



MUSIC OF
THE BAROQUE
50TH ANNIVERSARY

25 East Washington Street, Suite 823, Chicago, IL 60602
312.551.1415 | BAROQUE.ORG

EMBARGOED UNTIL August 3, 2020

Contact: Declan McGovern (312) 551-1415, x22
declanmcgovern@baroque.org

OR

Jennifer More (708) 955-7287
jenmore@baroque.org

MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE ANNOUNCES REVISED 50th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Highlights include Handel's Messiah, the complete Brandenburg Concertos, pianist Gabriela Montero, guest conductor John Butt, and the ensemble's first commission

CHICAGO, August 3—Music of the Baroque today announced that due to the current pandemic, the start of the 2020-21 season—the ensemble's 50th—would be postponed to January 2021 and the golden jubilee celebration extended across two seasons. The reconfigured 2020-21 season, which consists of six concerts, retains most of the original programs, including the ensemble debuts of pianist Gabriela Montero and guest conductor John Butt, the world premiere of Stacy Garrop's *Spectacle of Light*, and the group's first performance in over a decade of Handel's *Messiah*. Five of the six programs will take place at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie and the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, and all concerts will be streamed live to accommodate audience members who prefer to remain at home. Two large-scale works originally planned for this coming season, Haydn's *Creation* and Bach's St. Matthew Passion, will be moved to the 2021-22 season. The annual Holiday Brass & Choral Concerts will also resume in December 2021.

As Music Director Jane Glover said of the revision, “We are of course longing to bring live music back to you all as soon as it is safe to do so. Although our 50th season has had to be cropped back, we are still happy to present a rich and celebratory variety of repertoire, built on brilliant staples from our core composers (Bach's Brandenburg concertos, Handel's *Messiah*, symphonies and a concerto by Mozart). We are also including some exciting innovations—our *Musica Sacra* programme, deferred from last season, and our thrilling new baroque-inspired commission, Stacy Garrop's *Spectacle of Light*. Again for safety reasons, we have postponed the two other mighty choral works planned for our big season (*Creation* and the St. Matthew Passion), but we will include these as soon as possible in the following season, and celebrate the achievement of our 50th anniversary in a timely way.”

In addition to the six-concert season, Music of the Baroque will offer several virtual programs in August, September, and October, including an interview with Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer and a conversation with internationally renowned conductor and Bach expert John Eliot Gardiner and Music Director Jane Glover. Chicago's classical radio station 98.7/WFMT will broadcast a nine-concert series beginning August 19, and Music of the Baroque is also exploring the possibility of offering several small-scale live concerts.

In September, MOB will issue its first recording since 2018: Bach's Mass in B Minor, recorded at the opening of last season. This is the first of four Bach recordings to come over the next few seasons, and a legacy project of MOB's 50th anniversary.

On October 23, Baroque Beautiful – MOB's Gala At Home – will take place online with a recital by musicians from MOB and special messages from Music Director Jane Glover and Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer. Further details will be posted at baroque.org/gala.

Music of the Baroque's executive director, Declan McGovern, remarked, “This has been a trying year for our audience, deprived of live concert experiences for months, and for our musicians, unable to perform the music they love. All of us at Music at the Baroque appreciate so much our supporters, whose patience, resilience, and generosity has kept us going, and our musicians, who share their artistry with us

through the virtual world. We are all so eager to get back on stage in January. Should we have to revise the plan further due to ongoing health and safety concerns, we will of course do so. We hope that with the medical advances being made and the high level of precautions undertaken at each of our venues, including social distancing protocols, we will be in a position to share with you once again the special and visceral experience of live music-making. For 50 seasons, MOB has filled concert halls and churches in Chicago with the beauty and joy of Baroque music, and we will look forward to doing so again in the new year.”

Guest artists Gabriela Montero and John Butt plus the world premiere of Stacy Garrop’s *Spectacle of Light* highlight the winter months

The reconfigured 50th season begins in January, as Jane Glover leads the orchestra and Venezuelan pianist **Gabriela Montero** in Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 21, Symphony No. 40, and Overture to *Lucio Silla*. Another highlight is the world premiere of **Music of the Baroque’s first commission: *Spectacle of Light*** by internationally acclaimed composer **Stacy Garrop**, Chicago Opera Theater’s first Emerging Opera Composer and recent composer-in-residence with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. Concerts take place Sunday evening, January 24, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, January 25, at the Harris Theater.

In February/March, renowned early music specialist **John Butt**, founder and director of Scotland’s Dunedin Consort, will lead the orchestra in **Vivaldi & Friends**. In addition to “Winter” from Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* plus one of his bassoon concertos and Concerto for 4 Violins, Butt explores the music of the composers Vivaldi influenced and who influenced him, including J. S. Bach and Arcangelo Corelli. **Vivaldi & Friends**, which showcases Music of the Baroque ensemble members as soloists, takes place Sunday evening, February 28, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, March 1, at the Harris Theater.

Jane Glover returns in late March for **Baroque Fireworks**, originally slated for May 2021, featuring Handel’s two majestic works for outdoor celebrations: the second suite from ***Water Music***, and ***Music for the Royal Fireworks***. Also on the program is the reprise of Stacy Garrop’s *Spectacle of Light*, Telemann’s Concerto for 3 Trumpets,

and Vivaldi's *La tempesta di mare* Flute Concerto. Performances take place Sunday afternoon, March 28, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, March 29, at the Harris Theater.

