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MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE ANNOUNCES 2017-18 CONCERT SEASON

***Mendelssohn's Elijah, Handel's Esther, and the
St. John Passion among featured works***

CHICAGO, MARCH 8—Music of the Baroque today announced plans for the upcoming 2017-18 concert season. The season, the group's 47th, opens Saturday evening, September 16, and runs through May 14. The ensemble will again present 18 performances of eight concert programs. Seven of the eight programs will each be offered twice—at both the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in downtown Chicago and the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. Four performances of Music of the Baroque's traditional holiday brass and choral concerts will take place at church venues in Chicago, River Forest, and Northbrook. The number of Sunday matinee performances next season has been expanded from two to five.

Eric Owens headlines season-opening *Elijah*

Music of the Baroque's 2017-18 concert season opens with the ensemble's first performances in more than 25 years of Felix Mendelssohn's choral masterpiece *Elijah*. Written in the spirit of Bach and Handel, whose music Mendelssohn loved, the work will be sung in English. Music Director Jane Glover conducts the Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra in performances Saturday evening, September 16, at the Harris Theater, and Sunday evening, September 17, at the North Shore Center. Acclaimed bass-baritone Eric Owens will be heard in the title role. Soprano Susanna Phillips, mezzo-soprano Elizabeth DeShong, and tenor William Burden are also featured.

The following month, Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer makes his first of two appearances next season in an orchestral program called “Two’s Company” featuring double concertos by Telemann, Vivaldi, and J. S. Bach, including the latter’s Concerto for Oboe and Violin. Beethoven’s Second Symphony is also on the program. Performances are Sunday evening, November 19, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, November 20, at the Harris Theater.

Four performances of Music of the Baroque’s traditional holiday brass and choral concerts follow in mid-December. Chorus Director William Jon Gray will conduct the Music of the Baroque Chorus and eight-part brass ensemble on Thursday evening, December 14, at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest; Friday evening, December 15, at St. Michael’s Church in Chicago; and at Divine Word Chapel in Northbrook on Saturday afternoon, December 16, and Sunday afternoon, December 17.

New Year begins with Mozart

Music of the Baroque’s 2017-18 concert season continues as Mozart authority Jane Glover returns to the podium to conduct the Music of the Baroque Orchestra in performances of two of Mozart’s works for multiple soloists, the Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola and the Sinfonia Concertante for Four Winds. Mozart’s Symphony No. 33 in B-flat Major completes the program, which features Music of the Baroque’s principal players as soloists. Concerts are Sunday evening, January 28, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, January 29, at the Harris Theater.

The Music of the Baroque premiere of the first English oratorio, George Frideric Handel’s *Esther*, will be heard in concerts the same week as the Jewish celebration of Purim. Jane Glover conducts the Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra in performances of the intimate Cannons version of the work on Sunday afternoon, February 25, at the North Shore Center, and Tuesday evening, February 27, at the Harris Theater. Soloists include tenors Nicholas Phan as Ahasuerus and Colin Ainsworth as Mordecai, and baritone Christòpheren Nomura as the villain Haman.

Tenor Thomas Cooley sings the Evangelist in Bach's St. John Passion

Tenor and 2015-16 artist-in-residence Thomas Cooley sings the Evangelist with Music of the Baroque for the first time next season in Johann Sebastian Bach's great *Passion According to St. John*. Soprano Yulia Van Doren, mezzo-soprano Meg Bragle, and baritone Joshua Hopkins will also be heard in performances Sunday afternoon, March 25, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, March 26, at the Harris Theater. Music Director Jane Glover conducts the Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra.

Early music specialist Paul Agnew returns to Music of the Baroque for a program of rarely heard sacred works entitled "Concertos for Voice." Two rising young singers, soprano Sherezade Panthaki and Polish countertenor Jakub Józef Orliński, are featured in virtuosic settings of the *Nisi Dominus* by Vivaldi and *Salve Regina* by Handel, both Music of the Baroque premieres. Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, last performed by the ensemble in 2005, completes the program. Performances are Sunday evening, April 22, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, April 23, at the Harris Theater.

