Cantata Singers concludes 2018-19 season with two masses by Bruckner and Stravinsky
Both written for chorus and wind ensembles

Date and Time: Friday, May 17, 2019 at 8pm
Location: St. Paul Church, 29 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA
Pre-Concert Talk at 7pm with Laura Prichard, Visiting Researcher in Music and Dance History at Harvard University, free to all ticketholders
Tickets: $25-$75 can be purchased by calling 617-868-5885 or visiting www.cantatasingers.org

Cambridge, MA—Cantata Singers concludes its 2018-19 Season with Anton Bruckner’s Mass No. 2 in E minor, Igor Stravinsky’s Mass, and Giovanni Gabrieli’s Jubilate Deo on Friday, May 17th at 8pm at St. Paul Church in Harvard Square.

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896), an Austrian composer, organist, and music theorist, composed his Mass No. 2 in E minor in 1866. The work was commissioned by Franz-Josef Rudigier, the bishop of Linz, Austria, to celebrate the construction of a new chapel in the cathedral. While it premiered three years later in 1869, once work on the chapel was complete, Bruckner continued to revise the Mass until 1882, when the second version premiered in Vienna. The Mass is composed for eight-part choir and a wind ensemble comprised of two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, and three trombones. Bruckner’s unique orchestration was an intentional choice, partly because the original performance was held outside, and the wind instruments carried sound better. However, the piece also includes moments where the choir sings a cappella, including the entire Kyrie. The entire Mass is musically based in the traditions of the Catholic Mass, including the use of Gregorian chant intoned by priests, and the referencing of a theme from Giovanni Palestrina’s (1525-1594) Missa Brevis, a radiant example of Renaissance polyphony.
Contrastingly, Igor Stravinsky's (1882-1971) *Mass* was written between 1944-1948, and is one of the few works by the Russian-born composer that was not commissioned. Stravinsky remarked to his friend conductor Robert Craft, "My Mass was partly provoked by some Masses of Mozart that I found at a secondhand store in Los Angeles in 1942 or 1943. As I played through these rococo-operatic sweets-of-sin, I knew I had to write a Mass of my own, but a real one." The work premiered in 1948 in Milan.

Scored for chorus and a wind ensemble comprised of two oboes, English horn, two bassoons, two trumpets, and three trombones, Stravinsky's *Mass* encapsulates his Neo-Classical period. While Stravinsky grew up in the Russian Orthodox church, he set his *Mass* to the Roman Catholic tradition, as the Orthodox faith forbids the use of instruments in Mass. Stravinsky commented, "I wanted my Mass to be used liturgically..." Stravinsky did incorporate musical references to his Orthodox faith, like the repetition of chords that references Orthodox liturgical chant.

Giovanni Gabrieli (1557-1612) was an Italian composer and organist based in Venice at St. Mark's Basilica. Written for choir in eight parts, he composed the a cappella *Jubilate Deo* to resonate in the basilica's gloriously cavernous space in 1605. Cantata Singers concludes the 18-19 Season with this jubilant and celebratory work.
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
2019-2020 SEASON

CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, November 2, 2019
7:30pm at NEC’s Jordan Hall
Pre-concert talk at 6:30pm
David Hoose, Music Director
George Frideric Handel: Solomon

Sunday, December 8, 2019
3pm at United Parish, Brookline
David Hoose, Music Director
Music from Britain for the Holiday Season
Cantata Singers Chamber Chorus

Friday, January 24, 2020
8pm at NEC’s Jordan Hall
Pre-concert talk at 7pm
David Hoose, Music Director
Charles Ives: General William Booth Enters into Heaven
Charles Ives: Psalm 67, "God be merciful unto us"
Yehudi Wyner: Give Thanks for All Things
Aaron Copland: Appalachian Spring
Irving Fine: The Choral New Yorker

Friday, March 13, 2020
8pm at First Church, Cambridge
Pre-concert talk at 7pm
David Hoose, Music Director
Gabriel Fauré: Requiem
C. Hubert H. Parry: Six Songs of Farewell

Friday, May 8, 2020
8 p.m. at NEC’S Jordan Hall
Pre-concert talk at 7pm
David Hoose, Music Director
J.S. Bach: BWV 79, "Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild"
Richard Festinger: New Work
J.S. Bach: BWV 78, "Jesu, der du meine Seele"
CHAMBER SERIES

Fri, Jan 31, 2020 / 8pm
Follen Church, Lexington
Sat, Feb 1, 2020 / 8pm
Longy School of Music, Cambridge
Pre-concert talks at 7pm
Allison Voth, Chamber Series Director
Under the Northern Lights: Songs from the Nordics

Fri, April 17, 2020 / 8pm
Follen Church, Lexington
Sun, April 19, 2020 / 4pm
Longy School of Music, Cambridge
Pre-concert talks at 7pm and 3pm
Allison Voth, Chamber Series Director
Flora and Fauna: Nature's Timeless Inspiration
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
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