Nicholas Kraemer headlines April and May with the complete Brandenburg Concertos and Handel's *Messiah*

Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer makes the first of two appearances in April, as he leads the Music of the Baroque Orchestra and special guests John Thiessen, natural trumpet, and Mark Shuldiner, harpsichord, in **The Complete Brandenburg Concertos**. Bach may have composed the six concertos to secure employment, but his "musical resume" stands today as one of the great monuments in Baroque orchestral music. Music of the Baroque performs all six concertos on a single program for the first time in its history on Sunday evening, April 25, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, April 26, at the Harris Theater.

Music of the Baroque's interpretations of the great Handel oratorios have been celebrated for 50 seasons. In May, **Nicholas Kraemer** directs his first performances with the ensemble of the most iconic of them all: ***Messiah***. Kraemer leads the chorus, orchestra, and soloists on Sunday evening, May 9, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, May 10, at the Harris Theater.

Jane Glover concludes the 50th anniversary season with *Musica Sacra* at churches in Winnetka and downtown Chicago

The 2020-21 concert season closes with Music Director Jane Glover on the podium for ***Musica Sacra***, a program of gorgeous early choral music performed in beautiful church settings similar to the ones in which the organization first began. Rescheduled from May 2020, the program includes Allegri's ethereal *Miserere*, Byrd's Mass for 4 Voices, and Vivaldi's Gloria plus instrumental works by Purcell. Concerts take place Sunday afternoon, June 6, at Faith, Hope, & Charity Church in Winnetka, and Monday evening, June 7, at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago's Gold Coast neighborhood.

A complete listing of the revised 2020-21 season repertoire, performance dates and times, and venues is attached. Programs, dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

###

**MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE
2020-21 CONCERT SEASON
REVISED PROGRAM LISTING**

PROGRAM #1 MONTERO PLAYS MOZART

Sunday, January 24, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center, Skokie

Monday, January 25, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater, Chicago

GARROP	<i>Spectacle of Light</i> (World Premiere)
MOZART	Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467
	Overture to <i>Lucio Silla</i> , K. 135
	Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, K. 550

Music of the Baroque Orchestra
Jane Glover, conductor
Gabriela Montero, piano

PROGRAM #2 VIVALDI & FRIENDS

Sunday, February 28, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center, Skokie

Monday, March 1, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater, Chicago

VIVALDI	“Winter” from <i>The Four Seasons</i> , RV 297
CORELLI	Concerto grosso in F Major, op. 6, no. 6
VIVALDI	Bassoon Concerto in C Major, RV 472
BACH	Orchestral Suite No. 1 in C Major, BWV 1066
ALBINONI	Oboe Concerto in D Minor, op. 9, no. 2
VIVALDI	Concerto for 4 Violins in B Minor, op. 3, no. 10

Music of the Baroque Orchestra
John Butt, conductor

Gina DiBello, Kathleen Brauer, Kevin Case, and Sharon Polifrone, violins
Anne Bach, oboe
William Buchman, bassoon

PROGRAM #3 BAROQUE FIREWORKS

Sunday, March 28, 3:00 pm

North Shore Center, Skokie

Monday, March 29, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater, Chicago

GARROP	<i>Spectacle of Light</i>
HANDEL	<i>Water Music Suite No. 2, HWV 349</i>
TELEMANN	Concerto No. 1 for 3 Trumpets
HANDEL	Concerto a due cori No. 1, HWV 332
VIVALDI	Flute Concerto in F Major, op. 10, no. 1 (<i>La tempeste di mare</i>)
HANDEL	<i>Music for the Royal Fireworks, HWV 351</i>

Music of the Baroque Orchestra
Jane Glover, conductor

Mary Stolper, flute
Barbara Butler, Charles Geyer, and Channing Philbrick, trumpets

PROGRAM #4 THE COMPLETE BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS

Sunday, April 25, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center, Skokie

Monday, April 26, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater, Chicago

BACH Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 1-6, BWV 1046-51

Music of the Baroque Orchestra
Nicholas Kraemer, conductor

John Thiessen, piccolo trumpet
Mark Shuldiner, harpsichord

PROGRAM #5 MESSIAH IN MAY

Sunday, May 9, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center, Skokie

Monday, May 10, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater, Chicago

HANDEL *Messiah*, HWV 56

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra
Nicholas Kraemer, conductor

Sherezade Panthaki, soprano
Allyson McHardy, mezzo-soprano
Richard Croft, tenor
Matthew Brook, bass-baritone

PROGRAM #6 MUSICA SACRA—VIVALDI, ALLEGRI, BYRD

Sunday, June 6, 2:00 pm

Faith, Hope, & Charity Church, Winnetka

Monday, June 7, 7:30 pm

Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago

PURCELL	In Nomine in 6 parts
BYRD	Mass for 4 Voices
PURCELL	In Nomine in 7 parts
ALLEGRI	Miserere mei, Deus
VIVALDI	Gloria

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra
Jane Glover, conductor