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**KENT TRITLE'S 2009-2010 SEASON
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA, MUSICA SACRA, THE ORATORIO SOCIETY
OF NEW YORK, AND MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**BEGINS WITH U.S. PREMIERES OF WORKS BY TAVENER AND SILVESTROV,
CONCLUDES WITH MENDELSSOHN'S *PAULUS*,
AND INCLUDES GEMS OF LESSER-PERFORMED CHORAL REPERTOIRE ALONG WITH
MOZART'S REQUIEM AND HANDEL'S *MESSIAH***

The works [de Monte, Ligeti, Bryars, Penderecki, Rachmaninoff] could hardly have been more varied, but they flourished consistently in the lush, seamless blend that Mr. Tritle's 32-voice Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola produced.

-Allan Kozinn, The New York Times, February 13, 2009

During the 2008-2009 season, conductor Kent Tritle – music director of Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola (*Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* series; SMSS), Musica Sacra (MS), and the Oratorio Society of New York (OSNY) – was called “the brightest star in New York’s choral music world” by The New York Times, “Manhattan’s choral man of the moment” by The New Yorker, and “New York City’s foremost choral conductor” by Time Out New York. During the season, Tritle led performances of Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms*, Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9*, Brahms’s *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, and Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* and *Mass in B minor*, highlights of a diverse range of repertoire performed by two of the most highly acclaimed professional choirs and the 200-voice volunteer Oratorio Society, one of New York’s oldest cultural institutions.



Kent Tritle
Photo by Jennifer Taylor

That any given Tritle season, comprising the programs of all three organizations as well as programs of the Manhattan School of Music (MSM), where he is Director of Choral Activities, would cover a wide range of music is to be expected. But the **2009-2010 season's** roster of works is marked by not only **Mozart's Requiem** (at both SMSS, 3/24/10, and MSM, 11/13/09), **Mendelssohn's Paulus** (OSNY, 5/10/10), and **Handel's Messiah** (MS, 12/21-22/09 and OSNY, 12/14/09), but by the U.S. premieres of **John Tavener's Requiem** (2007) and **Valentin Silvestrov's Diptychon** (1995) (SMSS, 10/7/09) and gems of the choral repertoire not as often

programmed – including the **Stabat Mater** of **Scarlatti** (MS, 10/24/09) and **Steffani** (SMSS, 2/10/10), **Cherubini's Requiem** (OSNY, 3/8/10), **Martin's Mass for Double Choir** (SMSS, 3/24/10) and **Purcell's Ode on St. Cecilia's Day from 1692** – a later work than the well-known 1683 version (SMSS, 11/11/09).

And Kent Tritle will conduct a significant orchestral work by Mozart, the Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488, on one of the Musica Sacra concerts (4/23/10), an unusual foray into instrumental repertoire for the professional choir's programs.

In addition, the season features **Bach cantatas** with both the forces of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola (2/10/10) and Musica Sacra (10/24/09); **Mozart's "Grand" Mass in C Minor** with Musica Sacra (4/23/10); **Vaughan Williams's Five Mystical Songs** with Oratorio Society (3/8/10); and programs at St. Ignatius Loyola that mix centuries: **Purcell, Handel, and Howells** (11/11/09); and **Monteverdi, Stravinsky, and Pärt** (5/5/10).

Organ Performance and Educational Activities in 2009-2010

Also an acclaimed organist, Kent Tritle begins his 2009-2010 season with his annual organ recital at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, a program of works by Bach, Buxtehude, Guilman, and Mendelssohn (9/16/09). As organist of the New York Philharmonic, he is soloist in Saint-Saëns's "Organ" Symphony led by Sir Andrew Davis in June 2010, and in the course of the season joins the orchestra for works by Beethoven, Handel, Ligeti, and Zemlinsky with conductors Alan Gilbert, Vladimir Jurowski, and Helmuth Rilling.

On April 11, 2010, Tritle will lead a master class in oratorio performance for the Metropolitan Opera Guild. In addition to being Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music, where during the season he will prepare and conduct works by Mozart and Schubert (11/13/09) and Brahms and Schumann (4/7/10), Kent Tritle is on the faculty of The Juilliard School, where he teaches choral conducting and directs a graduate practicum in oratorio.

Synergy in Tritle's Choral World

Tritle's activities across New York City in his various capacities can be uniquely synergistic. As music director of the Oratorio Society of New York, Tritle is a judge in the society's Lyndon Woodside Solo Competition for singers, currently in its 34th year. Among its prizes are two named for Richard Westenburg, the founder of Musica Sacra. The two winners of this prize, countertenor Matthew Shaw and tenor Michael Kelly, are featured as soloists in Purcell's *Ode on St. Cecilia's Day* on the *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* November 11, 2009, concert at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola – an opportunity created by Tritle.

This interest in supporting young artists is also shown in the showcasing of the 2010 Winner of the Claudette Sorel Concerto Medallion as soloist in the Mozart piano concerto on the April 23, 2010, program of Musica Sacra – the prize is awarded by the Sorel Foundation, an organization that supports the careers of women in music.

Tavener's Requiem

John Tavener's Requiem, which Tritle will conduct in its U.S. premiere performance at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola on October 7, 2009, is written for cello, soprano and tenor soloists, mixed chorus and orchestra, and composed specifically for a cruciform space. Described as a multi-faith work, it incorporates texts from the Requiem mass, the Koran, and Hindu and Sufi writings, and the instrumentation includes Tibetan bells and Native American drums. The work was premiered in 2008 by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in Liverpool's

Metropolitan Cathedral; The Guardian said that “the work...shows new fervour and robustness” from Tavener, who suffers from Marfan syndrome.

Praise for Ginastera/Schnittke Disc

Kent Tritle's most recent recording, Ginastera's *The Lamentations of Jeremiah* and Schnittke's Concerto for Choir with the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, elicited the following from the Audiophile Audition in April 2009: “The Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola sings with an almost desperate affection in both of these works, while director Kent Tritle ...maintains a firm grip on the overall pace to wonderful effect. Highest recommendation.”

Kent Tritle

Kent Tritle is one of America's leading choral conductors. He is founder and Music Director of *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space*, the acclaimed concert series that just completed its 20th season at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City; Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York and of Musica Sacra; Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music; and a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic.

In more than 120 concerts presented by the *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* series, Kent Tritle has conducted the Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola in a broad repertoire of sacred works, from Renaissance masses and oratorio masterworks to premieres by notable living composers. Mr. Tritle and the choir recently performed in the opening festival of radio station WNYC's new Jerome L. Greene Performance Space, on a concert bill with René Pape, John Zorn, Ute Lemper, and Nico Muhly. As Director of Music Ministries at St. Ignatius Loyola, Mr. Tritle oversees a program that annually produces more than 400 services with music. Since his appointment there in 1989, he has led the church's professional choir to critical acclaim and developed the 50-voice volunteer Parish Community Choir.

Kent Tritle will in 2009-2010 mark his fifth season as Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, New York City's acclaimed 200 voice volunteer chorus. In addition to leading the Society's annual *Messiah* performances at Carnegie Hall, he has conducted repertoire such as Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem* and *Tragic Overture*, Paul Moravec's *Songs of Love and War*, and the Fauré Requiem. The Oratorio Society recently joined the Juilliard Orchestra in a performance of Bernstein's Symphony No. 3, “Kaddish,” conducted by Alan Gilbert, part of the *Bernstein: The Best of all Possible Worlds* festival sponsored by the New York Philharmonic and Carnegie Hall.

