



A m a d e u s

May 2013

Newsletter

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Members and Friends Spring Fling Concert
- Facts About Mozart
- 2013 Scholarship Winners
- President's Message
- Mozart Over Time
- Upcoming Events
- Have you Considered...



Facts about Mozart

Of the 41 symphonies that Mozart wrote, only two are in a minor key, both of which are in G minor (Symphony 25 & 40).

Mozart's music was often criticized as being too complex and "having too many notes."

Mozart was known to take familiar musical lines from one piece of music and insert them into another piece of music.

Mozart is often referred to as the most universal composer meaning people everywhere, of all ages, can enjoy his music. Even if you know nothing about music, you can still enjoy most of it at first hearing. It has that magical combination of lightness, joy, elegance and rhythmic motion. Mozart seems to be in touch with each one of us, making our hearts and minds feel things in ways words or pictures cannot. The magical effect that Mozart's music has on us, more than two centuries after his death, has not diminished.

Pro-Mozart Members and Friends Spring Fling Concert

Sunday May 1, 2011 at 2:00 PM

It's Springtime and The Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta celebrates each year with the Members and Friends Spring Fling Concert. This popular event will be held at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 805 Mt. Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs. Several members of the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta who are professional musicians, along with other professionals who are friends of Pro-Mozart, will perform together in concert. The Finale will be "Sunrise Sunset" from *Fiddler on the Roof*, and will include all the performers.



The vocalists include lyric spinto soprano Mary Ann Hill-Meehan, Patron and Past President of Pro-Mozart and resident of Alpharetta; and bel canto tenor Steven L. Nanni, a friend of Pro-Mozart who is based in New England. Some of the composers for the vocalists, who will perform solos and duets, include Debussy, Lehar, Lloyd-Webber, Donaudy, Verdi, Rossini and, of course, Mozart.

Hill-Meehan was born into a musical family, performing on stage since the age of five. She holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Syracuse University, where she studied both piano and voice. Her international training took her to Italy, Switzerland, and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. She was appointed Fellow with the Choral Guild of Atlanta, and won a grant to study with famed soprano and former Juilliard professor Ellen Faulk at the Bel Canto Northwest Festival in Portland, Oregon. She has sung leading roles in many operas, including *La boheme*, *Cavalliera rusticana*, and *Così fan tutti*. In addition, she has sung soprano roles in American musicals in New York City, including *The Music Man* and *Guys and Dolls*. She continues to be actively engaged in theater, opera and recital and is on the board of The Atlanta Opera.

Nanni is a fast-rising world-class bel canto tenor who displays an extraordinary voice in opera, oratorio and song literature. Newspaper reviews of his performances extol his many virtues. "Tonight, a very musical, exciting and brilliant tenor sang Mozart with ease and elegance," reported the *New York Observer*. Favorite roles include Tito in Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan tutti*, Alfredo in Verdi's *La traviata*, and Count Almaviva in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. He is a student of Carol and Nico Castel of the New York Opera Studio, and has worked in master classes and studied with Joan Dornemann, Kenneth Cooper, Joshua Green, William Vendice, Renata Scotto, Plácido Domingo, Licia Albanese, and Montserrat Caballé. In 2008 Nico Castel stated "I believe that Steven L. Nanni has the intelligence, artistic potential, vocal talent, and ambition to have a very important career in this business."



The instrumentalists will include organist Herb Buffington, Patron and current President of Pro-Mozart and resident of Buckhead; pianist Jason Maynard, Patron and Atlanta resident; and flutist Kristen Holritz, friend of Pro-Mozart and resident of Athens, Georgia. Their selections will include works by Mozart, Charles-Marie Widor, and Ian Clarke.



Buffington has been Organist at the Peachtree Christian Church since 1996. Nationally recognized for his refined skill as an improvisateur, he has served on the faculties of numerous music conferences and maintains a busy concert schedule. He won second prize in the 2010 American Guild of Organists' National Competition in Organ Improvisation. Some of his organ improvisations and published compositions have been featured on Minnesota Public Radio's "Performance Today" and American Public Media's "Pipedreams." His recording of Christmas improvisations ("Joy to the World") has received highly favorable acclaim. Buffington received early musical training as a chorister in the Men and Boys Choir at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta. He received academic degrees from Duke University (A.B.) and from the Peabody Conservatory of Music at The Johns Hopkins University (M.Mus.). European study was at the Vienna International Music Center and the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Austria.

