



# A m a d e u s

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## Newsletter

A publication of the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta, Inc.

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### Special Welcome to our New Members

Bill Baker  
 Jason Maynard  
 Daniel Patillo

### Facts about Mozart:

There is hardly any form of music which he did not richly adorn with the treasures of his genius. We may well say, in the words of one of his most competent critics: "Mozart was a king and a slave—king in his own beautiful realm of music; slave of the circumstances and the conditions of this world. Once over the boundaries of his own kingdom, and he was supreme; but the powers of the earth acknowledged not his sovereignty."

## Happy Birthday Mozart!

The Pro-Mozart Society celebrates the 257<sup>th</sup> birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the most famous Austrian of all time and the most exceptional musically. *Members who joined at the Patron level or above* are invited to a 6 p.m. dinner Saturday, January 26, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Victor Polizos, hosts, as well as Sherry and Kevin Pritchett, past President and currently Vice President of Programs.

To join or upgrade your membership to one of the Patron levels, visit the organization's Web site [www.MozartAtlanta.com](http://www.MozartAtlanta.com), see the Membership area, then click on Join Now for a membership application. Pro-Mozart Atlanta patron-level sponsorship begins at \$175 for individuals and \$220 for couples. Other patron levels are Silver, \$300/345, and Gold, \$550/595.

The evening will feature a buffet dinner and performances by William Ransom who heads the piano department at Emory and violinist Domenic Salerni, a member of the Vega String Quartet currently in residence at Emory.

The Candlelight environment will impart the mood of social gatherings during Mozart's era. This special occasion honors both patrons of the organization as well as our current and past leaders.

## Mozart Over Time

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, music's most precocious as he was perhaps her most talented genius, was born in Salzburg in 1756. His father, Leopold Mozart, court composer at the archiepiscopal court was a gifted and talented violinist in his own right. He was quick to recognize his young son's brilliance and as his daughter, Maria Anna (Nannerl) was also precociously gifted as a singer and keyboard performer, Leopold Mozart launched into a series of tours from 1762 which made the family and above all, the young Wolfgang, internationally famous.

This first period of his career may be said to have ended in 1773 with his second visit to Italy. It says much for the strength of Mozart's talent, as well as its careful supervision, that he was not spiritually destroyed by the hot-house conditions of these early years. As it was, his phenomenal devotion to work which was to



remain with him throughout his life, enabled him to benefit in the fullest from the rich experience of the musical life Europe offered him by these visits to all the main Italian centers, to Paris, Vienna and even to London where he profited by his meeting with J.C. Bach. However, although Mozart the musician survived, it is almost certain that the physical demands of the punishing schedules of engagements of these early years sapped his physique and weakened his frail constitution and contributed to his early death.

Mozart continued to tour Europe. During the 1770's, Mozart held a post in the orchestra of the court of Salzburg, but he suffered the most ignominious treatment from the archbishop and in 1781 provoked his own dismissal. From then on he lived freelance in Vienna earning his living as a composer and performer – most of his piano concertos were written for his own concerts. Yet despite the acclaim enjoyed by his operas and his continuing reputation, lacking the protection of any form of copyright law and subject to the fickleness of fashion, Mozart died of uremia, neglected by all save a few friends and his devoted wife Constance Weber and was buried in a pauper's grave.

## *Pro - Mozart's Annual Holiday Gala Noel*

As you entered the gracious column lined hall of the festive Holiday Gala affair, members and guests delighted in the glorious sounds of the Premiere Brass Quintet floating from the balcony while mingling and cheerfully placing bids on a number of silent auction items. A sit down dinner was enjoyed by all followed with entertainment by the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers and an award presentation to William Baker, founder of the William Baker Festival Singers as well as honoring one of our very own, soprano, Marilyn Dietrichs as Honorary Chair. Marilyn said she was a diva during her time – to us, she remains distinguished!

The annual Holiday Gala, the primary fundraiser for the Pro-Mozart Scholarship Fund, was an elegant event.



