



MUSIC OF  
THE BAROQUE  
50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

EMBARGOED UNTIL Feb 21, 2020

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

OR

Jennifer More (312) 551-1415, x23  
jenmore@baroque.org

## MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE ANNOUNCES 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON

***Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Handel's Messiah, Haydn's Creation, the complete Brandenburg Concertos, pianist Gabriela Montero, guest conductor John Butt, and the ensemble's first new commission among highlights***

CHICAGO, February 21—Music of the Baroque today announced plans for the 2020-21 season, the ensemble's 50th. Music Director Jane Glover directs two major choral works: **Haydn's *Creation*** in September, and Bach's epic ***Passion According to St. Matthew*** in March. Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer takes the podium in November for Thanksgiving performances of **Handel's *Messiah***, the first by the group in a decade. **Andrew Megill**, conductor of the Montreal Symphony Chorus and the Carmel Bach Festival Chorale, will lead the **Holiday Brass & Choral Concerts** in December, the ensemble's longest-running tradition.

Orchestral programs include Music of the Baroque's first-ever performances of **all six Brandenburg Concertos** in the same evening, led by Nicholas Kraemer, and **Handel's *Water Music*** and ***Music for the Royal Fireworks*** in May under the direction of Jane Glover. Glover will also lead **Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Montero** in January performances of **Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21**.

Joining Music of the Baroque as guest conductor for the first time is renowned early music specialist **John Butt**, founder and director of Scotland's Dunedin Consort. Butt leads the orchestra in February/March performances of **Vivaldi & Friends**, featuring concertos by Vivaldi plus composers he inspired—and who inspired him, too.

Music of the Baroque will also present its second **Baroque in the Park**, an open-air performance on the stage of the Pritzker Pavilion featuring highlights of the 50<sup>th</sup> season plus other Baroque works. The performance takes place in September and will feature the **Strong Voices Choir**, singers from the six Chicago public high schools who participate in the ensemble's arts education program.

Another highlight of the 50<sup>th</sup> season is **Music of the Baroque's first commission**: a fanfare 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. Music of the Baroque will give the **world premiere** of Garrop's new work at **Baroque in the Park** in September and reprise the composition at **Baroque Fireworks** in May.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season is a major milestone for Music of the Baroque, which continues to broaden its audience at a time when many arts organizations are facing declining numbers. **Executive Director Declan McGovern** sees the year as a unique opportunity not only to commemorate Music of the Baroque's past performances of some of history's greatest musical works, but also to gesture towards the possibilities inherent in future seasons. "Music of the Baroque was founded in Chicago 50 years ago and has been further rejuvenated in Chicago every season since. At our core, we are a band of outstanding instrumentalists and singers, directed by one of the most distinguished conductors of our time, Jane Glover. As we approach our 50<sup>th</sup> we are embracing a bright future with growing audiences, exciting guest artists, increased collaborations, and enhanced education work. Our legacy from our 50<sup>th</sup> season will be new audiences, new ventures, new recordings, and new energy, as we extol the power and beauty of the Baroque. We want this golden jubilee season to be a big thank you to the people of Chicago who come to our concerts, and the musicians of Chicago who perform them."

The 2020-21 season will open in September and run through mid-May. Seven of the programs will be performed twice—at both the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in downtown Chicago and the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. Performances of the annual Holiday Brass & Choral Concert include two new venues: Faith, Hope, & Charity Church in Winnetka, and Alice Millar Chapel in Evanston.

**Music Director Jane Glover** commented, “Our 50<sup>th</sup> season is full of the works you’d want to see in every season! It’s been 12 years since we last performed the St. Matthew Passion and I am thrilled that outstanding British tenor James Gilchrist will be joining us as our Evangelist. Stacy Garrop is composing an opening fanfare, which I will link with Handel’s *Music for the Royal Fireworks* to close the season. I’m looking forward to welcoming guest artists, including my colleague John Butt, music director of Scotland’s Dunedin Consort, as well as the fabulous pianist Gabriela Montero for our annual Mozart birthday concert. I can think of no better way of opening the season than with Haydn’s *The Creation*. Before that, we will have a lot of fun with our Baroque party at the Pritzker Pavilion on September 9. And we will anticipate this huge and exciting 50<sup>th</sup> season at our gala benefit on May 29, when we will be joined by the great Sir James Galway, no less. Finally, we want the 50<sup>th</sup> to have an artistic legacy. We will release our recording of Bach’s Mass in B Minor in the fall, followed by the other three major Bach choral works: the St. Matthew Passion in the 50<sup>th</sup> season, the St. John Passion in the 51<sup>st</sup>, and the Christmas Oratorio in the 52<sup>nd</sup>. I am so grateful to the amazing musicians who make up our ensemble and to our dedicated audience, many of whom have been with us from the very first performance! Coming to Chicago to conduct Music of the Baroque is one of my most favorite things to do.”

