

*"He who sings scares away his woes."*  
~ Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra ~

February 2018

# Pro Arte Chorale

## From the Podium



© Paul Donohoe Photography

It is with mixed emotions that the Pro Arte Chorale announces the departure of our Music Director, Steven Fox, at the end of our 2017-2018 season. Maestro Fox recently accepted the position of Music Director at The Cathedral Choral Society in Washington DC, succeeding its music director of three decades, J. Reilly Lewis. We are thrilled for Steven as he moves on to the wonderful opportunity and challenge of leading a large symphonic chorus in Washington National Cathedral, but we are very sorry to lose his inspiring musicianship and conducting talents that have brought Pro Arte Chorale to new artistic heights over the past six seasons.

"Working with Pro Arte over the last six years has been one of the most gratifying musical periods of my life," said Steven. "Not only have we made beautiful music together, but we built friendships that will last forever. I will remain invested in the continued success of this ensemble, which has grown so much in recent years. I know they will be moving ahead to even greater heights, and I plan to remain a great friend of the Chorale. The group will always hold a very special place in my heart."

You still have an opportunity to see Steven's brilliant conducting and hear the lovely choral sound he elicits from us in our final two concerts with him. On Sunday, March 18 Pro Arte Chorale will present a concert featuring a selection of favorites from the operettas of Gilbert & Sullivan, including "Gondoliers", "Patience", and "Yeoman of the Guard". The Chorale will be joined by baritone Richard Holmes, a veteran of the renowned NY Gilbert & Sullivan Players, for this light-hearted concert for the whole family. Our final concert with Steven will take place on Sunday, June 3, featuring the Masters of Baroque: Handel's Coronation Anthems and Vivaldi's Gloria, with brass and percussion from NY's Clarion Orchestra. You won't want to miss these final two concerts with Steven Fox, a 2017 Grammy®-nominee, leading the Pro Arte Chorale. Get your tickets now to experience his brilliant musicianship before he moves on to greater conducting heights!

**Upcoming  
Concerts  
and Events**

*Don't miss our final two concerts with Steven Fox conducting the Pro Arte Chorale!*

PRO ARTE CHORALE  
presents

**GILBERT  
&  
SULLIVAN**

**Operetta Highlights**

Featuring baritone Richard Holmes  
of the renowned  
NY Gilbert & Sullivan Players

**Steven Fox, Music Director**

**Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 4pm**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
155 Linwood Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ

For ticket information, please visit our  
website at [www.proartechorale.org](http://www.proartechorale.org)  
(201) 497-8400  
Tickets: \$25/\$20/\$10

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

The program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The program is sponsored in part by funds from PNC Bank.

PNC WEALTH MANAGEMENT

PRO ARTE CHORALE  
presents

**Masters of Baroque**

Handel - *Coronation Anthems*  
Vivaldi - *Gloria*

Steven Fox, Music Director

Featuring brass and percussion from  
NY's Clarion Orchestra, soprano Esteli Gomez  
and mezzo-soprano Mikki Sodergren

**Sunday, June 3, 2018 at 4pm**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
155 Linwood Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ

For ticket information, please visit our  
website at [www.proartechorale.org](http://www.proartechorale.org)  
(201) 497-8400  
Tickets: \$30/\$25/\$10

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

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

*We close our 2017-2018 season with an evening of celebration, as we host our Annual Spring Dinner/Dance Benefit on June 6, 2018 at the Ridgewood Country Club.*

**Pro Arte Chorale**  
**Spring Dinner/Dance Benefit**

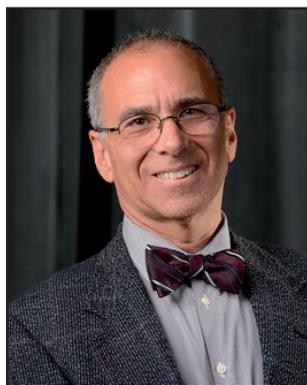
*Save the Date*

Ridgewood Country Club  
Paramus, NJ  
Wednesday, June 6th, 2018  
at 7:00pm

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](mailto: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.