Noted for her "beautiful tone and vibrato" by the *Classical Voice of North Carolina*, Holritz is both soloist and orchestral musician. She made her solo debut with the United States Air Force Band in 2005 as winner of the Col. George S. Howard Young Artist Competition. In 2008 she soloed with the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra. During the 2012-13 season she was featured as a concerto competition winner with the University of Georgia Symphony Orchestra, won first place in the 2013 Atlanta Flute Club Young Artist Competition, and third place in the Midsouth Flute Festival Young Artist Competition. In summer 2013 she will team in Japan with her violinist husband Josh Holritz and musicians from The Juilliard School to perform and teach at the newly formed Community Arts Tokyo Program. She received a B.Mus. from the University of North Carolina's School of the Arts with Tadeu Coelho, a M.Mus. from The Juilliard School with Ribert Langevin, and is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at the University of Georgia with Angela Jones-Reus. Apart from school, she maintains a private teaching studio and is Adjunct Flute Professor at Truett-McConnell College, in Cleveland, GA.



Maynard has been Assistant Organist at Peachtree Christian Church since August, 2011. Previously he was based in Augusta, Georgia as Music Instructor at Augusta State University; Organist and Director of Music at Covenant Presbyterian Church; and Director of the Medical College of Georgia's Chorus. He holds a B.Mus. degree from Baldwin-Wallace College, majoring in piano performance; an M.Mus. from Cleveland State University, majoring in organ performance; and expects to finish his M.Mus., Choral Conducting, from Georgia State University in 2013.

This concert is not to be missed! As customary, a meet the artists' reception will follow.

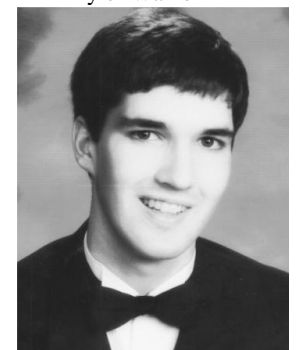
Pro-Mozart Scholarship Competition Winners

Lilli Lehmann founded the International Summer Academy in 1916 with only private voice lessons offered within the premises of the Mozarteum. In 1925 Willy Schweyda gave the first violin class. Classes in piano, composition, conducting and opera were added in 1929 thanks to the sponsorship of American Julian Freedman. During 1930 - 1937 the "Academy" was known as "Musical Summer Courses"; from 1937 to 1940 as "The Mozarteum Summer Academy" for Music, Theatre and Dance, and between 1940 to 1944 as "Summer Academy for Foreigners at the Mozarteum". After 1945 Bernard Paumgartner reorganized the classes and since 1947 it bears the name "**Mozarteum International Summer Academy**". Throughout the years, the Summer Academy has steadily expanded its rich artistic offerings. Today it has more than 70 master classes with 800 to 1000 annual participants and is one of the largest and most renowned institutions world-wide. In three two week class periods, outstanding teachers work with talented young musicians from all over the world on their instrumental and vocal skills.

This year the judges selected two talented pianists to attend the Mozarteum – congratulations to Tyler Walker and Mark Hadden. Tyler performed, amongst other works, Mozart's Fantasia No. 4 in C Minor, K. 475. Fantasia unfolds through four tempi; Adagio, Allegro, Andantino, and Più Allegro which help to delineate its sections, Each change of tempo signals the introduction of new material. Mozart published his Fantasia and Sonata in December 1785 with a dedication to Madame Therese von Trattner. Madame von Trattner (1758 1796) was a pupil of Mozart and the wife of Mozart's wealthy and influential landlord. It has been suggested that an unhappy love affair with her might have provoked the serious expression of both works. However, no proof for this assumption exists. This Fantasy might well be ranked as Mozart's most significant single piano composition. Tyler's performance was full of expression and beautiful. Mark Hadden selected Mozart's Sonata in D Major; K.311 written in three movements and composed in Mannheim around 1777 radiates exuberance, emotion and brilliant composition. The Sonata was beautifully presented by Hadden. We know both will absorb the teachings at the Mozarteum and come back with learnings they will share with us next year when they present themselves in concert during season 2014.



Tyler Walker



Mark Hadden



A Message from Our President

Greetings to all of our members and friends,

Since I last wrote here, Pro-Mozart Atlanta held our annual scholarship competition finals and made awards to TWO talented young Georgia Musicians. Pianists Mark Hadden of Lilburn and Tyler Walker of Valdosta each received scholarships of \$4,000 to study this Summer at the famed Mozarteum Summer Academy in Salzburg, Austria.

