

Chorus pro Musica

“In short, the work was performed... with the vivid colors that brought it to life.”

Sudeep Agarwala, *Boston Music Intelligencer*, March 2011



Chiaroscuro—the contrast of light and dark—has such power!

CpM's 2011–12 season explores that contrast. Our first performance moves from Brahms's moody motet *Warum ist das Licht gegeben* (which in itself moves from dark to light) through Kodály's powerful *Missa Brevis* (written while in hiding from the Nazis) to works of light including three exciting works by living composers.

Our 2011 Holiday Concert pairs seasonal favorites with Respighi's luscious *Laud to the Nativity*, and will end with our trademark candlelit finale. The two spring concerts are a stunning dark and light pairing in themselves—Britten's massive *War Requiem* (celebrating the New England Philharmonic's 35th anniversary and including the Boston Children's Chorus and the Providence Singers) followed by Haydn's effervescent *Creation* in Jordan Hall. I'm particularly excited about the *Creation*, which we'll be presenting with the chorus up front, as Haydn did!

Don't be left in the dark—it's a season not to be missed!

Betsy Burleigh, Music Director

Betsy

“The chorus was superbly prepared, impressively secure in the unaccompanied repertoire, especially fine in Rindfleisch's controlled cirrus and the velvety soft landings of Mendelssohn's closing chorale.” Matthew Guerrieri, *The Boston Globe*, June 2011

1 ZOLTÁN KODÁLY **MISSA BREVIS**

JOHANNES BRAHMS *Warum ist das Licht gegeben*

JONATHAN DOVE *Ecce beatam lucem*

MORTEN LAURIDSEN *○ nata lux*

KO MATSUSHITA *○ lux beata Trinitas*

THOMAS TALLIS *○ nata lux*

WILLIAM WALTON *Jubilate Deo*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 AT 3 PM

OLD SOUTH CHURCH, COPLEY SQUARE, BOSTON

The season begins with music for chorus and organ seeking, celebrating, and holding fast to the light. Kodály's virtuoso *Missa Brevis*, aptly subtitled *Tempore belli* (“In time of war”), was completed in the cellar of a Benedictine convent in Nazi-occupied Budapest and premiered in a cloakroom of the Opera House during the grim Soviet siege of the city. Despite its dark genesis, the Mass shimmers with mystical life and concludes in hope and grandeur. Brahms's celebrated motet *Warum ist das Licht gegeben* employs beautiful counterpoint and harmony as it moves from the biblical Job's dark despair to the light of acceptance and hope.



OTTORINO RESPIGHI

2 *Lauda per la Natività del Signore*

and traditional holiday favorites

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 8 PM

OLD SOUTH CHURCH, COPLEY SQUARE, BOSTON

Ottorino Respighi was one of the great orchestral colorists of the 20th century, famous for symphonic poems, including *Pines of Rome*. His *Lauda per la Natività del Signore* (*Laud to the Nativity*), based on a 13th century poem, is a beautiful pastoral cantata depicting the birth of Jesus. Set for chorus with vocal soloists, a small wind ensemble, and piano (four hands), the work uses madrigals and plainchant to evoke an ancient simplicity while incorporating vivid modern harmonies and beautiful orchestral colors.

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

3 **WAR REQUIEM**

SATURDAY, MARCH 3 AT 8 PM

CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY CROSS

1400 WASHINGTON ST, SOUTH END, BOSTON

With the Providence Singers, the Boston Children's Choir, and the New England Philharmonic under the direction of Richard Pittman. With soloists Sarah Pelletier, Frank Kelley and Sumner Thompson.

Britten's *War Requiem* is one of the greatest compositions of the 20th century, and one of the most profound statements of a pacifist point of view in all of classical music. It is a large-scale work, scored for soprano, tenor, and baritone soloists, chorus, boys choir, orchestra, chamber orchestra, and organ. The text intersperses the timeless words of the Latin Mass for the Dead with the poetry of Wilfred Owen, a World War I British soldier who was killed a week before the Armistice. Chorus pro Musica sang in the U.S. premiere of this work in 1963 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood.



Sarah Pelletier, soprano



Frank Kelley, tenor



Sumner Thompson, baritone

JOSEPH HAYDN

4 *The Creation*

SATURDAY, JUNE 2 AT 8 PM

NEC'S JORDAN HALL, BOSTON

Haydn's *Creation*, considered his masterpiece, is one of the most popular oratorios by any composer. It vividly depicts the creation of the world in seven days as told in Genesis and in Milton's great poem *Paradise Lost*. Haydn's evocation of the primordial chaos is a triumph of orchestral writing, and his depiction of the creation of light is a thrilling tour de force. The chorus, soloists and orchestra bring forth awesome, touching and sometimes amusing pictures of floods, forests, the sun and moon, animals from insects to whales, and finally Adam and Eve. Haydn spent more time on its composition than on any other of his works; he wrote, “I spent much time over it because I expect it to last for a long time.” *Sung in English, with full orchestra and soloists.*

CHORUS PHOTOS: GARY WOLF. GRAPHIC DESIGN: AXIE BREEN

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TICKET PRICES FOR INDIVIDUAL CONCERTS

	A	B	C
1. Kodály	\$45	\$35	\$25
2. Respighi	\$45	\$35	\$25
3. Britten	\$35	\$35	\$35
4. Haydn*	\$57	\$42	\$27

* Jordan Hall tickets include \$2/ticket preservation fee for the New England Conservatory.

Seniors (age 65+), students, and WGBH members receive 10% off single ticket prices. Restrictions may apply; please inquire when ordering.

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Kodály Respighi
Britten Haydn



Chorus pro Musica

BETSY BURLEIGH
MUSIC DIRECTOR

chiaroscuro: from darkness to light

2011-2012 SEASON