In February 2008 Mr. Tritle was appointed Music Director of Musica Sacra, succeeding Richard Westenburg, who founded New York's premier presenter of sacred music performed by a professional chorus in concert halls, and had designated Mr. Tritle as his successor. Recent concerts have included a program of works by Arvo Pärt and Morton Feldman for a WNYC *New Sounds Live* concert; Bach's Mass in B Minor and the annual performances of Handel's *Messiah* at Carnegie Hall; and performances of Bach's *St. John Passion* and Orff's *Carmina Burana* with a world premiere by Alessandro Cadario at the Rose Theater, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Kent Tritle is renowned as a master clinician giving workshops on conducting and repertoire. In July 2008 he was a featured conductor at the Berkshire Choral Festival, where he led a performance of Handel's *Solomon* performed by a chorus of 215 voices.

From 1996 to 2004, Mr. Tritle was Music Director of the Emmy-nominated Dessoff Choirs, winners of the ASCAP/Chorus America award for adventurous programming of contemporary music. Under his direction the Dessoff Choirs performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, American Symphony Orchestra, and Czech Philharmonic, as well as in many performances of Lincoln Center's *Mostly Mozart* Festival, including a nationally telecast *Live from Lincoln Center* concert of Mozart's Requiem.

Mr. Tritle has prepared choruses for conductors Christoph von Dohnányi, Leonard Slatkin, Michael Tilson Thomas, Robert Spano, Gerard Schwarz, Vladimir Spivakov, Nicholas McGegan, Leon Botstein, and Dennis Russell Davies. Among the soloists with whom he has collaborated are singers Renée Fleming, Jessye Norman, Hei-Kyung Hong, Marilyn Horne, Susanne Mentzer, Susan Graham, and Sherrill Milnes; cellist Yo-Yo Ma; pianist André Previn; and actor Tony Randall.

As organist of the New York Philharmonic, Mr. Tritle was recently the soloist in performances of Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony both at Avery Fisher Hall and in Vail, Colorado. He has appeared often as a guest artist with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. As an organ recitalist he performs regularly in Europe and across the United States; recital venues have included the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Zurich Tonhalle, the Church of St. Sulpice in Paris, King's College at Cambridge, and Westminster Abbey. With the Philharmonic he has recorded Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Britten's *War Requiem* and Henze's Symphony No. 9, all conducted by Kurt Masur, as well as the Grammy-nominated *Sweeney Todd* conducted by Andrew Litton. He is featured on the DVD *The Organistas* and *Creating the Stradivarius of Organs*.

At the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, Kent Tritle was artistic consultant on the design and installation of the four-manual, 68-stop mechanical action organ, which was dedicated in 1993. This instrument again drew national attention in July 2007 in a program of organ concertos for the American Guild of Organists conducted by Mr. Tritle, with corresponding critical success.

Kent Tritle has made more than a dozen recordings on the Telarc, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, VAI and MSR Classics labels. His recent CD with the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, *Wondrous Love*, has been praised by the American Record Guide, The Choral Journal, and The American Organist magazines.

Mr. Tritle holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from The Juilliard School in organ performance and choral conducting and has been on the Juilliard faculty since 1996, currently directing a graduate practicum on oratorio in collaboration with the school's Vocal Arts Department, and teaching choral conducting. He has been a featured personality on *ABC World News Tonight*, National Public Radio, and Minnesota Public Radio, as well as in The New York Times and numerous other radio and print outlets.

For more information, sound clips, and updated concert information, visit www.kenttritle.com.

KENT TRITLE 2009-2010 SEASON

(All concerts are conducted by Kent Tritle unless otherwise indicated)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009, at 7:30 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE **Kent Tritle, Organ**

Bach: Prelude and Fugue in E Minor,
“The Wedge”
Works by Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, and
Guilmant

Monday, October 5, 2009, at 7:00 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE

Let's Hear More! Lecture
“A World Requiem” (see Oct. 7 concert)

Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at 8 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE

Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Renée Anne Louprette, Associate Conductor
Jennifer Zetlan, Soprano
Matthew Garrett, Tenor
Arthur Fiacco, Cello
Tavener: Requiem (U.S. Premiere)
Silvestrov: *Diptychon* (U.S. Premiere)
Rachmaninov: *Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*
(excerpts)

