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**MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE ANNOUNCES THE 2024-25 SEASON,
“FROM THE BEGINNING”**

Haydn's *The Creation*, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Handel's *Theodora*, and Guest Conductors Laurence Cummings and Marc Minkowski Among the Highlights

Subscriptions On Sale Starting March 7; Single Tickets Available August 5

CHICAGO, March 7—Music of the Baroque today announced plans for the 2024-25 season, the ensemble's 54th. The season, titled “From the Beginning,” includes Haydn's *The Creation* and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, both led by Music Director Dame Jane Glover; a star-studded cast for Handel's *Theodora* with Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer in celebration of his 80th birthday; guest conductors Laurence Cummings and renowned French conductor Marc Minkowski; the return of acclaimed Mozart interpreter and pianist Dame Imogen Cooper; a choral showcase featuring Renaissance and Baroque music in intimate Chicagoland churches; and the ensemble's annual Holiday Brass & Choral Concerts led by Chorus Director Andrew Megill. Music of the Baroque will also continue its partnership with Chicago Sinfonietta and Grant Park Music Festival's Project Inclusion.

Executive Director Declan McGovern said, “Music of the Baroque is expanding! Our audience has grown considerably this season, and we are extra ambitious next season in the scale of works that we are presenting, as well as expanding the artistic talent on our stage. We're also expanding ‘Strong Voices,’ our education program, our free neighborhood concerts, our commitment to creating performance opportunities for performers from all backgrounds,

and expanding the appeal of our concerts to the widest possible audience, including our 'Baroque Notes' pre-concert videos which have connected so strongly with our audience. We are thrilled to have also expanded the number of venues at which we perform, including return visits to Symphony Center and Fourth Presbyterian Church downtown."

Dame Jane Glover directs two major dramatic works, including the season opener, **Haydn—*The Creation*** (Sept. 15 & 17), and **Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*** (Nov. 24-25), featuring the return of acclaimed tenor Gwilym Bowen as the Evangelist following his success in Music of the Baroque's 2023 performances of the St. Matthew Passion. In April, Dame Jane will lead **Mozart and his Mentors** (Apr. 6-7), an instrumental program featuring Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 13 with pianist Dame Imogen Cooper and Mozart's *Paris* Symphony alongside symphonies by Mysliveček and Hasse.

Glover commented, "This upcoming season is one of our most meaty and most exciting. I am particularly thrilled that two of Baroque music's most distinguished interpreters, Marc Minkowski and Lawrence Cummings, are joining us as guest conductors. Both have truly excelled at immensely high-profile European venues, and their recordings are testimony to their stylistic and energetic achievements. I cannot wait to hear how they bond with our wonderful players. Then we are presenting no fewer than three of the greatest choral masterpieces of the 18th century: Haydn's *Creation*, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, and Handel's brilliant and very human oratorio *Theodora*, which we are doing specially for our beloved Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer, who has a startlingly big birthday this year. Our old friend Imogen Cooper returns to us for Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 13 in C Major, which is less well-known and completely exhilarating. And as usual, the orchestral programs will showcase the talents of our own musicians. We are continuing our tradition of music in churches—not just the treasured Holiday Brass and Choral Concerts, but also in a beautiful program of Baroque choral music at the end of the season. We will be so happy to welcome you to these concerts!"

Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer conducts **Handel's *Theodora*** (Mar. 2-3), a dramatic masterpiece featuring a cast of internationally acclaimed soloists, in celebration of Kraemer's 80th birthday. He returns for **Celestial Voices** (May 11-12), a program highlighting the Music of the Baroque Chorus in two intimate churches. Kraemer will lead the chorus and a small orchestra in Bach's motet, "Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied" (Sing unto the Lord a new song), alongside works by Palestrina, Purcell, Monteverdi, and more.

Says Kraemer, "*Theodora* is simply the best of Handel. He came up with a succession of masterpieces in the form of airs and choruses never to be surpassed, in my view. And the oratorio has all the hallmarks of the most dramatic music he ever wrote—the two duets for

Theodora and Didymus are the absolute pinnacle of his talents. In May's 'Celestial Voices,' I have the opportunity to conduct music I have always known and loved but have not often performed. The famous Tallis Canon, sung in procession, is complemented by Pachelbel's instrumental Canon, while Palestrina's sublime Missa Brevis is woven through the program. Purcell's anthem 'Rejoice in the Lord alway' is matched by his extraordinary Chaconne for 2 violins and continuo. The program is crowned with Bach's great motet, 'Singet den Herrn.'"

