



Karen P. Thomas, Artistic Director and Conductor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

SEATTLE PRO MUSICA PRESENTS

J.S. BACH'S Mass in B minor

The composer's crowning achievement for choir and orchestra

J.S. Bach's monumental *Mass in B minor* achieved its final form in 1748, just prior to the composer's death. The *Mass* represents a comprehensive summation of Bach's musical skills and a profound statement of his deep personal faith.

For these performances Seattle Pro Musica will be joined by the outstanding period instrument orchestra *Baroque Northwest* and soloists Lisa Cardwell Pontén and Stacey Sunde, sopranos; Joseph Schlesinger, counter-tenor; Samuel J. Ludwig Rodarte, tenor; and Erich Parce, baritone.

Friday, May 19, 2006 • 8:15 pm
Saturday, May 20, 2006 • 8:00 pm
St. James Cathedral • 9th & Marion, Seattle

Single passes range in price from \$15 to \$23.

For more information call Seattle Pro Musica at **(206) 781-2766** or go to **www.seattlepromusica.org** for online ordering.



Soloists for Seattle Pro Musica's performances of Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, May 19 & 20

Joseph Schlesinger

Joseph Schlesinger currently lives in Amsterdam and performs throughout Europe. He received a Netherlands-America/Fulbright Fellowship to study Baroque Music at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague where he studied with Max van Egmond. Mr. Schlesinger is currently engaged to perform Judith Weir's *A Night at the Chinese Opera* for the Poortersfestival in the Netherlands. He recently performed John Adams' heralded contemporary oratorio, *El Niño*, at the Palais de Beaus Arts, Brussels under the direction of Sian Edwards. Mr. Schlesinger performed Handel's *Samson* at the Netherlands Opera and made his solo debut at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam in 2004 in Francesco Cavalli's *Didone* with Ensemble Elyma.

Erich Parce

American baritone/director Erich Parce has been a frequent guest of opera companies throughout North America and Europe, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Greater Miami Opera, L'Opera d'Nice and L'Opera de Montreal. Mr. Parce made his Metropolitan Opera debut singing Lescaut in *Manon* along side Alfredo Kraus and Carol Vaness, followed by *Otello* conducted by Carlos Kleiber, *Carmen* with Placido Domingo, and the highly acclaimed *Julius Caesar* conducted by Trevor Pinnock. Mr. Parce, who can be heard as the baritone soloist on Seattle Pro Musica's CD *Peace in Our Time*, is a frequent performer with the Seattle Opera and the Seattle Symphony.

Lisa Pontén

Soprano **Lisa Cardwell Pontén** has performed as a soloist throughout the Northwest with ensembles such as Northwest Sinfonietta, Philharmonia Northwest, Seattle Pro Musica, and Northwest Chamber Chorus. As a specialist in Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque repertoire, she has sung with Seattle Baroque Orchestra, Ensemble Rustica, Seattle Early Music Guild, Baroque Northwest and The Tudor Choir. As a soloist at St. James Cathedral she has had the privilege of singing in some of Europe's greatest cathedrals while on tour with the Cathedral Choir.

Stacey Sunde

Mezzo soprano **Stacey Sunde** has appeared as a soloist with the Seattle Symphony, Choir of the Sound, Rainier Symphony and PLU's Choral Union. A cantor at St. James Cathedral, she also is a member of the Cathedral's professional ensemble, Cathedral Cantorei. She is a founding member of Choral Arts Northwest and regularly works as a recording artist for movie soundtracks, video games and commercials.

Samuel JL Rodarte

Samuel JL Rodarte has appeared as a soloist with Seattle Pro Musica, the Whatcom Symphony, the Skagit Symphony and many other ensembles throughout Washington State. He studied at the Aspen Music Festival and School with W. Steven Smith, Richard Bado and Paul Sperry. In 2002 Mr. Rodarte was the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle award recipient, touring Central and Western Washington.