The Final Round of judging, during which Hadden and Walker were chosen from among seven finalists, was held before a live audience and the judges, which included professional musicians, the director of a university school of music and the conductor/director of a symphony orchestra.

As is the tradition with Pro-Mozart Atlanta, Hadden and Walker will be presented in concert in spring 2014. Like all of our Society's concerts, this one will be open to the public.

On Sunday, April 21, Benjamin Rollings, the 2012 Pro-Mozart Atlanta Scholarship Competition winner presented a concert at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Rollings' program selections from Bach, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Albeniz and, of course, our great friend Mozart, were technically well executed, beautifully played and enjoyed by all present.

Next up will be our Spring Fling on Sunday, May 5, featuring Pro-Mozart members and friends performing. There is no admission charge for this event, and it is open to the public. Donations to our scholarship fund are of course accepted and most appreciated.

For the Spring Fling we will again be back at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Sandy Springs. Vocalists will include lyric spinto soprano Mary Ann Hill-Meehan, patron and past president of Pro-Mozart; bel canto tenor Steven L. Nanni, a friend of Pro-Mozart who is based in New England. Instrumentalists will include pianist Jason Maynard, patron; flutist Kristen Holritz, friend of Pro-Mozart; and yours truly playing the church's pipe organ. I am especially excited about the terrific finale that is planned.

The Spring Fling is an especially good concert at which to introduce friends, neighbors and associates to Pro-Mozart Atlanta and its endeavors, so please consider inviting guests to join you on May 5.

We'll round out the year, and my term as your president, with the annual meeting and picnic on Sunday, June 16.

Thank you again for being part of Pro-Mozart Atlanta,

Herb Buffington

Mozart Over Time

"Mozart is a touchstone of the heart. If I want to show my love to a dear person, I sit down at the piano and play for her a piece of Mozart". In these words the great Mozart interpreter Edwin Fischer expressed an essential message: every note Mozart wrote is a reflection of his character – affectionate, sensitive and yet at the same time powerful and virile, abounding both of inspiration and an early acquired masterly control comparable in some ways only with that of Johann-Sebastian Bach. Mozart's ability to express the deepest thoughts with the fewest notes is why it is so difficult to play his music properly. Technical prowess alone won't do it. It requires the ability of a feeling heart to express music as an affectionate communication between performer and listener. No other classical composer labeled a movement "amoroso" (Andante of the Sonata in B flat major, K. 281). "Beethoven is superb, but Mozart is sublime". It would be absurd to ask which of the two masters expressed more depth in his music. For a long time Beethoven was considered to be more profound; his works stood for the expression of the transcendental and ineffable.



The clarity and lightness of Mozart's creations led generations of music-lovers to the erroneous opinion that he composed his works without any effort, "as the bird sings". In reality his works are the result of relentless learning and not little toil. Mozart had studied the compositions of the old masters as well as those of his contemporaries diligently, and he was constantly working on his own improvement. It was Joseph Haydn who best recognized the combination of God-given talent and acquired mastery in Mozart when he said to Leopold Mozart: "I tell you before God and as a honest man that your son is the greatest composer I know. He has taste and moreover the greatest knowledge of composition" (Leopold Mozart quoted these words in a letter to his daughter in Salzburg, dated 16th February, 1785).

The Pro-Mozart Society Up-Coming Events

May 5, 2013 - Spring Fling Members' and Friends 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

Have you considered...

The Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta Board of Directors needs your talent to serve on its Board or be a Committee Chair. Your becoming active and involved helps to ensure the success of The Pro-Mozart Society and its ability to provide annual scholarship(s) to talented musicians at the world renowned Mozarteum International Summer Academy in Salzburg, Austria. Please contact **Herb Buffington, President, 678-488-3591, president@mozartatlanta.com** to discuss how you can contribute or complete and mail the enclosed form to *Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta, Post Office Box 76171 • Atlanta, Georgia 30358*

Browse our Website at www.mozartatlanta.com to keep abreast of Pro-Mozart concerts and events.



First Class Mail

Change of address requested



PRO-MOZART

Society of Atlanta

Become involved...maximize the benefit of membership for you and The Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta by volunteering; it is the cornerstone to achieving the Mission of the The Pro-Mozart Society. Please indicate the committee(s) you would like to participate and Email or mail the below form to:

HBuffington@habershamfunding.com,

Herb Buffington
Habersham Funding, Inc.
3495 Piedmont Road, NE, Suite 910
Atlanta, GA 30305
(678.488.3591 cell)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Email _____

Profession _____ Hobbies _____

Committees:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Gala Noel | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Gala Silent Auction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artists Reception | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |