



Newsletter

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pro-Mozart Members and Friends Spring Fling Concert

Pro-Mozart in Review

Message from Our Co-Presidents

Notes on Mozart

Up-Coming Events



www.Mozartatlanta.com

A Special Welcome to our New Members

Sally and Peter Parsonson

Facts about Mozart:



In the brief 34 years that Mozart was alive, he was an Austrian composer that created some of the most influential and timeless classical music pieces ever.

Mozart actually learned how to write musical notes before he learned how to write words.

Pro-Mozart Members and Friends Spring Fling Concert

The Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta celebrates the arrival of spring with the Members and Friends Spring Fling Concert. The Concert will be held at St Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church, 3110 Ashford-Dunwoody Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30319 on Sunday May 1, 2011 at 2:00 PM. The concert will present Pro-Mozart member artists as well as guest performers.

The Spring Concert will feature Pro-Mozart members Mary Ann Hill – Soprano, Dwight Coleman – Baritone, and Edward Plott - Piano. It will also feature Pro-Mozart friends/guests William Ransom - Piano (accompanist and soloist), and Sheehan Hanrahan – Violin. The concert will be hosted by Sandy Springs, Alpharetta and Atlanta residents Madonna and Ken Brownlee, Kevin Pritchett, Randy Elkins, Michael Knight, Lance Solaroli and Shirley Ebert.



MARY ANN HILL-MEEHAN was born into a musical family, performing on stage since the age of five; Mary Ann earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Syracuse University. Her international training also took her to Italy, Switzerland, and to the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Mary Ann was appointed Fellow with the Choral Guild of Atlanta, and also won a grant to study with famed soprano, and former Julliard professor, Ellen Faull at the Bel Canto Northwest Festival in Portland, Oregon. She has sung leads in many operas. Mary Ann is on the board of The Atlanta Opera and the Pro-Mozart Society where she served as president during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 seasons.



W. DWIGHT COLEMAN is currently director of the School of Music at Georgia State University in Atlanta. He is the General/Stage Director of the nationally recognized Harrower Summer Opera Workshop and Resident Stage Director of the La Musica Lirica Summer Opera Festival in Italy. He maintains an active performing career in opera, recital and oratorio, and has degrees from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Northwestern University. His awards include: Regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions in Chicago; Shreveport Opera Singer of the Year; Finalist in the Bel Canto Foundation competition in Italian Opera; and many other awards.



EDWARD PLOTT is a native of Covington, Virginia. As a child prodigy, he performed at various venues in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. During his teen years, Edward Plott studied at the Music Preparatory Division of Hollins College (now known as Hollins University), in Hollins, Virginia. Upon earning a B.A. and a B.M. from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, Mr. Plott toured and performed in various Southern and Eastern states. Some of his performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio. Mr. Plott recorded works by Mozart, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff in 1997 for a classical music educational internet website (FinerMusic.com).



WILLIAM RANSOM has appeared in recital, as soloist with orchestras, and as a chamber musician in Eastern and Western Europe, Japan, Korea, South America, Mexico, and throughout the United States. He has performed for the American Ambassadors to Japan and Ireland, and his performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio and Television in the United States, Japan, Korea, Argentina, and Poland. His recording of *Enoch Arden*, by Richard Strauss, *The Music of Alfredo Barili*, and *Chamber Music of Johannes Brahms* were released on the ACA label. Ransom is currently the Mary L. Emerson Professor of Piano and head of the piano faculty at Emory University in Atlanta. He is founder and Artistic Director of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta and has collaborated with artists such as cellist Yo-Yo Ma.



SHEENAN HANRAHAN is a dedicated member of Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra since 2008. Sheehan is a passionate and serious violinist. As a violin student of Sonja Foster for four years, he has won many awards including Concertmaster of 11-12 grade orchestra of the Georgia All State Orchestra at their festival in March. Also in March, he was featured in concert at the Emory University Young Artists Recital. Last summer he was awarded the high honor of full scholarship at the Washington D. C. National Symphony's Summer Music Institute. In 2010, he was the winner of the Georgia Music Teacher Association's Concerto Competition and performed at their state conference. He has also been a member of the Vega Chamber Music Program at Emory.

