CLASSICAL MUSIC

Holiday classical picks

November 18, 2017

HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY:

BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL: ALMIRA BEMF returns to Handel’s rarely spotted early opera, in a concert performance with a cast featuring Sherezade Panthaki, Amanda Forsythe, Colin Balzer, and Christian Immler. Nov. 25 at 8 p.m., Nov. 26 at 3 p.m. Jordan Hall. Also from BEMF: a holiday program with the Tallis Scholars on Dec. 8 in St. Paul Church in Cambridge. 617-661-1812, www.bemf.org
**BOSTON POPS** The BSO rolls out its Holiday Pops programming starting on Dec. 5, with the orchestra led by Keith Lockhart. *Through Dec. 31, Symphony Hall. 617-266-1200, www.bso.org*

**BOSTON BAROQUE: HANDEL’S MESSIAH** Under the tireless direction of Martin Pearlman, this year with vocal soloists Ava Pine, Paula Murrihy, Aaron Sheehan and Stephen Powell. *Dec. 8-9, Jordan Hall. 617-987-8600, www.bostonbaroque.org*

**BOSTON CECILIA: A ROSE HAS SPRUNG** A Christmas-themed program with works by Britten, Mendelssohn, Herbert Howells, and others, led by Daniel Mahoney. Dec. 8 in Boston (Church of the Advent); Dec. 10 in Brookline (All Saints Church). *617-232-4540, www.bostoncecilia.org*


BOSTON CAMERATA: FRENCH CHRISTMAS MUSIC, 1500-1700 A performance by candlelight of Charpentier’s “Messe de Minuit” and more. Dec. 18, 8 p.m., First Church in Cambridge. 617-262-2092, www.bostoncamerata.org

BLUE HERON: CHRISTMAS IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND Motets by Leonel Power and John Dunstaple, as well as English carols and other works, under the direction of Scott Metcalfe. Dec. 22-23, First Church in Cambridge. 617-960-7956, www.blueheronchoir.org


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