Season closes with Bach and Telemann

The 2017-18 concert season closes with Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer at the podium for a program called "Three's Company." J. S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, Fourth Orchestral Suite, and Concerto for Flute, Violin, and Harpsichord will be heard alongside a triple concerto and other music by Georg Philipp Telemann, with members of the Music of the Baroque Orchestra featured as soloists. Concerts are Sunday afternoon, May 13, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, May 14, at the Harris Theater.

Subscriptions now on sale

Subscriptions for the 2017-18 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 August 1.

A complete listing of 2017-18 season repertoire, performance dates and times, and venues is attached. [For a video preview of the season, click here.](#) Programs, dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

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**MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE
2017-18 CONCERT SEASON**

COMPLETE PROGRAM LISTING

PROGRAM # 1

Elijah

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra

Jane Glover, conductor

William Jon Gray, chorus director

Susanna Phillips, soprano

*Elizabeth DeShong, mezzo-soprano***

*William Burden, tenor***

Eric Owens, bass-baritone

Saturday, September 16, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

Sunday, September 17, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

MENDELSSOHN

Elijah, op. 70

PROGRAM # 2

Two's Company—Baroque Double Concertos

Music of the Baroque Orchestra

Nicholas Kraemer, conductor

Sunday, November 19, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

Monday, November 20, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

TELEMANN

Concerto in G Major for 2 Violins*

VIVALDI

Concerto in G Minor for 2 Cellos, RV 531*

J. S. BACH

Concerto in C Minor for Oboe and Violin, BWV 1060

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 2 in D Major, op. 36

PROGRAM # 3

Holiday Brass and Choral Concerts

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Brass Ensemble

William Jon Gray, conductor

Repertoire and soloists to be announced

Thursday, December 14, 8:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest

Friday, December 15, 8:00 pm

St. Michael's Church, Chicago

Saturday, December 16, 3:00 pm

Divine Word Chapel, Northbrook

Sunday, December 17, 3:00 pm

Divine Word Chapel, Northbrook

PROGRAM # 4

Mozart Dialogues

Music of the Baroque Orchestra

Jane Glover, conductor

Sunday, January 28, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, January 29, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

W. A. MOZART

Symphony No. 33 in B-flat Major, K. 319

Sinfonia Concertante for 4 Winds in E-flat Major, K. 297b

Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra in

E-flat Major, K. 364

PROGRAM # 5

Esther

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra

Jane Glover, conductor

William Jon Gray, chorus director

Soprano to be announced (Esther)

Nicholas Phan, tenor (Ahasuerus)

Colin Ainsworth, tenor (Mordecai)

Christòpheren Nomura, baritone (Haman)

Sunday, February 25, 3:00 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Tuesday, February 27, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

HANDEL

*Esther, HWV 50**

PROGRAM # 6

The St. John Passion

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra

Jane Glover, conductor

William Jon Gray, chorus director

Yulia Van Doren, soprano

Meg Bragle, mezzo-soprano

Thomas Cooley, tenor

*Joshua Hopkins, baritone***

Sunday, March 25, 3:00 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, March 26, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

J. S. BACH

Passion According to St. John, BWV 245

PROGRAM # 7

Concertos for Voice

Music of the Baroque Orchestra

Paul Agnew, conductor

Sherezade Panthaki, soprano

*Jakub Józef Orliński, countertenor***

Sunday, April 22, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, April 23, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

VIVALDI	Nisi Dominus, RV 608*
	Concerto per la Santissima Assontione di Maria Vergine, RV 581*
HANDEL	Salve Regina, HWV 241*
PERGOLESI	Stabat Mater

PROGRAM # 8

Three's A Crowd – Kraemer Conducts Bach & Telemann

Music of the Baroque Orchestra

Nicholas Kraemer, conductor

Sunday, May 13, 3:00 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, May 14, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

J. S. BACH	Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, BWV 1048
	Orchestral Suite No. 4, BWV 1069
	Concerto for Flute, Violin, and Harpsichord, BWV 1044
TELEMANN	Concerto in B-flat Major for 3 Violins, 3 Oboes, and Continuo*
	Quartet in G Major for Flute, Oboe, Violin, and Continuo*

* Music of the Baroque premiere

** Music of the Baroque debut