Pro-Mozart in Review:

2010 Scholarship Winner, Violinist Evgenia Sverdlova



Kevin Pritchett, Evgenia Sverdlova, Sharon Berenson, Accompanist and Herbert Buffington



Members and friends enjoying the meet the artist reception following the concert

The Pro-Mozart Society is grateful to Sherry and Kevin Pritchett for hosting Evgenia during her stay in Atlanta.

A Message from Our Co-Presidents



We very much look forward to our Spring Concert, which is the last one this season. It has been an excellent year; and we were pleased to include programs featuring vocalists, a string quartet, a harpist, pianists, organists, a baroque trumpet soloist, and a violinist.

I became president of our wonderful society in February of 2008, and it is with much appreciation that Herb has been my co-president this season, and will become our president June 5th of this year. While I have worked tirelessly, I am honored and grateful for the support received from our executive board of directors, patrons, and members. It has also been rewarding to serve as VP of Programs, and I hope you have been pleased with the artists we were able to schedule, and have perform for us during my tenure.

I am certain that Pro-Mozart will continue to grow, and even flourish under Herb's leadership. Please join us for our Annual Meeting and Picnic which Herb will be hosting at his home on Habersham Road. This will be an informal gathering with food (which you will bring), music by some of Atlanta's Best Young Artists, and the election of new officers for our 2011-2012 Season. Please see the invitation in this issue and we look forward to seeing you there. We also invite you to join our society if you are not already a member. If you join now, you will be included in our new Member's Directory and will not need to renew your membership until August 31, 2012.

Herb and I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer and are eager to begin another great season with our Members and Prospective Members Party October 2nd. (Time and Place to be announced).

Yours for great music,

Kevin Pritchett and Herb Buffington

Notes on Mozart



Taken from the book "Mozart's Women,

His Family, His friends, His Music" by Jane Glover. Edited by Marilyn A. Dietrichs for Amadeus newsletter.

A Scammer of Mozart and his sister Nannerl, between the years 1762-1764, when Mozart was 6 years old and Nannerl was 11.

During their early childhood years, the children of Leopold and Maria Anna Mozart toured three major capitals in Northern Europe – Paris, London, The Hague plus Munich, Augsburg Brussels, Amsterdam, Antwerp and Geneva. They were subject to various tests of their genius by curious musicians and audiences everywhere trying to believe their phenomenal gift. At private events, especially in London, some of the tests were as follows:

1. At 6 and 7 years old, Mozart was given a melody but no base which he had to supply or the reverse – a base line without a melody.
2. He was asked to supply patches of various instruments or even of non-instruments like bells and clacks.
3. To read at sight – which often were full score or five or more staves (musical staves).
4. To play the piano with a cloth or scarf over his hands so he could not see the notes.

All this, he could do effortlessly. Also at the age of four years, little Mozart began to play by himself music in a natural order of difficulty. He also began to compose little pieces which he played while his father, Leopold, wrote them down; all showing an extraordinary natural gift.



The Pro-Mozart Society Up-Coming Events

*Sunday, May 1, 2011, 2:00 pm, **Members and Friends, Spring Fling Concert**, St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church, 3110 Ashford Dunwoody Rd, Atlanta, GA 30319*

*Sunday, June 5, 2011, **Members Annual Meeting and Picnic** will be at the home of Herb Buffington, 3434 Habersham Rd, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305*

The London Choir of St Martin-in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, tour the United States

The London Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields will be on tour across the United States between Thursday 28 April and Saturday 7 May 2011.

The tour will end with a concert in St Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Atlanta GA, at 5:30 PM on Saturday, May 7. A reception will follow.

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



***Pro-Mozart Society of
Atlanta, GA, Inc.***

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