## Noteworthy



## Jeffrey Kresky

Pro Arte Chorale has welcomed a new Member to its Board of Trustees – Jeffrey Kresky, a long-time resident of Ridgewood, a composer, keyboardist and conductor who is just now retiring from a 45-year career as Professor of Music at William Paterson University, where he chairs the music theory area and directs the Program in Music Honors.

Jeffrey did his undergraduate work at Columbia College, and got his Ph.D. from Princeton. Jeffrey's connection to Pro Arte goes far back – preceding even his move to Ridgewood in 1979. A lifelong friend of our former Music Director Roger Nierenberg, Jeffrey explained, "I was invited to join Pro Arte's concert trip to the Grand Tetons, which introduced me to this wonderful group of singers." It was at that time that he came to know the Pro Arte Chorale Founder John Coulter, Susan Vasiliadis and others who were importantly involved in Pro Arte's formation and continued success.

Quite separately, he and Jane Dougan (also a Member of our Board and a Pro Arte singer for the last 20 years) have been friends since their college days at Columbia, when Jeff and Jane were both members of the Barnard Gilbert and Sullivan Society, where he served as music director. In that capacity, as an undergraduate, Jeff directed performances of many of the G&S operettas, including *Yeoman of the Guard*, *The Gondoliers*, *Iolanthe* and *Patience*, excerpts of which will be performed by Pro Arte in its forthcoming concert of G&S Operetta Highlights. Jeff's love of the "Savoy operas" led him to decades of work as conductor and music director with The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, the nation's leading custodian of this repertory.

For Pro Arte's upcoming G&S Highlights concert on March 18, Maestro Steven Fox and Jeffrey worked together to select the elements of the program. "I was delighted to work with Steven, who is such an extraordinary musician," Jeffrey says. "Together we were able to create a program that will be a stunning combination of some of the most musically interesting work in the G&S repertoire, including some of Sullivan's most symphonic and operatic moments." Recently, Jeffrey has also been contributing his musical knowledge and expertise as a member of Pro Arte Chorale's Search Committee, which is working on the selection of Pro Arte's next Music Director.

Jeff is the author of two published books in the areas of music criticism and analysis, along with many journal articles. He has also written four – unpublished – novels.

## Did You Know?



W.S. Gilbert



Arthur Sullivan

## Gilbert & Sullivan Fun Facts

- Queen Victoria was especially fond of the G&S operas, and even knighted Sullivan (in 1883) and suggested he write a ‘grand opera’ – which he did, but with little success!
- G&S rapidly became an international sensation, with very early productions of their works in various European countries and in America where, however, their copyright was not in effect. For that reason, they actually launched *The Pirates of Penzance* in New York, only days prior to its London premiere, and so were able to secure an enforceable American copyright. (The immediately previous work, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, had been subject to endless sloppy American versions, which irritated the authors very much.)
- Sullivan had constant struggles trying to balance his theater music with his more “serious” work, almost none of which significantly survives. Gilbert too was an otherwise very active theatrical presence in his day, but again with little surviving outside of his joint work with Sullivan. Somehow each in the pair brought out the best in the other.
- Gilbert was knighted in 1907, but he was the first person to be knighted for his plays alone; other dramatist knights had also performed political and other services. Gilbert was sharp-tongued, intolerant of injustice or hypocrisy, and did not suffer fools at all, but he was also kind-hearted and generous to those in need.
- Sullivan traveled in very exclusive social circles. He was friends with the Prince of Wales and many European heads of state. On an 1881 trip to Kiel, the 22-year-old Prince William of Prussia (later known during WWI as Kaiser Wilhelm) greeted Sullivan by singing “He Polished up the Handle of the Big Front Door” from *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

## 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!

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

For online donations: [www.proartechorale.org](http://www.proartechorale.org)



Pro Arte Chorale is the proud recipient of funding from the NJ State Council on the Arts.

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