



# A m a d e u s

March 2013

## Newsletter

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

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### Facts about Mozart

#### Mozart's Quotes:

"If one has the talent it pushes for utterance and torments one; it will out; and then one is out with it without questioning. And, look you, there is nothing in this thing of learning out of books. Here, here and here (pointing to his ear, his head and his heart) is your school. If everything is right there, then take your pen and down with it; afterward ask the opinion of a man who knows his business."

"I cannot write poetically; I am no poet. I cannot divide and subdivide my phrases so as to produce light and shade; I am no painter. I cannot even give expression to my sentiments and thoughts by gestures and pantomime; I am no dancer. But I can do it with tones; I am a musician....I wish you might live till there is nothing more to be said in music."

## Scholarship Competition Final Round

Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 2:00pm

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 805 Mt. Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

Seven finalists are competing for two Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta scholarships of \$4,000 each to study this summer during July and August at one of the most renowned music universities worldwide, and the world's oldest summer academy, the Mozarteum International Summer Academy in Salzburg, Austria. During the six weeks of the summer academy, professional artists from around the globe share their expertise with young talents in two-week courses (three sessions). The Mozarteum International Summer Academy gives outstanding young musicians an opportunity to enhance their skills with world-famous instructors.

The seven finalists will present a repertoire before a panel of Georgia judges and a live audience. The distinguished panel will include Georgia professional musicians, the director of a university school of music, and a conductor/director of a symphony orchestra. The winners will be presented in concert during the spring of 2014, after their summer study at the Mozarteum.

The main fund raising event which enables the Pro-Mozart Society to provide annual scholarship(s) is the Holiday Gala in December along with donations from attendees at its concerts as well as donations from its members.

Previous competition winner, Chris Sarzynski, found his study there to be inspiring and a vehicle for sharing:



2008 Scholarship Winner  
Christopher Sarzynsk

*"It's impossible to overstate the artistic value of an encounter with the Internationale Sommerakademie Mozarteum. You have here, under one roof, the world's greatest instructors, many of whom happen to be equally superb performers. The level of inspiration is intense. Being in the environment in which Mozart lived a significant portion of his life adds to the authenticity of the experience. And if all this is not enough, the Salzburger Festpiele brings the world's greatest performers to the city. I cannot thank the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta enough for this gift to the greatest musical experience of my life – a gift which I will transmit to others every time I perform."*

## Pro-Mozart Scholarship Competition Finalists



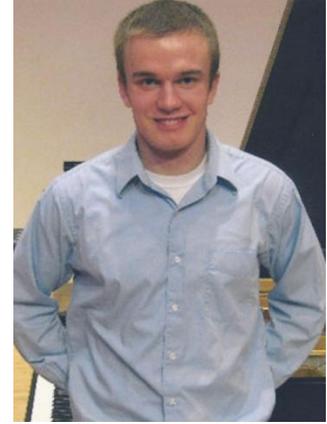
Manuel Vizurraga  
Piano



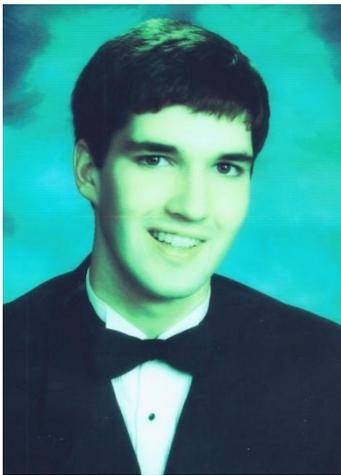
Tyler Walker  
Piano



Elizabeth McConnaughey  
Soprano



Robert Hjelmsstad  
Piano



Mark Hadden  
Pianist



Hao Feng  
Pianist



Elizabeth Balkovetz  
Soprano



## 2012 Scholarship Winner

**Benjamin Rollings**, will perform Sunday, April 21 at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary of the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, 3180 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA. Benjamin began his piano studies at the age of six in his hometown of Gulf Shores, Alabama. During high school, he made his public debut as a solo recitalist and received a position as organist and choir director at a local church and later graduated from the University of South Alabama summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance. Rollings has won numerous awards for his playing to date. Benjamin received a graduate teaching assistantship at the University of Georgia and is currently a student of Dr. Martha Thomas.

We look forward to Benjamin gracing us with his music in a one hour solo recital.

## A Message from Our President



Greetings to all of our members and friends,

On Sunday, March 10, five pianists and two sopranos will compete for two scholarships of \$4,000 to study this summer at the famed Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. This final round of the competition is open to the public. It is an excellent time to introduce new friends to the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta, so please consider bringing guests with you to the 2 p.m. concert at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church.

And if you are a fan of both music and architecture, there is an added bonus: Holy Innocents' recently completed an \$8 million redesign and reconstruction of the entire facility surrounding the sanctuary where the competition will take place. So plan a bit of extra time to see, among other things, the chapel and its connection with the sanctuary.

In keeping with our tradition, the winners of this competition will be featured in concert in Spring 2014.

In the meantime, we'll present the 2012 Scholarship Winner, pianist Benjamin Rollings, in concert on Sunday, April 21, at 5 p.m. at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. As with all our concerts, this one will be followed by a meet-the-artist reception. He has earned extensive recognition as first place winner of several competitions including the University of Georgia Concerto Competition (2011), Alabama Federation of Music Clubs Competition (2010), the Birmingham Music Club Guild Competition (2010), the Wells Piano Competition (2009), and the Debose National Piano Competition (2008 and 2009).

Also be sure to have these two events on radar: The Spring Fling Members' Concert Sunday, May 5, and our Annual Meeting and Picnic, Sunday, June 16. Of course, the latter event is where we choose leadership for the coming season, so please consider what time and talents you can lend the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta.

I am happy to personally discuss the options with you, as well as telling you about the fulfilling time I have had working on behalf of this great organization. It has indeed been an honor.

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

Herb Buffington

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

Among the greatest of all Mozart's works are his compositions for the stage. It was certainly not by accident that Mozart turned towards a national form of art. In a famous letter written from Vienna to his father in February in 1783, he says: "I must now tell you my *idea*. I do not think that Italian opera can last much longer ... and, for me ... I am also in favor of German opera ... even if it costs me more pains, *I like it still better...* Each *nation* has its opera ...; why shouldn't we Germans have it? ... I am writing at present a German *opera* "for myself" ... But all this is still a secret until it is finished."

Mozart's intentions are clear enough. He wanted not only to use German words, but also to seek a means of expression that was specifically German. The majority of his operas, even those based on Italian libretti, show a tendency towards a *Singspiel* style, found particularly in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (1782) in which the subject and the characters and atmosphere also recall the contemporary vogue for Turkish things. In 1791, with *The Magic Flute*, he achieved the final perfect synthesis of German language and music in an enlarged form of the *Singspiel*.



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

**March 10, 2013** - Scholarship Competition Final Round, 2:00pm, Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, main sanctuary, 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 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 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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