



# A m a d e u s

February 2013

## Newsletter

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

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

William Baker Festival Singers  
Mozart Over Time  
Celebrating Mozart's Birthday  
Message from Our President  
Up-Coming Events  
Have you Considered?



### Facts about Mozart:

The **Sonata in B-flat major, K.454** (1784) performed at the Patrons' Party is in a class all by itself among Mozart's violin sonatas. Mozart had been asked to compose a new sonata for the Viennese debut of a remarkable virtuoso Regina Strinasacchi, which took place April 29, 1784; she was 22 or 23 at the time. Having left the composition to the last minute as he often did, Mozart once again had no time to notate the piano part. The story goes that, after giving Strinasacchi her music, he had an empty sheet on the piano, as he played a part that only existed in his head. When he later wrote it down, he used ink of a different color and had a hard time squeezing in all the sixteenths underneath the notes of the violin. According to Mozart's widow, even Emperor Joseph II found out about the ruse, as he was looking through his opera glasses and noticed that Mozart had no music in front of him.

## The Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta Presents

### William Baker Festival Singers

Sunday, February 10, 2013, at 3:00 pm



William Baker Festival Singers Perform "Mozart and His American Contemporaries: Folk Music in the Americas During the Time of Mozart and Haydn", St. Benedict's Episcopal Church, 2160 Cooper Lake Rd, Smyrna, GA 30080. The program will include the following:

Mozart: REGINA COELI, KV 276, Lynn Swanson, organ. Ms. Swanson is the Music Director at St. Benedict's and is the Executive Associate Music Director of the William Baker Festival Singers. American Folk Hymns: The Road Home, Charla Williams, solo; Calvary's Mountain; and Hark I Hear the

Harp's Eternal, Sara Means, solo. African-American Spirituals: I Want to Be Ready, Jessica Shepherd, solo; and Great Day, Ann Vines and Charles Nelson, soloists

The Atlanta ensemble of the William Baker Festival Singers ([www.FestivalSingers.org](http://www.FestivalSingers.org)) was created in 1985 by William O. Baker and Janis M. Lane under the name Gwinnett Festival Singers. Now in its 28<sup>th</sup> season, the



Festival Singers has reached its highest level of musical accomplishment and community service.

The Festival Singers have conducted tours across the Southeastern United States and throughout Great Britain, produced numerous recordings and were heard on local television programs across the South and in radio programs across the nation. Venues included such prestigious stages as Spivey Hall in Atlanta, Divinity Chapel in Birmingham and the Cathedrals at Chester, Birmingham and Canterbury in England.

High praise 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."

William O. Baker, DMA, Founder & Music Director of the William Baker Choral Foundation, was honored at Pro-Mozart Atlanta's annual Gala, held this past December. He was honored for his ongoing work to the musical community and the community at large. Dr. Baker also is the President of Amber Waves Music.



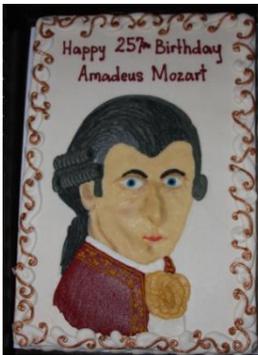
**Mozart Over Time** Taken from the book "The Larousse Encyclopedia of Music"  
edited by Geoffrey Hindley.

Mozart's astonishingly prolific output included some twenty operatic works, seventeen masses, twenty-one piano concertos, concertos for violin and also for wind instruments (notably the famous horn concertos), twenty-seven string quartets and six string quintets, as well as much other chamber

music and forty-one symphonies. Of these the best known are No. 29 in A; No. 35 in D (the *Haffner*); No. 36 in C (the *Linz*); No. 38 in D (the *Prague*); and the last great three, all composed in the summer of 1788, No. 39 in E flat, No. 40 in G minor and the so-called "Jupiter", No. 41 in C.

After Hayden, Mozart made the next major contribution to symphonic writing. It was he who was the first to make the symphony "sing" by introducing into the initial allegro an elegiac element conceived in the spirit of the adagio; an admirable example is the initial phrase of the fortieth symphony. Mozart sought greater diversity, charm and sweetness of sonorities. He individualized the tone colors of the instruments and made far more effective use of the wind instruments than Hayden, who learned from him in this respect, had done in his early works. Mozart particularly appreciated the fullness of timbre of the clarinet, often substituting it for the oboe in his symphonies and using it in many chamber music ensembles. He was also very fond of the sonority of the French horn which in the symphonies is frequently given the function of strengthening the blending between the strings and the woodwind. The prevailing harmonic style predominated in his music, but he was also an absolute master of fugal writing, as is demonstrated by the final section of the "Jupiter" symphony. The concern for expressiveness led him to expand the development and modulating bridge sections and also the final rondo, in which he frequently introduced a second melodic idea which took on a considerable importance in his last works.

## *Celebrating the Birthday of Mozart*



257 years later, music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart still inspires. The Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta celebrated Mozart's Birthday by honoring its Patrons and Board Members at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Victor Polizos with co-hosts, Sherry and Kevin Pritchett, beginning with a social hour and dinner, followed by a music program and deserts. William Ransom, piano and Domenic Salerni, violin delighted us with the classical perfection reached in the works of Mozart. Then a 100 year fast forward to the works of Kreisler, Chopin and Bassini. The musical mastery of the musicians moved all and to everyone's joy, our intense applause received an encore. Mozart's birthday party ended with two Austrian deserts and vanilla caramel cake as well as warm thanks to Christina and Victor for inviting us into their home for the occasion and co-hosts Sherry and Kevin.



Co-Host Kevin Pritchett with Hosts Christina and Victor Polizos



Pro-Mozart Patrons & Board Members readying for program



Domenic Salerni, violin & Will Ransom, Piano



Herb Buffington preparing to play Happy Birthday



Kay Alverlda with Pianist Will Ransom



Marilyn and Don Dietrichs

## *A Message from Our President*



Greetings to all of our members and friends,

It seems I am always using this space to thank someone, but that's wholly appropriate: After all, we have many generous members who see to it that we have unprecedented programming – particularly when you consider we are a relatively small organization.

Well, let me begin by thanking Victor and Christina Polizos and Kevin and Sherry Pritchett who co-hosted a lovely Patrons' Party at the Polizos home. This annual event marking Mozart's birthday is a great opportunity to thank (there's that theme again!) our leadership and Patron-level members. It's also nice that the event always inspires a few members to upgrade to the patron level.

That added level of support goes a long way in helping our scholarship initiative. Of course, we couldn't undertake the scholarship program without support from all members, from concert attendees, from the many talented amateur and professional musicians who judge and otherwise foster the competition and competitors, and, not least, our stalwart vice presidents of scholarship, Rex and Joy Simms.

Keep that in mind when you attend the Final Round of this year's Scholarship Competition March 10, which will take place at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church. And again when 2012 Pro-Mozart Atlanta Scholarship Competition Winner Benjamin Rollings performs for us April 21 at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Rollings will play on the church's Bösendorfer "Imperial" Grand piano. A big "thank you" to Scott Atchison, PRUMC's Director of Music and Organist, who has enabled us to hold the concert there.

In the meantime, we'll enjoy the February 10 concert by the William Baker Festival Singers, who will perform a program entitled, "Mozart and His American Contemporaries: Folk Music in the Americas During the Time of Mozart & Haydn." Among the selections you'll hear: Mozart: REGINA COELI, KV 276, with Lynn Swanson, organ; three American Folk Hymns; and African American Spirituals. These festivities will take place at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna.

William (Bill) Baker was our honoree at this past year's Gala, the mention of which provides me with a great opportunity to ask you to mark your calendars for the December 7, 2013 Holiday Gala, where we will proudly honor David White, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Georgia Boy Choir ([www.GeorgiaBoyChoir.org](http://www.GeorgiaBoyChoir.org)).

Next time I'll begin sharing information about the Spring Fling Members Concert (May 5) and the Annual Meeting and Picnic (June 16). In preparation for the latter, please begin thinking of the role you want to play in this fine organization for the 2013-2014 season.

For now, please allow me one last "thank you" – to Ingrid Hanson, our newsletter editor. As you know or can imagine, editing an organization's newsletter is no easy task; especially so for an all-volunteer organization. So, kudos to Ingrid: Thank you for keeping us all informed.

Thank YOU for being part of Pro-Mozart Atlanta,

Yours sincerely,

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

### **Have you considered?**

**The Pro-Mozart Society 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. Please call **Herb Buffington, President, 678-488-3591** or email him at [president@mozartatlanta.com](mailto:president@mozartatlanta.com) to discuss how you can contribute.

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



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