**The season opens with Haydn’s *Creation* and Baroque in the Park; Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer leads the ensemble in October and November**

Music of the Baroque’s 2020-21 concert season opens on Wednesday, September 9, with **Baroque in the Park**, featuring **50<sup>th</sup> season highlights** plus the **world premiere of a composition by Stacy Garrop**, on the stage of the Pritzker Pavilion. The following weekend brings **Haydn’s epic oratorio, *The Creation***. From

chaos to the emergence of light, from bringing forth the animals to the delights of the Garden of Eden, Haydn makes the world come to life in beautifully vivid musical pictures. Jane Glover leads the chorus, orchestra, and soloists Ying Fang, Michael St. Peter, and Roderick Williams in this endlessly inventive masterpiece, which will be performed in English. Performances take place Sunday afternoon, September 13, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, September 14, at the Harris Theater.

In the first of two appearances, Principal Guest Conductor **Nicholas Kraemer** 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, October 18, at the North Shore Center, and Tuesday evening, October 20, at the Harris Theater.

Music of the Baroque’s interpretations of the great Handel oratorios have been celebrated for 50 seasons. In November, **Nicholas Kraemer** directs his first performances with the ensemble of the most iconic of them all: **Messiah**. Kraemer leads the chorus, orchestra, and soloists Sherezade Panthaki, Allyson McHardy, Richard Croft, and Matthew Brook on Sunday evening, November 29, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, November 30, at the Harris Theater.

Four performances of Music of the Baroque’s **traditional Holiday Brass and Choral Concerts** follow in mid-December. After preparing the chorus during the 2019-20 season, **Andrew Megill** makes his Music of the Baroque conducting debut in this beloved holiday experience, which will be performed this year for the first time in **two new spaces**: Faith, Hope, & Charity Church in Winnetka, and Alice Millar Chapel in Evanston. Concerts take place Thursday evening, December 17, at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest; Friday evening, December 18, at St. Michael’s Church in Chicago; Saturday afternoon, December 19, at Faith, Hope, & Charity Church in Winnetka, and Sunday afternoon, December 20, at Alice Millar Chapel in Evanston.

**The New Year begins with internationally renowned pianist Gabriela Montero, continues with the ensemble debut of guest conductor John Butt**

Music of the Baroque's 2020-21 concert season continues as Mozart authority Jane Glover leads a Classical orchestral program in honor of Mozart's 265th birthday. Internationally renowned Venezuelan pianist **Gabriela Montero** joins the orchestra for **Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21**. Also on the program are Mozart's Symphony No. 40 in G Minor and Overture to *Lucio Silla*. Concerts are Sunday evening, January 24, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, January 25, at the Harris Theater.

In February/March, early music specialist **John Butt**, music director of Scotland's Dunedin Consort, leads an orchestral program dedicated to one of the Baroque era's most innovative figures: **Antonio Vivaldi**. 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.

**The cornerstone of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration: the first performances in over a decade of Bach's monumental *Passion According to St. Matthew***

**Johann Sebastian Bach's St. Matthew Passion** speaks as urgently of compassion and hope today as it did 300 years ago—and when Music of the Baroque first performed it in 1974. Jane Glover leads one of the greatest creative achievements of all time, written for double chorus, orchestra, children's chorus, and soloists. In addition to serving as the cornerstone of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, these performances represent the second in Music of the Baroque's **four-recording Bach project**. Critically acclaimed British tenor James Gilchrist sings the role of the Evangelist, joined by soprano Yulia Van Doren, mezzo-soprano Elizabeth DeShong, tenor Jonas Hacker, baritone Tyler Duncan, bass-baritone Michael Sumuel, and the Anima Singers (formerly known as the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus). Concerts take

place Sunday afternoon, March 28, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, March 29, at the Harris Theater.