After four sold-out holiday concerts last year, **Chorus Director Andrew Megill** returns to direct the annual ***Holiday Brass & Choral Concerts*** (Dec. 19-22), a musical journey through time from the medieval era to the present featuring works by Gabrieli, Praetorius, and much more. (Program details will be announced in the coming months.)

Music of the Baroque's 2024-25 season opens on September 15, 2024, and runs through May 12, 2025. Seven of the programs will be performed twice. Following last year's successful performance of the Mozart Requiem at Symphony Center downtown, Music of the Baroque will return to the home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* in November.

The ensemble, which formerly performed exclusively in churches, returns to its roots at the season's close with concerts at Saints Faith, Hope, & Charity Catholic Church in Winnetka and Fourth Presbyterian Church downtown. Five performances will also occur at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Chicago's Millennium Park and the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. The annual Holiday Brass & Choral Concerts will be performed at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest, St. Michael Church in Old Town, Saints Faith, Hope, & Charity Catholic Church in Winnetka, and Alice Millar Chapel in Evanston.

Subscriptions On Sale March 7, 2024

Subscriptions for the 2024-25 concert season go on sale starting March 7, 2024, and may be purchased at baroque.org or by calling (312) 551-1414. Single tickets will go on sale on August 5, 2024. Programs, dates, times, locations, and artists are subject to change. For more information, visit baroque.org.

A complete listing of the 2024-25 season repertoire in chronological order with performance dates, times, and venues is attached.

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MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE
2024-25 CONCERT SEASON
COMPLETE PROGRAM LISTING

(Programs, dates, times, locations, and artists subject to change.)

PROGRAM #1 *HAYDN—THE CREATION*

Sunday, September 15, 3:00 pm

North Shore Center, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Ill.

Tuesday, September 17, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater | Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph St., Chicago

HAYDN *The Creation*

Music of the Baroque Chorus & Orchestra
Dame Jane Glover, conductor
Joëlle Harvey, soprano
Andrew Stenson, tenor
Brandon Cedel, baritone

The creation of the world as told in the Book of Genesis springs to life through vivid musical pictures. Music Director Dame Jane Glover leads the Music of the Baroque Chorus, Orchestra, and international opera stars Joëlle Harvey, Andrew Stenson, and Brandon Cedel in Haydn's timeless work of towering imagination and genius.

PROGRAM #2 *THE ELEMENTS*

Sunday, October 27, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Ill.

Monday, October 28, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater | Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph St., Chicago

RAMEAU	Suite from <i>Naïs</i>
TELEMANN	<i>Ebb und Fluth</i> (Ebb and Flow), TWV 55:C3
VIVALDI	"Autumn" from <i>The Four Seasons</i> , RV 293
REBEL	<i>Les Eléments</i> *

Music of the Baroque Orchestra
Laurence Cummings, conductor and narrator*
Gina DiBello, violin

Laurence Cummings, music director of the Academy of Ancient Music, explores life's basic building blocks—earth, air, fire, and water. The watery Neptune splashes through Rameau's Suite from *Naïs* and *Ebb und Fluth*, Telemann's own "Water Music." Vivaldi leads the earthly charge in the "Autumn" Concerto from *The Four Seasons*. All four elements dance and twirl in Rebel's shockingly imaginative *Les Eléments*.

PROGRAM #3 *THE CHRISTMAS ORATORIO*

Sunday, November 24, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Ill.

Monday, November 25, 7:30 pm

Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

BACH *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 248

Music of the Baroque Chorus & Orchestra

Dame Jane Glover, conductor

Yulia Van Doren, soprano

Emily Fons, mezzo-soprano

Gwilym Bowen, tenor

Michael Sumuel, bass-baritone

From the opening chorus's joyful, exuberant trumpets and timpani, the Christmas story unfolds in dramatic narrative, moving arias, and stirring chorales. Dame Jane Glover brings together an impressive cast of soloists, including the return of Gwilym Bowen as the Evangelist, with the Chorus and Orchestra for this powerful and passionate work.

PROGRAM #4 *HOLIDAY BRASS & CHORAL CONCERTS*

Thursday, December 19, 7:30 pm

Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division St., River Forest, Ill.

