



PRO-MOZART SOCIETY

OF ATLANTA, GA., INC.

P. O. Box 95354, Atlanta, Georgia 30347

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NOVEMBER 2001

PROMOTE
PRO-MOZART!



Amadeus

Newsletter

Mezzo-soprano D'Anna Fortunato featured in fall concert with pianist Shirley Irek

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Musical Quote

"Mozart makes you believe in God—much more than going to church—because it cannot be by chance that such a phenomenon arrives into this world and then passes after 36 years, leaving behind such an unbounded number of unparalleled masterpieces."

—Sir Georg Solti
Conductor

It could be said that, recently, it has been the era of the mezzo-soprano. With the sensational popularity of mezzos, such as Cecilia Bartoli and Susan Graham, it is fitting that Pro-Mozart begin its season with beautiful music for this type of voice. Mezzo-soprano **D'Anna Fortunato** is widely acclaimed for her richly colored voice and superior musical intelligence.

New York Magazine wrote: "... The most polished singing came from D'Anna Fortunato" in her role of Neris from Cherubini's *Medea*. *The Boston Globe* reports, "Fortunato was in sumptuous voice," and compact disc reviews include the *American Record Guide*: "She sings with great richness of sound and depth of characterization" (Handel). D'Anna performs in recital, opera, and concert, and has recorded extensively. She has appeared with St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra, Boston Camarata, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, and many others. You will be delighted to hear the music of Mozart during this recital, including *lieder* selections, and operatic and concert arias. Rounding out the program will be music by Gabriel Fauré, Aaron Copland, and Richard Hundley.



D'Anna Fortunato

Leading collaborative pianist, **Shirley Irek** will assist Ms. Fortunato at the piano. Ms. Irek was heard during last seasons's Pro-Mozart concerts with violinist Peter Zazofsky. Born in Croatia and educated at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, and at the Juilliard School of Music, Ms. Irek now resides in Atlanta. Her career spans a 15-year two-piano touring team. She is a member of the Broyhill Chamber Ensemble performing critically acclaimed recitals at Carnegie Hall. While at Juilliard, Shirley won the Mozart Piano Concerto Prize and performed at Lincoln Center under conductor Sixten Ehrling. She is also the first recipient of the Van Cliburn Award in memory of Rosina Lhevinne. Don't miss this wonderful concert on **Sunday, November 18, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the Kellett Chapel, Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Buckhead**. Reception follows to meet the artists. ☺

The President's Corner

by Kitty Anderson

Pro-Mozart is gearing up for a very busy season. Our first concert is November 18, and our Christmas Gala Noël fundraiser is December 15.

The brochures for the scholarship have been mailed, membership renewal notices have been sent out, and another *Amadeus* is being planned to keep you up-to-date. All this activity means that we need lots of people to support these events. Get involved! Volunteer to assist the various committee chairpeople in their activities.

The more you get involved, the more you will derive from your membership in Pro-Mozart. Be sure to attend the



concerts; bring friends to the Gala to ensure that our fundraiser reaches its goal to raise the necessary funds to send a musician to Salzburg, Austria next summer. Enjoy your membership in the finest small musical organization in Atlanta!

Call me to advise of your interest in helping the organization to grow, prosper, and above all, enhance your musical enjoyment. You won't regret it! My phone number is (404) 325-1229.

Kitty Anderson
President



Thank you!

Mary Ann Hill-Meehan, past president, wishes to graciously thank Pro-Mozart for the lovely book and recording of Mozart's "The Magic Flute." This gift will be a lovely remembrance of my wonderful times and friendships at Pro-Mozart!



Time to renew?

Time to join?

Time to introduce a friend to Pro-Mozart?

Why not do it at the concert on November 18th? Ed White will be waiting to help you with membership information!

Please address comments to:

Amadeus

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~Editor~

Mary Ann Hill-Meehan

~Publisher~

Lance G. Hill



CALENDAR OF UP-COMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 18th, 2001, 3:00 p.m.

Fall Concert featuring mezzo-soprano **D'Anna Fortunato** with pianist Shirley Irek in the Kellett Chapel, Peachtree Presbyterian Church, 3434 Roswell Road, Atlanta, Ga.

Saturday, December 15, 2001, 7:30 to 11:00 p.m.

Gala Noël Scholarship Benefit. Fundraiser to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shafik Ladha in Buckhead. Music, buffet, silent auction, raffle, and a holiday sing-a-long makes for a very merry event. Proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund to sponsor a talented musician to study at the Mozarteum Institute in Salzburg, Austria. This "blacktie-optional" event is open to Pro Mozart and all who love great music.

January 2002, Date, place and time TBA

Patrons Party in celebration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birthday anniversary. Music, food, an appreciation of Mozart, as we honor those members who have contributed to the ProMozart Society by becoming a Patron. Invitations will be sent for this "black tie" event.

Sunday, February 24, 2002, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Pro Mozart Scholarship Finals. Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Kellett Chapel, 3434 Roswell Road, Atlanta, Ga. All members are urged to attend. The public is invited, and refreshments will be served.

Sunday, March 24, 2002, 3:00 p.m.

Scholarship Competition Winner Concert. **Janice Wong**, pianist and winner of our 2001 Competition is presented in recital. She attended the 2001 summer session at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Come hear what she learned!

May 2002, Date, time and place TBA

Spring Concert. To be announced

June 2002, Date, time and place TBA

The Annual Pro-Mozart General Meeting and Picnic. Elections of officers, fun and friendship at the close of a busy season.



The
Pro-Mozart
Gala Noël
Scholarship Benefit

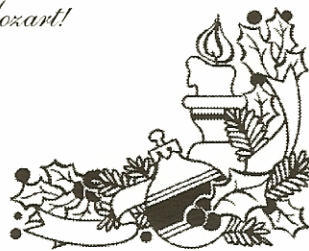
Saturday, December 15, 2001

7:30 to 11:00 p.m.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Shafik Ladha
295 West Paces Ferry Road, NW
Atlanta, Georgia

Live Music During the Cocktail Hour
Delicious Holiday Buffet
Musical "Programette"
Silent Auction
Raffle
Popular Sing-a-Long

Come join us in your holiday finery
and enjoy the festive season with
Pro-Mozart!



MOZART

by Lance G. Hill

There is going to be plenty of Mozart's music for D'Anna Fortunato's forthcoming recital on November 18. Of all of Mozart's *œuvres*, his *lieder* (art songs) are probably the least known of his immense output. And a pity it is, too. Generally speaking, when the *terrified* is used, one immediately thinks of the numerous songs of Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, and Hugo Wolf. Even on recordings, in a recent Schwann *Opus* catalogue immediately at hand, only eleven listings are shown of which one singer is a mezzo-soprano. So, this is a rare treat for ProMozartians, indeed, to hear Mozart's songs live!

A look at Ms. Fortunato's proposed program indicates four songs will be presented. Mozart is widely acclaimed for the vocalism in his operatic works, and his songs were, understandably, greatly influenced by his operatic mind; indeed they sometimes *sound* like opera arias. Aside from Mozart's gift with melody, he also had a gift of lyricism. Combining the richness of his accompaniments with written text or poetry, Mozart can be credited with paving the way for the great *lieder* composers who followed, including those mentioned above, and expanded to include Carl Loewe, Felix Mendelssohn, and Robert Franz, among others. Haydn and Beethoven, too, were composers of *lieder*. Since Mozart wrote his songs at each stage of his development, they often reflect the time he lived in, and he was not too particular about the origin of the texts themselves. For Mozart, the *music* came first rather than the text.

The four songs Ms. Fortunato will sing include "An Chloe" (To Chloe), "Abendempfindung [an Laura]" (Thoughts at Evening [to Laura]); "Dans un Bois Solitaire" (In a Lonely Wood); and "Der Zauberer" (The Enchanter). They represent just four of approximately 38 written by Mozart in contrast to over 600 songs composed by Schubert.

Another aspect of Mozart's vocal art is his "concert arias," of which there are approximately 35. These were composed primarily for concert work though sometimes they were interpolated into operas. Mozart wrote these specifically for certain singers he knew, tailoring them to the artist's technical and interpretive abilities. "Bella mia fiamma, addio!" (Light of my life, farewell!), K. 528 was written in Prague in November 1787. Mozart's *Don Giovanni* had opened in Prague a few days earlier, and Mozart was staying with soprano Josefa Duschek and her husband just outside Prague. According to Mozart's son, Josefa locked Mozart in his room until he finished composing the aria. He agreed to give it to her only if she sang it correctly from the first sight reading. The piece is imbued with difficult intervals and chromaticism. Apparently Josefa was a fine musician since Mozart conducted the aria for her at a concert given with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in May 1789.

Ms. Fortunato also will sing two arias portrayed by Cherubino—Count Almaviva's page—from Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro), K. 492. The opera was composed in Vienna between 1785 and 1786 based on the writing of celebrated librettist and poet Lorenzo da Ponte (1749-1838). "Voi che sapete," [Act 2] is the aria where Cherubino questions the meaning of love, and "Non so più" [Act 1] is her song about love, inspired by one of the Countess Almaviva's ribbons. A beloved Mozart opera! ☺

HELP YOUR BUSINESS ... HELP PRO-MOZART!

We have some great space in our programs for ads and we are eager to identify the supporters of Pro-Mozart to the community. For very reasonable rates, you can buy a 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, or full page ad, which will appear in every program for the season. Please call Martha Clarke at 770-475-9138 for additional information. Remember: *it pays to advertise.*

**Be sure to mark your calendars NOW
for these forthcoming Pro-Mozart
events ...**

Amadeus

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**Sunday, November 18, 2001, 3pm
D'ANNA FORTUNATO**

mezzo-soprano

**Saturday, December 15, 2001, 7:30pm
GALA NOËL SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT**

Quote: "A Mozart Mass can make the unbeliever half believe."

—James O'Neill



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of Atlanta, Ga., Inc.*

P. O. Box #95354
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the guidance of the



First Class

Change of address requested.