

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cantata Singers presents F.J. Haydn's oratorio *The Creation*
Featuring soprano soloist Amanda Forsythe in her Cantata Singers debut

Date and Time: Friday, March 22, 2019 at 8pm

Location: Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston, MA

Pre-Concert Talk at 7pm with conductor Martin Pearlman, free to all ticketholders, in Williams Hall

Tickets: \$25-\$75 can be purchased by calling 617-868-5885 or visiting www.cantatasingers.org

Boston, MA—Cantata Singers presents F.J. Haydn's resplendent oratorio *The Creation* on Friday, March 22 at 8pm at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall.

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was inspired to write *The Creation* after two visits to England, the first in 1791-1792 and the second in 1794-1795. While visiting England, Haydn attended performances of oratorios by George Frideric Handel, including his monumental *Israel in Egypt*, and Haydn became inspired to write his own oratorio with his patron, librettist, and artistic adviser Baron Gottfried van Swieten.

Haydn and Swieten first began working with an anonymous poem entitled *The Creation of the World* that contained text from three different sources: the book of Genesis, the book of Psalms, and John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. This text, originally written in English, was translated by Swieten into German for Haydn to use to compose. Swieten then translated the work back into English for the final version, but adjusted the poetry to match Haydn's composition, resulting in an awkwardly worded text. *The Creation* was first published with both the German and English text, and thus became popular immediately across Europe. It was performed many times during Haydn's life, including its world premiere in Vienna in 1789 using the German text, and a London premiere in 1800 using the English text.

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Considered one of Haydn's greatest works, Music Director David Hoose and Cantata Singers return to *The Creation* for the first time since 2002. Scored for soloists, four-part chorus, and orchestra, the gloriously rich orchestral passages in *The Creation* showcase Haydn's mastery of text painting, while the monumental choruses punctuate the triumphant nature of the work. Cantata Singers will perform the German version of *The Creation*.

The Creation tells, in three parts, the biblical story of how the world was created, formed, and shaped by God in six days. Three angels, represented by three soloists, narrate the story, including the angel Gabriel, performed by soprano Amanda Forsythe in her Cantata Singers' debut, the angel Uriel, performed by tenor William Hite, and the angel Raphael, performed by bass Mark Andrew Cleveland. The first part focuses on the creation of life in heaven and on earth, the second part describes the creation of animals, and the third part shows the creation of man and woman, featuring soloists soprano Alexandra Whitfield as Eve and bass Brian Church as Adam.

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About Cantata Singers

A singular desire to bring to Boston's listeners music that isn't being heard anywhere else has inspired Cantata Singers' programming for 55 years.

In 1964, that music included the cantatas of J.S. Bach. Today, it may be hard for us to believe, but when Cantata Singers was founded in 1964, live performances of Bach cantatas were quite a rarity. In fact, Cantata Singers' early concerts featured the first Boston performances of many of the cantatas.

Bach's music, from the cantatas to the B-minor Mass to the Passions, remains an essential part of Cantata Singers' repertoire. However, the ensemble's repertoire has expanded to include music from the 17th century to today. Cantata Singers has commissioned 15 works for choir and orchestra—including one that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Music—and has presented more than fifty Boston premieres of music both old and new.

Many of Boston's most talented musicians perform regularly with Cantata Singers. The chorus is made up of singers who have careers as musicians, educators, doctors, and architects. Many of these members appear as soloists with Cantata Singers, as well as with other highly respected organizations; some conduct other choruses and orchestras in the area. Although many of our musicians perform actively as solo singers, they choose to sing with Cantata Singers because of the reward they find in performing music of the choral canon at the highest possible level.

Cantata Singers has always focused on the music—be it by Bach, Verdi, Harbison, or Pärt—and its audiences do, too. Our audiences return year after year to hear fresh visions of iconic music, or an intriguing unfamiliar work that is—in fact—quite approachable. Each Cantata Singers concert is often surprising, sometimes challenging, always beautiful, and ultimately inspiring.

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**CANTATA SINGERS
2018-2019 SEASON****CONCERT SERIES****Saturday, November 3, 2018****8 p.m. at NEC's Jordan Hall****Pre-concert talk at 7pm****David Hoose, *Music Director***

J.S. Bach: "Wachet auf," BWV 140

John Harbison: *Sacred Trilogy*

The Flight Into Egypt

But Mary Stood

The Supper at Emmaus

*First Complete Performance***Friday, December 7, 2018****8 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, Boston****Sunday, December 9, 2018****3 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, Boston****David Hoose, *Music Director***

Jacobus Gallus Handl: Mirabile mysterium

Heinrich Schütz: Dulcissime et benignissime Christe

Giovanni Gabrieli: O magnum mysterium

Dieterich Buxtehude: In dulci jubilo

Dieterich Buxtehude: Das neugeborne Kindelein

William Byrd: Vidimus stellam

William Byrd: Out of the Orient Crystal Skies

William Byrd: Hodie beata Virgo

William Byrd: Surge, illuminare, Jerusalem

Henry Purcell: O Sing Unto the Lord

Robert Parsons: Ave Maria

Friday, January 25, 2019**8 p.m. at NEC's Jordan Hall****Pre-concert talk at 7pm****David Hoose, *Music Director***

James Primosch: Matins

Peggy Pearson, oboe

Béla Bartók: Divertimento for Strings

Arvo Pärt: Te Deum

Friday, March 22, 2019

8 p.m. at NEC's Jordan Hall

Pre-concert talk at 7pm

David Hoose, *Music Director*

Franz Joseph Haydn: The Creation

Friday, May 17, 2019

8 p.m. at St. Paul Church, Cambridge

Pre-concert talk at 7pm

David Hoose, *Music Director*

Anton Bruckner: Mass No. 2 in E minor

Igor Stravinsky: Mass

Giovanni Gabrieli: Jubilate Deo

CHAMBER SERIES

Friday, February 8, 2019

7:30pm at American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge

Pre-concert talk at 6:30pm

Allison Voth, *Chamber Series Director*

Clara Schumann: Liebst du um Schönheit

Clara Schumann: Liebeszauber

Alma Mahler: Waldseligkeit

Fanny Mendelssohn: Ferne

Fanny Mendelssohn: Bergeslust

Pauline Viardot: Madrid

Lili Boulanger: Parfois, je suis triste

Lili Boulanger: Un poète disait

Nadia Boulanger: J'ai frappé

Nadia Boulanger: Le couteau

Cécile Chaminade: J'avais douté de votre amour

Cécile Chaminade: Villanelle

Germaine Tailleferre: Vrai dieu, qui m'y confortera

Germaine Tailleferre: Mon mari m'a diffamé

Pauline Viardot: Les Bohémiennes

Elizabeth Maconchy: On Stepheners Day

Rebecca Clarke: Shy One

Judith Weir: The Romance of Count Arnaldos

Jenni Pinnock: Bells in the Rain

Régine Wieniawski (Poldowski): Colombine

Rhian Samuel: In Memorium

Florence Aylward: The Window

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Emily Hall: Stillborn
Charlotte Bray: While the Bell Tolls
Thea Musgrave: Daffodils
Thea Musgrave: Willie Webster
Thea Musgrave: Hate whom ye list

Friday, April 26, 2018

7:30pm at American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge

Pre-concert talk at 6:30pm

Allison Voth, *Chamber Series Director*

Amy Beach: "The Year's at the Spring," Op. 44, No. 1

Amy Beach: "Forgotten," Op. 41, No. 3

Amy Beach: "In the Twilight," Op. 85

Margaret Bonds: "Poème d'Automne"

Margaret Bonds: "Summer Storm"

Libby Larsen: *My Antonia*

Marjorie Merryman: *Allison Joseph Songs*

Lori Laitman: *And Music Shall Not End*

Ruth Crawford Seeger: "Chinaman! Laundryman!"

Tania León: "Mi Amor Es"

Susan Botti: "Listen, it's Snowing"

Kamala Sankaram: "The Last Blast of Anthony the Trumpeter"

Sheila Silver: "A Visit to the Asylum"

Sheila Silver: "Recuerdo"

Sheila Silver: "I, being born a woman"

Sheila Silver: "First Fig (Round II)"

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High resolution photos available on our website at:
<http://www.cantatasingers.org/press-kit>

Please contact eweddle@cantatasingers.org for information and questions.



Cantata Singers
Photo Credit: James Luo



Soprano Amanda Forsythe

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