

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

December 2017

Pro Arte Chorale

From the Podium



The Pro Arte Chorale continues to make great strides artistically. In preparation for our upcoming December concert, we are having the chance to revisit some of the repertoire we did in our very first concert together... six years ago! It is amazing to see how the group has developed over that time. Works that were very challenging to sing a capella back then, such as Vaughan Williams' *Blessed Son of God* and Warlock's *Bethlehem Down*, are now so much more natural for the group. And our sound is better than ever. We are even taking on more challenging a capella works in this program, such as the Marian (Advent) pieces: Rachmaninoff's *Bogoroditse Devo* and Tavener's *Hymn to the Mother of God*. In both of those works, the chorus divides up into as many as 10 parts at a time – this is something I don't think we would have been able to handle as easily six years ago, but now the singers are handling it with great aplomb!

I'm also looking forward to this upcoming program because it will be our second collaboration with the New Jersey Wind Symphony (Chris Wilhelm, director), a wonderful ensemble that we had the pleasure of performing with last season in Bruckner's *Mass in E minor*. We are looking forward to sharing the stage with them once again on December 3rd and performing Daniel Pinkham's joyous *Christmas Cantata* as well as Gabrieli's rich and majestic *In ecclesiis*, a stunning late Italian Renaissance work.

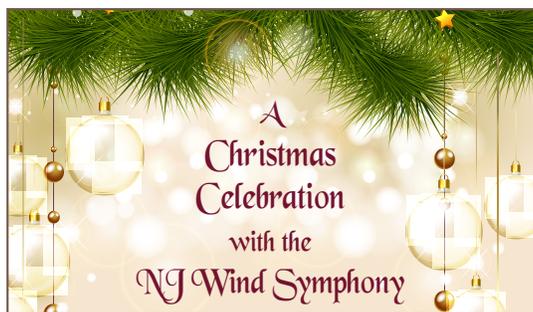
After the end of this rich and beautiful concert we will have a sing-along with some favorite carols with our audience.

We look forward to seeing you there and ushering in the start of the holiday season with you!

Sincerely,

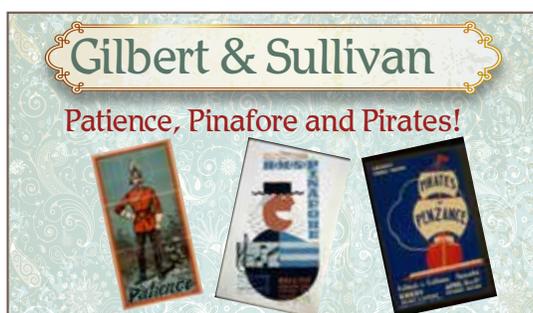
Steven Fox, Music Director

Upcoming Concerts and Events



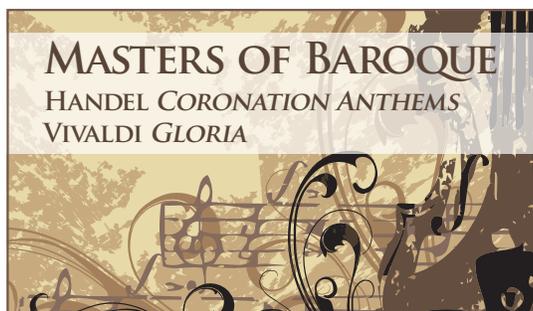
Sunday, December 3, 2017 – 4:00pm

Pro Arte Chorale will be joined by members of the NJ Wind Symphony in a concert featuring Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, Vaughn Williams' *The Blessed Son of God*, and favorite traditional carols!



Sunday, March 18, 2018 – 4:00pm

Don't miss this performance of choruses and solos from favorite G&S operettas, featuring baritone Richard Holmes from the NY Gilbert & Sullivan Players. This is family entertainment at its very best!



Sunday, June 3, 2018 – 4:00pm

Pro Arte Chorale closes the season with the Masters of Baroque, Handel and Vivaldi. Featuring brass and percussion from NY's Clarion Orchestra, soprano Esteli Gomez and mezzo-soprano Mikki Sodergren.

***All concerts are held at the
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ridgewood***

***To purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.proartechorale.org
or call 201-497-8400***

PRO ARTE CHORALE
presents

Messiah Sing

Pro Arte Chorale invites you to ring in the holiday season as Maestro Steven Fox conducts a joyous sing-along of Handel's Messiah

Monday December 11, 2017 at 7:30pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
155 Linwood Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ

Bring your own score or use one of ours

Admission \$10, includes score rental and refreshments

Reservations not required



For more information please visit proartechorale.org,
info@proartechorale.org or 201-497-8400



This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Performance venue is handicapped accessible.
Large print programs are available at every concert.



Noteworthy

Pro Arte Chorale member Catherine Guinard began choral singing in her Church, first in the youth choir where she also played guitar, then in the adult choir, which she joined at age sixteen. She continued to sing in the choir at William Paterson College while studying for a degree in accounting.

When Argine Safari became the music director in her Church, Argine and Pro Arte member Mike Stella encouraged Cathy to join Pro Arte Chorale, which she did in 2005. Remembering singing with her mom, Cathy says, “our voices blend beautifully, and she taught me to harmonize.” She comments that making harmony is the reason she enjoys singing second soprano in the group.

“I like to be challenged and love to learn,” Cathy says. She is especially grateful to Maestro Steven Fox for his efforts to teach correct vocal techniques during warm ups and for exacting fine tone and quality from the group. Reflecting on her years with Pro Arte, Cathy says one of her favorite experiences was singing in Liverpool with the Welsh Choir. “Traveling to the UK united our group,” Cathy says, “and we really got to know each other outside of singing.”

While Cathy has a full time career as an accountant, she has been bookkeeper for Pro Arte since 2009. For the last two years, she has also undertaken the job of manager. As part of her many duties, she orders all of the music for the members and assumes many behind the scenes tasks necessary to help the choir run smoothly.

Cathy’s sensitivities extend beyond her love of music. With lots of support from her loving husband, Jason, for years she has devoted much of her time to advocate for animal rights. She works with Grateful Doggies Rescue Retreat and since 2006 has volunteered with Best Friends Animal Society, a national organization based in Utah. She participates in events to raise money for local rescues, cares for animals in shelters and assists with adoptions. Periodically, she travels across the country to pick up unwanted dogs, then transports them to shelters for adoption. She recently traveled to Houston after Hurricane Harvey to help care for displaced pets waiting to be claimed by their owners or needing placement in foster homes or shelters. “I volunteer with animals because they cannot speak for themselves.”

Cathy is a very busy person. Nevertheless, she makes time to give selflessly to Pro Arte. The group is grateful for all Cathy does.



Support the Pro Arte Chorale



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!

For online donations, please visit our website at www.proartechorale.org.

To donate by mail, please make check payable to Pro Arte Chorale, PO Box 662, Ridgewood, NJ, 07451

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.



This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

