

MUSICA SACRA

Music that stirs the heart, moves the soul, ignites the spirit
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MUSICA SACRA ANNOUNCES 2012-2013 CONCERT SEASON and FIRST ALBUM RELEASE UNDER DIRECTION OF KENT TRITLE

**Kent Tritle, Music Director, conducts concerts at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall,
and the Church of St. Paul the Apostle.**

**Musica Sacra releases a new studio recording entitled *Messages to Myself*,
featuring contemporary works for a cappella chorus.**



Musica Sacra is pleased to announce its 2012-2013 season of three programs featuring the Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra and a stellar cast of internationally acclaimed soloists under the leadership of Music Director Kent Tritle.

The season begins with “**JUBILATIONS**” on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 8 PM, at Alice Tully Hall, with a performance of three choral masterpieces: **Mozart’s *Exsultate, Jubilate***, **Beethoven’s *Choral Fantasy***, and **Haydn’s “*Lord Nelson*” *Mass***. The solo motet *Exsultate, Jubilate* will feature rising-star soprano **Susanna Phillips** in her debut performance with Musica Sacra. Beethoven’s *Choral Fantasy* will feature pianist Anna Shelest playing the formidable piano solo that Beethoven composed for himself. Soloists Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo soprano, John Tiranno, tenor, and Charles Perry Sprawls, bass will join Ms. Phillips and the Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra for the Beethoven and Haydn.

On Thursday, December 20, 2012 and Sunday, December 23, 2012 at 8:00 PM at Carnegie Hall’s Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage, Kent Tritle leads the choir and orchestra in Musica Sacra’s annual *Messiah* performances. While there are many occasions to hear **Handel’s *Messiah*** in New York City each holiday season, Musica Sacra’s presentations are the longest consecutive running performances by a fully professional chorus in the city’s history. Its performances have been hailed as “impressively

transparent and vibrant” and with “cleanly enunciated and radiant singing of the chorus” by *The New York Times*, and *New York Magazine* declared, “I doubt if the city offers a better version of *Messiah*.” The featured soloists are soprano Kathryn Lewek, mezzo-soprano Kirsten Sollek, tenor Nicholas Phan, and bass Matthew Boehler.

The final concert of the season, “**THE SOUL REJOICES**” will be on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 8:00 PM. The Church of St. Paul the Apostle (Columbus Ave. at 60th Street) provides the perfect venue for the range of choral music featured in Musica Sacra’s spring concert. Selections include two contrasting Magnificats: Monteverdi’s with continuo from the *Vespers of 1610* and Arvo Pärt’s a cappella Magnificat composed in 1989. John Tavener’s *Svyati* featuring cellist Arthur Fiacco and Felix Mendelssohn’s motets from *Die Deutsche Liturgie* for double chorus will round out the program.

Musica Sacra has a long history of releasing recordings to further the mission of sharing the finest choral music to the widest range of listeners possible. *Messages to Myself* was recorded in 2011 at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music and is released on the independent classical label MSR Classics. It marks Musica Sacra’s first commercial release since 1993 and its first under the direction of Kent Tritle as Music Director and Conductor. The album for a cappella chorus features works composed exclusively in the last twenty-five years and includes commissions by Musica Sacra of compositions of Daniel Brewbaker and Michael Gilbertson as well as several world premiere recordings. For more information and track listing, please visit www.msacd.com/catalog/cd/MS1411.

2012-2013 Concert Season

Monday, October 22, 2012 — 8 PM

Alice Tully Hall

Broadway at 65th Street

JUBILATIONS:

MOZART, HAYDN AND BEETHOVEN

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra

Mozart: *Exsultate, Jubilate*

Haydn: "*Lord Nelson*" Mass

Beethoven: *Choral Fantasy*

Susanna Phillips, soprano

Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo soprano

John Tiranno, tenor

Charles Perry Sprawls, bass

Anna Shelest, piano

Tickets: \$25, \$50, \$75, \$90



Thursday, December 20, 2012 — 8 PM
Sunday, December 23, 2012 — 8 PM
Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage (57th Street at 7th Avenue)

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL: Messiah

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra
Kathryn Lewek, Soprano
Kirsten Sollek, Mezzo-Soprano
Nicholas Phan, Tenor
Matt Boehler, Bass

Tickets: \$25 through \$128



Wednesday, May 15, 2013 — 8 PM
The Church of St. Paul the Apostle
Columbus Ave. at W. 60th St.

**THE SOUL REJOICES:
MAGNIFICATS OF MONTEVERDI AND PÄRT**
With selections of Mendelssohn and Tavener

Musica Sacra Chamber Chorus and Continuo
Kent Tritle, Conductor
Arthur Fiacco, Cello

Tickets: \$25 to \$60

Tickets are available online at www.musicasacrany.com or by calling 212-330-7684.

*For Press Tickets, please contact Mary Bullard at mbullard@musicasacrany.com
or 212-330-7684*

BIOGRAPHIES

*For additional information, photos or interviews, contact Mary Bullard at
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Founded in 1964 by conductor Richard Westenburg, **Musica Sacra** is dedicated to presenting the highest caliber performances of great choral masterworks, as well as educating audiences in the

different eras and styles of classical music to deepen the appreciation of the choral arts. In addition to its acknowledged affinity for Baroque music, Musica Sacra performs in all genres, from the earliest of Gregorian chant to commissioned works and premieres by leading contemporary composers such as Benjamin Britten, Dave Brubeck, Alessandro Cadario, Robert Convery, David Diamond, Aram Khatchaturian, and Ned Rorem. Highlights of previous seasons include performances of Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*, Morton Feldman's *Rothko Chapel* and Arvo Pärt's *Stabat Mater* for WNYC's *New Sounds Live* at the World Financial Center. Musica Sacra has recorded on the RCA, BMG, MSR classics, and Deutsche Grammophon labels, including the first all-digital recording of *Messiah* released in 1982 by RCA/BMG and reissued on "High Performance," BMG's audiophile label. Most recently, MUSICA SACRA released a new studio recording entitled *Messages to Myself* featuring contemporary works for a cappella chorus. It was recorded in 2011 at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music and is released on the independent classical label MSR Classics.

For more information, please visit www.musicasacrany.com.

Kent Tritle is one of America's leading choral conductors. The 2012-2013 season marks his sixth season as Music Director of Musica Sacra, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City. Additionally, Tritle is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the acclaimed 200-voice volunteer chorus. In addition, Kent is Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music and is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School. He is the host of the weekly radio show "The Choral Mix with Kent Tritle," a weekly hour-long radio program on New York's Classical 105.9 WQXR and www.wqxr.org devoted to the vibrant genre of choral music and the breadth of activity in the choral community. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra.

Recent concerts with Musica Sacra have included an acclaimed performance of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*, and a program of new works by Daniel Brewbaker, Christopher Theofanidis, and Behzad Ranjbaran, and others in their world or New York premiere performances which has just been released on CD by MSR Classics, as well as Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* at Carnegie Hall, a program of works by Arvo Pärt and Morton Feldman for a WNYC *New Sounds Live* concert; Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and *St. John Passion*, and the ensemble's annual performances of Handel's *Messiah* at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Tritle holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from The Juilliard School in organ performance and choral conducting and has been on the Juilliard faculty since 1996, currently directing a graduate practicum on oratorio in collaboration with the school's Vocal Arts Department, and teaching choral conducting. He has been featured on *ABC World News Tonight*, National Public Radio, and Minnesota Public Radio, as well as in *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

For more information, sound clips, and updated concert information, visit www.kenttritle.com.