Friday, December 20, 7:30 pm

St. Michael Church, 1633 N Cleveland Ave., Chicago

Saturday, December 21, 2:00 pm

Saints Faith, Hope, & Charity Church, 191 Linden St., Winnetka, Ill.

Sunday, December 22, 2:00 pm

Alice Millar Chapel | Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, Ill.

Music of the Baroque Chorus & Brass Ensemble

Andrew Megill, conductor

Inspiring music in some of Chicago's most beautiful spaces. The Music of the Baroque Chorus and Brass Ensemble traverse through time from the medieval age to the present with ethereal chant, majestic works for brass, and some of the best choral music ever written. Andrew Megill conducts music by Gabrieli, Praetorius, and much more.

PROGRAM #5 *MINKOWSKI CONDUCTS*

Saturday, January 25, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater | Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph St., Chicago

Sunday, January 26, 3:00 pm

North Shore Center, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Ill.

HANDEL	Concerto Grosso in F Major, op. 3, no. 4, HWV 315
RAMEAU	Suite from <i>Les Boréades</i>
MOZART	Symphony No. 41 in C Major (<i>Jupiter</i>), K.551

Music of the Baroque Orchestra
Marc Minkowski, conductor

Renowned French conductor Marc Minkowski makes his Music of the Baroque debut with music by three orchestral gods—Handel, Rameau, and Mozart. Handel's op. 3 concerto grosso was originally the overture to a lost "magic opera." The Greek god Apollo saves the day in Rameau's Suite from *Les Boréades*. And the sheer power of Mozart's Symphony No. 41—his final orchestral work—prompted the connection to Jupiter, the Roman god of the sky.

PROGRAM #6 *HANDEL'S THEODORA*

Sunday, March 2, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Ill.

Monday, March 3, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater | Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph St., Chicago

HANDEL *Theodora*, HWV 245

Music of the Baroque Chorus & Orchestra
Nicholas Kraemer, conductor
Sherezade Panthaki, Theodora
Iestyn Davies, Didymus
Allyson McHardy, Irene
David Portillo, Septimius
Jonathan Woody, Valens

In celebration of Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer's 80th birthday, a world-renowned cast of soloists—Sherezade Panthaki, Iestyn Davies, Allyson McHardy, David Portillo, and Jonathan Woody—join the Chorus and Orchestra for one of Handel's great dramatic masterpieces (and his own personal favorite): the story of the virtuous martyr Theodora and her Roman protector Didymus.

PROGRAM #7 *MOZART AND HIS MENTORS*

Sunday, April 6, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Ill.

Monday, April 7, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater | Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph St., Chicago

MYSLIVEČEK	Symphony in F Major
MOZART	Piano Concerto No. 13 in C Major, K.415
HASSE	Symphony in G Major
MOZART	Symphony No. 31 in D Major (<i>Paris</i>), K.297

Music of the Baroque Orchestra
Dame Jane Glover, conductor
Dame Imogen Cooper, piano

Mozart learned a great deal from talented musicians around him. Dame Jane Glover explores symphonies by two of his most admired mentors—Josef Mysliveček and Johann Adolph Hasse. Fellow Dame and dear friend, pianist Imogen Cooper, returns to Music of the Baroque for Mozart's playful and virtuosic Piano Concerto No. 13.

PROGRAM #8 *CELESTIAL VOICES*

Sunday, May 11, 7:30 pm

Saints Faith, Hope, & Charity Church, 191 Linden St., Winnetka, Ill.

Monday, May 12, 7:30 pm

Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St., Chicago

TALLIS	Processional
PALESTRINA	Missa brevis
PURCELL	Trio Sonata in G Minor, Z.807 (Chaconne) <i>Rejoice in the Lord alway</i> , Z.49
MONTEVERDI	Beatus vir
BYRD	Ave verum corpus
PACHELBEL	Canon & Gigue

RAMEAU

Hymne à la nuit

BACH

Motet: "Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied," BWV 225

Music of the Baroque Chorus & Members of the Orchestra

Nicholas Kraemer, conductor

From the beginning, Music of the Baroque was rooted in choral music performed in church settings. Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer highlights the Chorus's incredible range of talent in music from the Renaissance to the Baroque, from the shimmering sounds of Palestrina and Byrd to the high energy of Bach's "Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied" (Sing unto the Lord a new song).