### **Music of the Baroque closes its 50<sup>th</sup> season with Baroque Fireworks**

The 2020-21 concert season closes with Music Director Jane Glover on the podium for **Baroque Fireworks**, including 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 a new commission by Chicago composer **Stacy Garrop**, which the ensemble premieres in September 2020, Telemann's Concerto for 3 Trumpets, and Vivaldi's *La tempesta di mare* Flute Concerto. Performances take place Sunday evening, May 9, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, May 10, at the Harris Theater.

### **Subscriptions now on sale**

Subscriptions for the 2020-21 concert season are on sale now at the Music of the Baroque box office, (312) 551-1414. Single tickets for all concerts will go on sale in July.

A complete listing of 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  
COMPLETE PROGRAM LISTING**

**PROGRAM #1      THE CREATION**

**Sunday, September 13, 3:00 pm**

North Shore Center, Skokie

**Monday, September 14, 7:30 pm**

Harris Theater, Chicago

HAYDN              *The Creation*

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra  
Jane Glover, conductor  
Ying Fang, soprano  
Michael St. Peter, tenor  
Roderick Williams, baritone

---

**PROGRAM #2      THE COMPLETE BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS**

**Sunday, October 18, 7:30 pm**

North Shore Center, Skokie

**Tuesday, October 20, 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, natural trumpet  
Mark Shuldiner, harpsichord

**PROGRAM #3      A THANKSGIVING MESSIAH**

**Sunday, November 29, 7:30 pm**

North Shore Center, Skokie

**Monday, November 30, 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 #4      HOLIDAY BRASS & CHORAL CONCERTS**

**Thursday, December 17, 8:00 pm**

Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest

**Friday, December 18, 8:00 pm**

St. Michael's Church, Chicago

**Saturday, December 19, 2:00 pm**

Faith, Hope, & Charity Church, Winnetka

**Sunday, December 20, 2:00 pm**

Alice Millar Chapel, Evanston

Joyful carols, solemn chant, and jubilant works for brass from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque eras.

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Brass Ensemble  
Andrew Megill, conductor

**PROGRAM #5 MONTERO PLAYS MOZART**

**Sunday, January 24, 7:30 pm**

North Shore Center, Skokie

**Monday, January 25, 7:30 pm**

Harris Theater, Chicago

MOZART                    Overture to *Lucio Silla*, K. 135  
Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467  
Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, K. 550

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

---

**PROGRAM #6 VIVALDI & FRIENDS**

**Sunday, February 28, 7:30 pm**

North Shore Center, Skokie

**Monday, March 1, 7:30 pm**

Harris Theater, Chicago

VIVALDI                    “Winter” from *The Four Seasons*, 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 #7 THE ST. MATTHEW PASSION**

**Sunday, March 28, 3:00 pm**

North Shore Center, Skokie

**Monday, March 29, 7:30 pm**

Harris Theater, Chicago

BACH *Passion According to St. Matthew, BWV 244*

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra  
Jane Glover, conductor  
James Gilchrist, tenor (Evangelist)  
Yulia Van Doren, soprano  
Elizabeth DeShong, mezzo-soprano  
Jonas Hacker, tenor  
Tyler Duncan, baritone  
Michael Sumuel, bass-baritone  
Anima Singers (Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus)

---

**PROGRAM #8 BAROQUE FIREWORKS**

**Sunday, May 9, 7:30 pm**

North Shore Center, Skokie

**Monday, May 10, 7:30 pm**

Harris Theater, Chicago

GARROP *New Commission*  
HANDEL *Water Music Suite No. 2, HWV 349*  
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 (La tempeste di mare)*  
HANDEL *Music for the Royal Fireworks, HWV 351*

Music of the Baroque Orchestra  
Jane Glover, conductor  
Mary Stolper, flute  
Barbara Butler, Charles Geyer, and Channing Philbrick, trumpets