John Selvage and Fay Selvage, past president and Peter Morris



Sherry and Kevin Pritchett, past president



Bryan Freeman and Linn Murphy



Marilyn Dietrichs, Honorary Chair and Herb Buffington, President



Sherry Gorsline and daughter



Don Dietrichs and Marilyn Dietrichs, Honorary Chair



Lucia and William Pulgram



William Baker, Honoree and Herb Buffington, President



Joy and Rex Simms, VP Scholarship

## *A Message from Our President*



Greetings to all of our members and friends,

Since I last wrote in this space, we together enjoyed the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gala benefiting the scholarship fund. Wonderful music from the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers, the Kazanetti String Quartet, and Premiere Brass helped underscore that the evening was for and about quality music.

It was great to be able to honor William O. (Bill) Baker for his impressive body of work, including founding and helming the William Baker Festival Singers, of which the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers are a part. And it is always special to salute one of our own, with Marilyn Dietrichs serving as Honorary Chair. (Sometimes we forget an Atlanta music icon is in our midst.)

There are so many other folks to thank for the Gala and I best be careful or I'll leave someone out – and run out of space – but allow me to at least give a nod to Sandra Minnich for chairing the event and to Claire Hanson for spearheading our silent auction.

Next up is the Patrons' Circle Party, celebrating the 257th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Patron-level Pro-Mozart Atlanta members will gather at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Victor Polizos on Saturday, January 26, at 6 p.m. The event is open to Pro-Mozart Executive Board and Patron-level members, so please consider upgrading a current membership to a Patron level to join us for this special evening which will include performances by Dr. William Ransom, Piano, and Domenic Salerni, Violin. Thanks to Kevin and Sherry Pritchett for co-hosting and especially to Kevin for arranging for this wonderful entertainment.

Following on the heels of that candlelight event will be our February 10 concert by the aforementioned William Baker Festival Singers. Make plans to join us at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna. Consider taking the opportunity to invite friends and remind them that the concerts are free to Pro-Mozart Atlanta members, so the cost of a membership offsets concert attendance. (Plus other great benefits!)

It's worth noting the high praise the Festival Singers received from Ellen Dressler Moryl, Director, Piccolo Spoleto Festival: "The William Baker Festival Singers is one of the very best choral ensembles of any size or genre in the southeastern United States and beyond."

The Final Round of the Scholarship Competition is another must-see, happening on March 10. Then the 2012 Pro-Mozart Atlanta Scholarship Competition Winner Benjamin Rollings performs for us April 21.

Finally, a reminder to those of you who venture into the world of social media. Please "like" the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta, Inc., on Facebook: *Pro Mozart Society of Atlanta*.

I look forward to seeing you on our Facebook page, but, especially, at the great upcoming events noted above. Thank you for being part of the Pro-Mozart Society.

All the best,

Herb Buffington

## *The Pro-Mozart Society Up-Coming Events*

**February 10, 2013** - Choral Ensembles from the William Baker Choral Foundation In Concert, 3pm, St. Benedict's Episcopal Church, 2160 Cooper Lake Road Southeast, Smyrna, GA 30080

**March 10, 2013** - Scholarship Competition Final Round, 2:00pm, Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 805 Mt. Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

**April 21, 2013** - Benjamin Rollings, pianist, In Concert , 2012 Scholarship Winner, 5:00pm, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, 3180 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305

**May 5, 2013** - Spring Fling Members' Concert, 2:00pm, Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 805 Mt. Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

**June 16, 2013** - Annual Meeting and Picnic, 4:00pm, venue to be determined

### **Reminder**

**Next Concert:** The William Baker Festival Singers will perform a program entitled, "Mozart and His American Contemporaries"

**When:** February 10, 2013 at 3pm

**Where:** St. Benedict's Episcopal Church,  
2160 Cooper Lake Road Southeast, Smyrna, GA 30080

Browse our Website at [www.mozartatlanta.com](http://www.mozartatlanta.com) to keep abreast of Pro-Mozart concerts and events.



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