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THE ACADEMY AT ALL HALLOWS

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Friday, August 28, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**Academy 09-10 Season to Open with Commemoration of Fall of the Berlin Wall**

Sacramento, Calif.— The Academy at All Hallows will open its 2009-2010 season with *A Tribute to Freedom*, a program commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Performed in Sacramento's beautiful Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, the program will feature music from and in the languages of the nations most affected by the events of 1989, and will include the full Academy Orchestra plus an 80-voice chorus combining the top vocal ensembles of Christian Brothers, Jesuit, St. Francis and Sacramento Adventist Academy High Schools with the Academy Chorus. Robert Schumann's festive *Rhenish Symphony* will anchor a program that will also include music of Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff, Dvorak, Kodaly, Gorecki and Copland. Mezzo soprano, Julie Anne Miller and tenor, Jon Hansen will also join the orchestra.

The first half of the program is a "compiled cantata" assembled from various sources by Academy Artistic Director, Pete Nowlen. It features works from, and in the languages of, many of the "Iron Curtain" countries and endeavors to express the sorrow, yearning and strength of oppressed peoples. Following the intermission, the program will celebrate the fall of the Wall and the re-unification of Germany and Europe with Robert Schumann's ebullient *Rhenish Symphony* – itself a celebration of the German people and countryside.

Mezzo soprano Julie Anne Miller will be featured in Bach's Cantata no. 193, *I Will Sing a New Song* from Dvorak's Biblical Songs, and the 2nd movement of Henryk Gorecki's Third Symphony. Composed in 1977, Gorecki's *Symphony of Sorrowful Songs* became massively popular in the years following the fall of the Wall. The text of the 2nd movement consists of a prayer written on the wall of a Gestapo prison by an 18 year old Polish woman.

Te Azért Lelekem from Zoltan Kodaly's *Psalmus Hungaricus* will feature tenor Jon Hansen. *Psalmus Hungaricus* was composed in 1923 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the unification of Budapest, but focuses on the historical difficulties experienced by the Hungarian people, particularly in the post World War I period.

The chorus will be featured in the Mendelssohn's *Verleih Uns Frieden Gnädiglich*, Rachmaninoff's *Bogoroditze Dievo*, Bach's Cantata no. 193, Beethoven's *Hallelujah* from *Christ on the Mount of Olives*,

and Karl Jenkins *Benedictus* from *Mass for Peace*. The program will feature several slide presentations of historic photographs set to music.

The Academy's season will continue in December with a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. 2009 marks the 250th anniversary of Handel's death in 1759 and we recognize that occasion with a performance of his most popular work. The Academy's Chamber Orchestra, Chorus and soloists, hailed for their performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria* during our 2008-2009 season, will be featured in what is sure to be one of the musical highlights of Sacramento's holiday season.

In April, we bring a concert of *Sacramento Firsts*. That program will feature the Sacramento premier of Basque composer Juan Christosomo Arriaga's Symphony in D. Arriaga, deemed "the Spanish Mozart" died in Paris in 1826 at only 19 years of age. His fiery symphony, one of his last compositions, reminds one more of Beethoven than Mozart, with occasional hints of Rossini.

The program will also feature the Sacramento premier of Max Bruch's Double Concerto for Viola and Clarinet. Composed in 1911 for his clarinetist son, Max Felix, the Double Concerto is typical of Bruch's conservative romantic style. The soloists for this performance will be two beloved Sacramento artists, both former members of the Sacramento Symphony – Deborah Pittman, clarinet and Lynne Richburg, viola.

Another Sacramento first will conclude the program – the first-ever concerto performance by Sacramento pianist, Linda Baron. A popular chamber musician, Baron lives in Sacramento's Tahoe Park neighborhood. She will perform Mozart's beloved 23rd Piano Concerto in A, K. 488.

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Academy at All Hallows 2009-10 Season

A Tribute to Freedom: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009, 8pm

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacramento, 1017 11th Street

Tickets \$10-100

The Academy Orchestra and Chorus with guest High School Choruses

Julie Anne Miller and Jon Hansen, soloists

Saturday October 3, 8 pm; Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil, Op. 37, "Vespers": VI. Bogoroditse Devo

Karl Jenkins: Benedictus from Mass for Peace

Dvorak: Biblical Songs, Op. 99: No. 5. I Will Sing a New Song

Kodaly: Psalmus Hungaricus, Op. 13: Te Azért Lelkem

Mendelssohn: Verleih Uns Frieden Gnädiglich

Gorecki: Symphony No. 3: II. Lento e largo - Tranquillissimo

Bach: Cantata, BWV 193 - Ihr Tore Zu Zion

Copland: Fanfare for the Common Man

INTERMISSION

Schumann: Symphony No. 3 in E Flat Major, Op. 97 "Rhenish"

Beethoven: Hallelujah from Christ on the Mount of Olives

Concert 2: Handel's Messiah

Friday, December 18, 2009, 8pm

All Hallows Church, 5500 14th Ave

Tickets \$10-40

The Academy Chamber Orchestra and Chorus

Concert 3: Sacramento Firsts

Saturday April 10, 8 PM

All Hallows Church, 5500 14th Ave

Tickets \$10-40

The Academy Orchestra

with Linda Baron, piano; Deborah Pittman, clarinet, Lynne Richburg, viola

Juan Christosomo Arriaga: Symphony in D

Max Bruch: Concerto for Viola, Clarinet and Orchestra

Intermission

Mozart: Piano Concerto no. 23 in A

Tickets: 916-486-8538 and ticketweb.com

More information: AcademyAtAllHallows.org and 916-486-8538

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The Academy at All Hallows was hailed by the Sacramento Bee's Edward Ortiz as "one of the region's more engaging ensembles" and praised for "a night of well delivered music . . . rich in color and nuance." The orchestra and chorus of the Academy promote the development of Sacramento's emerging professional musicians by combining collegiate and post-collegiate performing scholars with seasoned professional mentors to give dynamic, professional-quality performances.

In addition to its concert activities, the Academy continues to support music education in central Sacramento. The Junior Academy, which provides instruction on the string instruments at John Paul II Elementary School will be expanding in its second year to include more students and additional instruction time. Several times each year the Academy presents educational concerts for area schools. Thousands of schoolchildren have attended, most for free under the Academy's pay-as-able policy.

Artist Biographies

Academy Vocal Scholar and frequent Soloist, **mezzo-soprano Julie Anne Miller's** voice has been hailed as having "arresting color" (Cincinnati Enquirer). A native of Northern California, Ms. Miller recently made her debut with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under Maestro Robert Porco as part of the Cincinnati May Festival. She was thrilled to make her New York City debut at Carnegie Hall in April 2007 as a featured soloist in the world premiere of *Doot*, a new work by Ryan Carter for soprano, mezzo-soprano, and 10 instruments. Her performance was part of the 2007 Osvaldo Golijov/Dawn Upshaw Workshop for Singers and Composers.

In 2009, Ms. Miller will appear as a soloist the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra and will perform the role of Tisbe in Rossini's *Cinderella* with the Townsend Opera Players. On the operatic stage, Ms. Miller has appeared as Ottavia in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, the Commère in Virgil Thompson's *Four Saints in Three Acts* and Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*. She has also been heard as the mezzo soloist in performances of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach's *Cantata No. 6* and *Cantata No. 147a*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*, and Schubert's *Mass in Ab Major*.

Ms. Miller has she had the privilege coaching with many acclaimed artists such as Pierre Vallet, Marc Verzatt, Dawn Upshaw, Kayo Iwama, and Jennifer Ringo. She has also participated in masterclasses with celebrated artists such as Lucy Shelton, Bob Cowart, Phyllis Curtin, James Conlon, Ken Noda, and Peter Sellars. Ms. Miller recently completed her graduate studies at the Bard College Conservatory of Music where she was a member the inaugural class of Dawn Upshaw's Graduate Program in Vocal Arts.

Jonathan Hansen, tenor, performs often as a vocalist in the Sacramento area. He has performed principal roles in Sacramento Opera's productions of *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Don Curzio) and *Tosca* (Spoletta), as well as lending his voice to that company's chorus in productions of *La Bohème*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Otello*, *Carmen*, *Aida*, *Turandot*, and *Die Fledermaus*. He spends his summers volunteering with Village Opera, where he has performed in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Orpheus), Gianni Schicchi (Rinuccio), *Pagliacci* (Beppe) and Verdi's *Macbeth* (Malcolm) He has been active in the opera program of California State University, Sacramento as well, performing principal roles in *The Village Singer* (Reverend Pollard), *Massenet's Cendrillon* (Dean of the Faculty), *Don Giovanni* (Don Ottavio), *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* (Nerone), and *Die Zauberflöte* (2nd priest/Tamino u/s).

Jonathan has a long history with the Academy at All Hallows, performing as a soloist in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Kaspar), Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*, and Schubert's *Mass in B Minor*, as well as participating with the chorus in performances including Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*.

Linda Baron has been playing the piano for about as long as she can remember. Born in Chicago, she holds a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. In addition, she has a Master of Arts degree in piano performance from Sacramento State University, where she participated for seven consecutive years in the Festival of New American Music.

Linda frequently plays chamber music, including works for piano ensemble. Her work as accompanist has included dance, movement, and theater performances for children and adults, as well as accompanying students at Sacramento State in their recitals. Linda has given lecture recitals for audiences of varying musical backgrounds. She is conversant in many musical styles, including classical, folk and jazz. Although the piano is her main instrument, she also has played and taught various folk instruments, such as guitar, recorder, and dulcimer. Linda Baron will be the soloist in the *Mozart Piano Concerto in A Major, K. 488*.

Academy woodwind mentor and **clarinet soloist, Deborah Pittman**, holds B.S. and M.A. degrees in music performance from Brooklyn College Conservatory and has done doctoral studies at the Manhattan School of Music. Ms. Pittman was second and bass clarinetist with the Sacramento Symphony from 1981-1990. She has also held orchestral positions with the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the State Symphony of Mexico, the Orchestra of New York, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, and she has played in the pit for several Broadway shows. Ms. Pittman is a member of the California Arts Project (TCAP), teaches at the CSU Chico Chamber Music Workshop and the Northern California Chamber Musicians, and in the summer of 2002 she became a Festival Artist at the Apple Hill Summer Festival. She was an Artist In Residence for the Sacramento Light Opera Association's Theatre education Project from 1996-1999.

Viola soloist Cassandra Lynne Richburg has been a member of the New Century Chamber Orchestra in San Francisco since 1992 and an active studio musician in Los Angeles since 1998. Lynne has performed on more than 200 Motion Picture Sound Tracks including "Steel Magnolias" and "Spiderman", and been a member of the Academy Awards and Emmy Awards Orchestras on several occasions.

Ms. Richburg started playing the viola at the age of 10, and in 1982, was chosen a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. She has won many competitions across the nation including 1st prize in the William Primrose National Viola Competition, and awarded a special prize in the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition. Lynne was the youngest violist featured in the video-taped "Master Viola Series" by Donald McInnes while a student at the University of Michigan. She received a Bachelor and Masters degree from the University of Southern California under the guidance of Donald McInnes and Alan DeVeritch.

She has been a featured soloist with several orchestras including the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic, Savannah Symphony, Sacramento Symphony and the New Century Chamber Orchestra. Lynne has also held positions of Assistant Principal and Principal Violist with the Sacramento Symphony, Principal Violist with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, and was a member of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, Lynne has performed with the New York Philharmonic including tour across the United States, and with the San Francisco Symphony including both United States and European tours. Lynne has enjoyed many summers in Sun Valley, Idaho, as a member of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony and is involved in teaching young violists in Sacramento, CA, where she currently lives.

Artistic Director, **Pete Nowlen** has been a member of the UC Davis faculty since 1988 and the CSU Sacramento faculty since 1990. He was a member of the French horn section of the Sacramento Symphony from 1987 until its bankruptcy in 1996. He is an active orchestral and chamber musician and an international solo prize winner. Horn performance credits include the San Francisco Symphony, Opera and Ballet orchestras, Symphony Silicon Valley, Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera Music in the Mountains Festival, the International Orchestra of Italy. In 1992 he was a prize winner of the International Competition for Solo Horn of the Castle of Duino, Italy, and in 1994 was a semi-finalist in the prestigious American Horn Competition.

Opera, ballet and theater conducting credits include *La Boheme*, *Hansel und Gretel*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Billy the Kid*, *L'Histoire du Soldat*, *Façade*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Falsettos* and *Company*. Orchestral conducting credits include the Sacramento Symphony, UCD Symphony Orchestra, CSUS Symphony Orchestra, Camellia Symphony and Music in the Mountains. Pete has been the Director of Concert Bands at U. C. Davis since 2002.