

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Festival Concert

Sunday *at* 4 PM | March 18, 2018

Germantown Oratorio Choir

F. Anthony Thurman MUSIC DIRECTOR

Evelyn Santiago SOPRANO
Margaret Mezzacappa MEZZO SOPRANO
Robert Phillips BARITONE
Gayle Martin & Ted W. Barr PIANO
Zubin Hathi TIMPANI

35 WEST CHELTEN AVENUE | PHILADELPHIA
www.fpcgermantown.org
215-843-8811

Welcome!

Thank you for your attendance at this Brahms Festival Concert presented by the Germantown Oratorio Choir. Founded in 1910 as a community outreach program of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, the choir performs seasonally and rehearses weekly October–December, and January–March. Members of the choir, representing a wide diversity of age, socioeconomic, racial, and educational backgrounds, are drawn from throughout the Delaware Valley. The semi-professional choir unites volunteers and professional musicians working side by side toward a common goal of musical excellence while promoting classical music to an under-served community.

The Brahms *Requiem* was composed between 1865 and 1868. Today's concert commemorates the 150th anniversary of the first performance of the complete work in Bremen Cathedral. It will be performed in English using the composer's own arrangement for four-hand piano—often called "The London Version." The piano duo will be performing on the nine-foot Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano. We are enhancing our performance with timpani as used in the composer's full orchestration.

The Brahms *Requiem* is set apart from other Requiems by its text. While a traditional Requiem follows the Catholic liturgy for a Mass for the dead, Brahms turned to the Lutheran Bible for his texts rather than using the traditional Latin. The composer's stated intention was to create a musical work

to comfort the living rather than one for the souls of the dead. As a result, the Brahms *Requiem* focuses on faith in the Resurrection as opposed to fear of the Last Judgment.

Although the work bears no dedication from the composer, it is widely believed that it was inspired by two significant losses in his life: the death of his close friend, Robert Schumann in 1856, and that of his mother in 1865. One might surmise that it was for the comfort of the living composer that *A German Requiem* was written.

The concert program also includes the *Alto Rhapsody*, performed by mezzo-soprano soloist Margaret Mezzacappa, a grand prize winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. The work was composed in 1869 as a wedding gift for Robert and Clara Schumann's daughter, Julie. The unusual text Brahms selected laments his loss of Julie to another man. Tragically, Julie died three years later during childbirth.

On behalf of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, I extend heartfelt gratitude to all those who have made this concert possible: the sponsors, advertisers, and friends of music listed in the program; and especially the soloists, instrumentalists, and choir who have rehearsed this extraordinary and difficult music over the past three months. Thank you!

F. Anthony Thurman, DMA
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Brahms Festival Concert
The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
P H I L A D E L P H I A
Sunday Afternoon at 4 p.m. | March 18, 2018

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.
This concert is being Internet livestreamed and can be replayed on demand:
www.fpcgermantown.org/Brahms-2018.

Welcome

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

Alto Rhapsody, Op. 53

Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)

Margaret Mezzacappa MEZZO SOPRANO | Gayle Martin PIANO
The Gentlemen of the Germantown Oratorio Choir

Offertory

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A German Requiem, Op. 45

Evelyn Santiago SOPRANO | Robert Phillips BARITONE
Gayle Martin & Ted W. Barr PIANO | Zubin Hathi TIMPANI
The Germantown Oratorio Choir

- No. 1: Blessed Are They that Mourn
- No. 2: Behold, All Flesh Is as the Grass
- No. 3: Lord, Make Me to Know
- No. 4: How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place
- No. 5: Ye Now Are Sorrowful
- No. 6: Here on Earth We Have No Continuing Place
- No. 7: Blessed Are the Dead

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

Easter Sunday Worship April 1 at 10 a.m.

Sermon by the Rev. Rebecca Segers PASTOR

Anthems by the Chancel and Gospel Choirs
Instrumentalists from the Curtis Institute of Music
F. Anthony Thurman MUSIC DIRECTOR

Hymns of glory let us sing! Alleluia!
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TEXTS

Alto Rhapsody

But who steals there away?
In the thicket his pathway is lost,
Where he passes close fall
The bushes together
The grass rises again,
The wilderness hides him.

