pm
First Church

From the Heart

Brahms German Requiem

Saturday, February 16, 2019, 4pm
First Church

Afternoon of Operetta

Mother's Day Concert

Artist Series Concerts production

Sunday, May 12, 2019, 4pm
Sarasota Opera House

Sounds of Freedom

Thursday, July 4, 2019 4:30pm
First Church

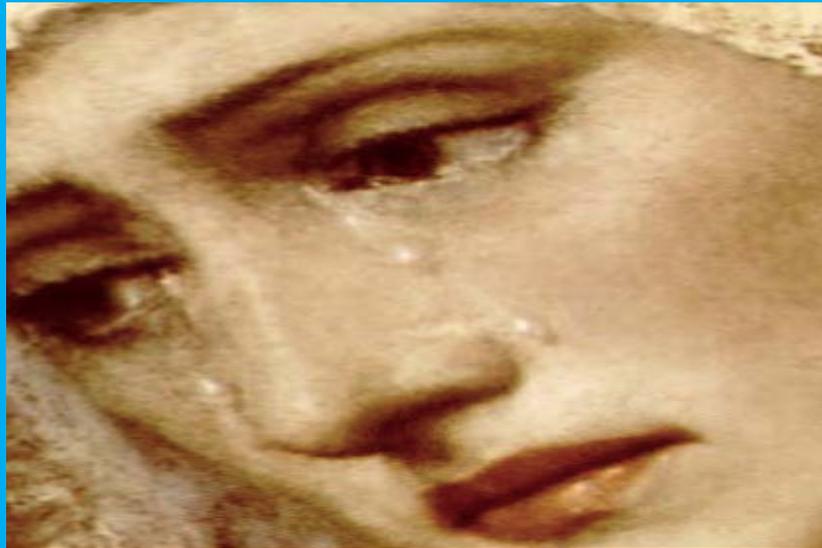
Tickets available August 2018

Concert Poster Page

Key Chorale



Musica Sacra of Sarasota
Stabat Mater



Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida

