



Notations

Music that stirs the soul

The official newsletter of The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay

The Master Chorale
OF TAMPA BAY
RICHARD ZIELINSKI
MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Poland Tour 2004

Approximately 70 members of The Master Chorale and USF choral program will be traveling to Poland in June to perform and tour in Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, and Szczecin. The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay serves as an Artist in Residence within the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of South Florida.

The tour, organized by Dr. Richard Zielinski, will include a cappella performances of Polish and American music in addition to a combined performance in Szczecin, Poland with the Szczecin Technical University Choir & Szczecin Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Zielinski. The final concert features the *Stabat Mater* by Karol Szymanowski and a newly commissioned work by Polish composer, Marek Jasinski.



Upcoming Performances by The Master Chorale

Community Extravaganza

Sunday, February 22, 4 pm

PAC Morsani Hall, Tampa

Tuesday, February 24, 8 pm

Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater

Thursday, February 26, 8 pm

Mahaffey Theater, St. Petersburg

The Master Chorale will join the Tampa Bay Symphony, Jack Heller, director, for a “**Community Extravaganza**” performing *Te Deum* by Zoltan Kodály and opera choruses from *Nabucco*, *Tanhauser* and *Prince Igor*.

Zoltan Kodály was a prominent Hungarian composer, educator, ethnomusicologist, linguist, author and philosopher. Along with Bartók and Ligeti, he is one of the three major figures in Hungarian music this century. Kodály’s many compositions show a strong affinity with the folk traditions of his country and include ballad operas, orchestral works, chamber music, choral works, songs, folk song arrangements and music for children. Kodály treated many *religious themes* often connected with Hungarian historical events, including the “Budavar Te Deum” (1936) on the anniversary of Buda’s liberation from the Turks.

Kodály is also credited with methodologies in musical education development for the pre-primary child which are used internationally. The so-called *Kodaly method*, uses singing

Chairman's Message

Friends of the Master Chorale:

The Master Chorale is over half way through our 24th season. We have completed concerts featuring Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* and Mozart's *Requiem* and our annual holiday concert.

Did you see us on TV on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? John Wilson and Fox13 invited The Master Chorale to be part of their annual Christmas Eve program, *Celebrate the Season*. On behalf of the singers and the Board, I would like to thank John Wilson, Dave Gerald, Mike Masiero, and Bill Malik of Fox13 for providing us with this opportunity to share our joy of music with the Tampa Bay community. We also want to thank Mahaffey Theater, Todd Beatty of Mahaffey Theater, and Art Molinaro of The Florida Orchestra for their assistance in completing the recording. We look forward to singing for you again next season.

We are in the midst of preparing for two concert series - Kodaly *Te Deum* and several opera choruses with the Tampa Bay Symphony in February and Bach's *Passion According to St. John*. The *Passion* tells the story of the final week in the life of Christ. It is fitting that we are performing it in April on the Friday and Saturday before Passion Sunday, which begins Holy Week. We hope that you will plan to attend these concerts. During the *Passion* we will be inviting members of local church choirs to sing several of Bach's Chorales with us.

We are looking ahead to our milestone 25th Season. The season will begin with a performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, the first work performed by The Master Chorale. It is currently scheduled for the fall of 2004. We are also planning several other concerts and special performances during our 25th season.

We look forward to seeing you at our concerts!

Tom Jackman
Chairman

Continued from page 1

as the first music activity with solmization (solfege) as the vehicle of vocal music teaching. This musical "alphabet" (solfege) is impressed into the child's memory by hand signals and then by visual notation.

The Passion According to St. John

Friday, April 2, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church, Tampa

Saturday, April 3, 2004, 3:00 p.m.

Pasadena Community Church, St. Petersburg

The Master Chorale's season will conclude with a choral masterpiece, ***The Passion According to St. John***, by Johann Sebastian Bach, **April 2-3**. On the Friday and Saturday proceeding Palm Sunday (Holy Week), Richard Zielinski will conduct The Master Chorale, the TFO Chamber Players, and a cast of international soloists in two performances of this masterwork. These final concerts will be sung in English and will include choir members from area churches and audience members joining The Master Chorale in performing several Bach chorales.

All four Gospels record the passion story — the chronicle of Jesus's betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. During the Middle Ages, each account was heard during Holy Week: St. Matthew on Palm Sunday, St. Mark on Tuesday, St. Luke on Wednesday, and St. John on Good Friday. Several performers each took the part of a different character from the Gospel; another sang the part of Christ; the remaining characters and the crowd, known collectively as the synagoga, were assigned to another singer. As musical settings became more and more complex and dramatic, the synagoga text was given to a choir.

Lutheran composers during the sixteenth century adopted this approach to passion setting, although they simplified the style so that the Latin, and later German, text could be understood. At this time, recitative displaced Gregorian chant in the declaimed text parts of the evangelist and Christ, and contemplative texts foreign to the Gospel were frequently included. A further innovation of the Lutheran passion was the use of chorale, the congregational hymn, as a means of commenting on the action in the story. These chorales would have been sung by the congregation even during the actual performance. This Lutheran tradition of dramatic passion setting was preferred in Leipzig, as was the practice of dividing the music into two parts, one to precede and the other to follow the sermon.

Bach is reported to have composed five passions during his years at Leipzig. The St. John and St. Matthew are the only two that survive.



Music and Artistic Director,
Richard Zielinski

Corporate Sponsors Needed

We are looking for corporate sponsors to help with our season expenses and benefit from the advertising exposure to our audiences. If you know of any business, service organization, or individual donors that might be willing to support our season with a financial contribution or in-kind contribution (such as printing or other services), please contact The Master Chorale office at (813) 258-9468.



2003-2004 Educational and Outreach Activities

Chamber of Commerce - Cultural Arts Luncheon
Wednesday, August 20, 2003

USF Festival of Voices
Saturday, September 20, 2003

Largo Cultural Center - Sunday Goes Pop!
Sunday, October 19, 2003

Volunteers of America of Florida
Friday, November 7, 2003. Open to public. Dinner, show, and dance to benefit poor and homeless veterans.

Daytime TV Show, Channel 8
Wednesday, December 10, 2003. Holiday music performed by The Master Chorale.

Rotary Meeting Luncheon
Wednesday, December 16, 2003

Fox 13 Holiday Special with John Wilson, "Celebrate the Season"
Holiday show broadcast on Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25, 2003.

Florida Music Educators Association Conference
Friday, January 9, 2004

Dale Warland Singers - Master class with Dale Warland & The Master Chorale
Tuesday, March 2, 2004



Spreading the News about Bach and the *Passion According to St. John*

Sunday, February 29 - Sunday, March 28, 2003
Perform Bach chorales in quartets during area church services.

Classics of the Year

By KURT LOFT © The Tampa Tribune
published December 15, 2003

In November, The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay showed once again why its singers are among the finest in the land. The group's performance of the Mozart *Requiem* was deeply committed, with strong support by a reduced Florida Orchestra under the baton of Stefan Sanderling. The group used a modern version of the score by Harvard musicologist Robert Levin and opened the program with Stravinsky's seldom-heard "Symphony of Psalms."

Choral Facts

- An estimated 28.5 million Americans regularly perform with a choir or chorus, more than any other art form.
- Choral music has the highest number of organizations of any performing arts discipline. There are approximately 250,000 choruses in the United States: 12,000 professional and volunteer community choruses, more than 38,000 school choruses, and 200,000 church choirs.



Master Chorale CDs

Master Chorale CDs can be ordered by calling The Master Chorale office at (813) 258-9468 or online at www.masterchorale.com.

Upcoming Concerts

Community Extravaganza
February 22, 24, 26, 2004

St. John Passion
April 2 & 3, 2004

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OF TAMPA BAY
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With the support of the Arts Council of Hillsborough County and the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.

This project was funded in part by the Pinellas County Commission through the Pinellas County Arts Council Cultural Development Grant Program.



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