Ah, who lightens his anguish,
His, whose balm turned to poison?
His, when hate of men
From the fullness of love he drank?
He once scorned, now a scorner
Secretly consumes all his own true worth
In self-love unapeasing.

Is there on thy psaltery,
Father of love, one note
That his ear can awaken,
Do thou quicken his heart!
Open thou his blinded eyes
Unto the thousand well-springs
Hard by the thirsting one
In the desert.

From *Winter Journey in the Harz Mountains*
Text by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Requiem

No. 1

CHORUS

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall have comfort. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Who goeth forth and weepeth, and beareth precious seed, shall doubtless return with rejoicing, and bring his sheaves with him.

No. 2

CHORUS

Behold, all flesh is as the grass, and all the goodness of man is as the flower of grass; for lo, the grass with'reth, and the flower thereof decayeth.

Now therefore be patient, O my brethren, unto the coming of Christ. See how the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early rain and the latter rain. So be ye patient.

But yet the Lord's word endureth for evermore. The redeemed of the Lord shall return again, and come rejoicing unto Zion; gladness, joy everlasting upon their heads shall be; joy and gladness shall be their portion, and tears and sighing shall flee from them.

CONTINUED



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**Germantown
Oratorio Choir**

F. Anthony Thurman **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Handel's *Messiah*
Sunday, December 2 *at* 4 pm

Weekly rehearsals beginning
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For more information or to participate:
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The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

TEXTS

No. 3 CHORUS WITH BARITONE SOLO

Lord, make me to know the measure of my days on earth, to consider my frailty that I must perish. Surely, all my days here are as an handbreadth to thee, and my lifetime is as naught to thee. Verily mankind walketh in a vain show, and their best state is vanity.

Man passeth away like a shadow, he is disquieted in vain, he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them. Now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in thee. But the righteous souls are in the hand of God, nor pain nor grief shall nigh them come.

No. 4 CHORUS

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts! For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my soul and body crieth out, yea, for the living God. O blest are they that dwell within thy house; they praise thy name evermore!

No. 5 CHORUS WITH SOPRANO SOLO

Ye now are sorrowful, therefore ye shall again behold me, and your heart shall be joyful, and your joy no man taketh from you. Yea, I will comfort you, as one whom his own mother comforteth.

Look upon me; ye know that for a little time, labor and sorrow were mine, but at the last I have found comfort.

No. 6 CHORUS WITH BARITONE SOLO

Here on earth have we no continuing place, therefore, we seek one to come. Lo, I unfold unto you a mystery. We shall not all sleep when he cometh, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the trumpet. For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and all we shall be changed.

Then, what of old was written, the same shall be brought to pass. For death shall be swallowed in victory! Grave, where is thy triumph? Death, O where is thy sting?

Worthy art thou to be praised, Lord of honor and might, for thou hast earth and heaven created, and for thy good pleasure all things have their being, and were created.

No. 7 CHORUS

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Saith the spirit, that they rest from their labours, and that their works follow after them.

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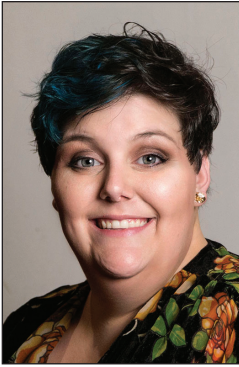
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Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano, rose to prominence in the opera world as the Grand Prize Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2012. She is a first prize winner of the Licia Albanese–

Puccini Foundation International Vocal Competition and recipient of the George London Award. A graduate of Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts, the Ohio native has performed with Opera Philadelphia, Opera New Jersey, San Francisco Opera, the Philadelphia Orchestra, Columbus Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, and with the Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra.



Evelyn Santiago, soprano, is winner of the Metropolitan Opera District Auditions in Puerto Rico and a frequent soloist with Opera Philadelphia’s mainstage productions and community outreach performances.

She has performed with opera festivals in New Jersey, Utah, and Spoleto, Italy. Equally at home on the concert stage, Ms. Santiago has been soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Lancaster Symphony, the Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra, the Symphonic Orchestra of Bayamon (Puerto Rico), and Philomusica Chorale.



Robert Phillips, baritone, has enjoyed making music from in the Philadelphia region for more than twenty years. A Swarthmore native, he studied at the Tanglewood Institute Summer Program for Young Artists and continued

his vocal studies at Westminster Choir College in Princeton. After finishing college he pursued more vocal instruction in New York City, supporting himself by working in the catering industry and singing with New York Choral Artists and the New York Philharmonic. A return to Philadelphia in 1994 led to a long relationship with Opera Philadelphia.



F. Anthony Thurman is a musician whose instinctive inspiration renders “elegant” and “passionate” performances characterized by sensitive phrasing, beautifully shaped melodic lines, and steady rhythmic energy. He

has been both conductor and accompanist for choral societies in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky, and conductor of choral and instrumental ensembles at the Manhattan School of Music. Before being named director of music at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown in 2016, he had been music director at the Irvington Presbyterian Church (N.Y.) for 22 years.

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The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown extends heartfelt gratitude to all those listed below for supporting this community outreach concert.

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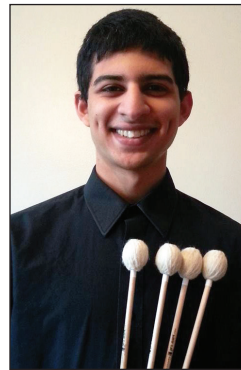
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Thank you!



Gayle Martin enjoys a distinguished career as a concert pianist and Steinway Artist. She achieved international prominence in 1978 as the only American finalist of the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow and the third American woman ever to reach the finals of the competition. A native Texan, her performances include appearances with the Houston Symphony (since age 12), the Denver Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra, the California Philharmonic, and the Philharmonia Virtuosi of New York. Additional concerts include performances at the White House, Alice Tully Hall, and throughout the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico, South America, England, Austria, Poland, Israel, Russia, and China. Gayle Martin was a student of Rosina Lhévinne and Martin Canin at Juilliard, where she won both the prestigious Josef Lhévinne Prize and the Tchaikovsky Concerto Competition. Other teachers include Eugene List, Arminda Canteros, Seymour Bernstein, and German Diez. Her latest CD recording, *To Keep the Dark Away*, has received rave reviews. “This is an infinitely rewarding disc that demands repeated listening to get the most out of it.” (*Fanfare Magazine*)

Ted W. Barr joins Gayle Martin in piano duo performances in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. A Kentucky native, Barr is a graduate of Westminster Choir College and has taught on the faculties of Westminster, Rutgers, and Wagner College in New York City. His students performed on Broadway in the original cast of *Book of Mormon*, in the revivals of *Follies*, *Nine*, and *Big River*, and in both the Moscow and Broadway productions of *42nd Street*. Many former students have enjoyed professional singing engagements with the Cleveland Opera, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Staten Island Symphony, Opera Philadelphia, and at the MET. They have also appeared in television dramas including *Hawaii Five-O* and *Sex and the City*.



Zubin Hathi, entered the Curtis Institute of Music in 2015 and studies timpani and percussion with Don Liuzzi, Eric Millstein, and Robert van Sice. A native of Roanoke, Va., Zubin has enjoyed principal timpanist appointments with the National Repertory and New York String Orchestras. He served as principal percussionist of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at the Interlochen Arts Camp for two summers, where he received the Emerson and Avedis Zildjian Company scholarships and the Maddy Summer Artist Award. He has attended the Juilliard Summer Percussion Seminar and the Tanglewood Institute.

Germantown Oratorio Choir

F. Anthony Thurman MUSIC DIRECTOR

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Diane Filter
Sarah Getz
Marney Hague
Molly Hall
Juanita Harris
Rebecca Hughes
Toni Kestenbaum
Evelyn Santiago
Ulrike Shapiro
Gina Thomas

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Ruth Cato
Mary Fallon
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Christine Nass
Deborah Merritt
Ellen Peters
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