

**THE TCNJ CHORALE AND THE ARGENTO CHAMBER ENSEMBLE
TO PERFORM MOZART'S *REQUIEM*
With GEORG FRIEDRICH HAAS'S *SEVEN SOUNDSPACES***



Argento Chamber Ensemble



2011 TCNJ Chorale

The Argento Chamber Ensemble, under the baton of TCNJ Professor and conductor Michel Galante, will perform on October 27th at 7:30 pm at St. Bart's Episcopal Church all fragments of Mozart's unfinished *Requiem* K. 626 along with composer Georg Friedrich Haas's *Sieben Klangräume (Seven Soundspaces)*, which link together the fragments of Mozart's masterwork. The featured choir for the program is The College of New Jersey Chorale under the direction of Dr. John Leonard, with solo vocals by soprano Tharanga Goonetilleke, alto Silvie Jensen, tenor Steven Wilson, and bass Peter Stewart. To open the program, acclaimed flutist Paula Robison will perform Mozart's *Andante* K. 315 for flute and orchestra.

As a greatly treasured contemporary composer in Austria, Georg Friedrich Haas was given complete access to all of Mozart's manuscripts. Haas isolated all fragments that were exclusively in Mozart's handwriting and on October 27th, audiences will be given the rare opportunity to hear these fragments (some unfinished), without the completions or orchestrations of any of his students.

"Because Mozart died during the composition of his *Requiem*", says director Michel Galante, "this work can never be heard as the Austrian composer intended. Until recently, audiences heard Mozart's masterpiece as filtered through the orchestrations and completions of lesser composers such as Franz Xavier Sussmeyr."

Haas has responded to the challenge of how to present unfinished fragments in a concert format by interjecting "soundspaces" in between the unedited fragments of Mozart's masterpiece. These soundspaces use letters of Mozart from 1791 to emphasize that during the composition of the *Requiem*, Mozart was undergoing an intense state duress and professional difficulty. The soundspaces serve as musical transitions between Mozart's untouched fragments, and they also give a picture of what Mozart endured at this time. The soundspaces are composed in Haas's own musical language, with the texts of Mozart's letters spoken and sung by the choir.

This concert is presented by St. Bart's and sponsored by The Reed Foundation. Tickets can be purchased at the website at www.stbarts.org or by calling the concert office at 212-378-0248.

ARTISTS

The Argento Chamber Ensemble is a virtuoso ensemble dedicated to innovative musical performance and discovery of daring artistic paths. Championing cutting-edge contemporary composers, as well as framing classical repertoire in new contexts, Argento inspires musical inquiry through education, mentorship, technology, and dialogue. The group's international reputation has resulted from its strong history as a chamber ensemble, the technically demanding work it performs across the world, and its commitment to intellectually rigorous interpretation. Argento has long-term artistic relationships with leading composers including Pierre Boulez, Beat Furrer, Georg Friedrich Haas, Bernhard Lang, and Fabien Lévy, and has recorded the music of Tristan Murail, Georg Friedrich Haas, Philippe Hurel, Fred Lerdahl, Katerina Rosenberg, and Alexandre Lunsqui. For more information about Argento, visit www.argentomusic.org

The College of New Jersey Chorale is the premier choral ensemble at The College of New Jersey. Composed of auditioned undergraduate students from both music and other majors across the campus, the Chorale maintains a rigorous performance schedule during the academic year and performs repertoire that spans from the Renaissance to contemporary works. One of three choral ensembles offered by the Department of Music at TCNJ, the Chorale represents the college at events on and off campus and has toured throughout the United States, eastern Canada and England. Most recently, the Chorale has performed at Lincoln Center with the New York City Opera Orchestra and commissioned its first choral work, *Poet of the Body and The Soul* by Andrea Clearfield. They will be returning to Lincoln Center in 2013 for a performance of Verdi's Requiem.

Michel Galante, conductor, gave the US Premiere of the *Sieben Klangräume* in 2011. Praised in the New York Times as a "keen, clear leader," who leads "tour de force performances," Michel Galante has led orchestras such as the Janáček Philharmonic, the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, and leading new music ensembles such as The Ensemble Courage of Dresden, ICE, TACTUS, among many others. In 2013, he will conduct the world premiere of Haas' new opera "Thomas" at the Schwetzingen Opera Festival, Germany.

John P. Leonard, Director of Choirs and Assistant Professor at The College of New Jersey. He currently conducts the Women's Ensemble, College Chorale and Lyric Theatre. Dr. Leonard is also the Artistic Director of Cantus Novus, an auditioned chamber choir based in Bucks County, PA. He is also in demand as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the country and maintains an active career as a professional tenor. He resides in Ewing, NJ with his wife Laurel and two sons Geoffrey and Samuel.

Time and Location: October 27, 2012, 7:30 P.M. at St. Bart's Episcopal Church 325 Park Ave New York, NY 10022

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