Saturday, October 24, 2009, at 8 PM
Alice Tully Hall

MUSICA SACRA

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra
Jonathan Michie, Baritone
Scarlatti: Stabat Mater
Bach: Motets: “Komm, Jesu, komm”
and “Singet dem Herrn”
Bach: Cantata No. 82, “Ich habe genug”

November 5, 6, 7, 10, 2009
Avery Fisher Hall

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC – Organ

Vladimir Jurowski, Conductor
Zemlinsky: *Lyric Symphony*

Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at 8 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE

Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Melissa Kelly, Soprano
Matthew Shaw, Countertenor
Michael Kelly, Tenor
Jesse Bloomberg, Baritone
Charles Perry Sprawls, Bass-baritone
Handel: Coronation Anthem No. 1: *Zadok the Priest*
Howells: *Take Him, Earth, for Cherishing*
Howells: Antiphon
Purcell: *Ode on St. Cecilia's Day (1692)*

Friday, November 13, 2009, at 7:30 PM
Manhattan School of Music

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
SYMPHONIC CHORUS & CHAMBER CHOIR**
Mozart: Requiem
Schubert: Mass in G Major

Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 4:00 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE
Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Mary Huff, Director of Children's Choirs
Pinkham: Christmas Cantata
G. Gabrieli: *O Magnum Mysterium*
Britten: *Ceremony of Carols* (excerpts)
Remainder of program to be announced

Monday, December 14, 2009, at 8:00 PM
Carnegie Hall

ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK
Susanna Phillips, Soprano
Sara Sturdivant, Mezzo-soprano
Paul Appleby, Tenor
Stephen Hegedus, Bass-baritone
Handel: *Messiah*

December 15-19, 2009
Avery Fisher Hall

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC – Organ
Helmuth Rilling, Conductor
Handel: *Messiah*

Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 4:00 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE
Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Mary Huff, Director of Children's Choirs
Pinkham: Christmas Cantata
G. Gabrieli: *O Magnum Mysterium*
Britten: *Ceremony of Carols* (excerpts)
Remainder of program to be announced

Monday, December 21, 2009, at 8:00 PM
Tuesday, December 22, 2009, at 8:00 PM
Carnegie Hall

MUSICA SACRA
Music Sacra Chorus and Orchestra
Julianne Baird, Soprano
Anthony Roth Costanzo, Countertenor
William Ferguson, Tenor
Kevin Deas, Bass
Handel: *Messiah*

Saturday, January 17, 2010
Reformed Church of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

KENT TRITLE, Organ
ARTHUR FIACCO, Cello
Concert for the Church's 350th Anniversary

Friday, January 29, 2010, at 7:30 PM
Manhattan School of Music

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
SYMPHONIC CHOIR**
Kent Tritle, Director of Choral Activities
Philippe Entremont, Conductor
Ravel: *Daphnis and Chloë*

Monday, February 8, 2010, at 7:00 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE
Let's Hear More! Lecture
"Bach Borrowing Bach"

Monday, February 10, 2010, at 8:00 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE
Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Jamet Pittman, Soprano
Michèle Eaton, Soprano
Katie Geissinger, Mezzo-soprano
Ann Ory Brown, Mezzo-soprano
Steven Fox, Tenor
Michael Steinberger, Tenor
Peter Stewart, Baritone
Steven Hrycelak, Bass
Steffani: *Stabat Mater*
Bach: Cantata No. 12, "Weinen, Klagen,
Sorgen, Sagen"
Cantata No. 4, "Christ lag in Todes
Banden"

Monday, March 8, 2010, at 8:00 PM
Carnegie Hall

ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK
David Rosenmeyer, Associate Conductor
Tyler Duncan, Baritone
Cherubini: *Requiem*
Britten: *Te Deum in C Major*
Vaughan Williams: *Five Mystical Songs*

Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at 8:00 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE
Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Rachel Rosales, Soprano
Jennifer Lane, Mezzo-soprano
Brian Stucki, Tenor
Matt Boehler, Bass
Mozart: *Requiem*
Martin: *Mass for Double Choir*

Wednesday, April 7, 2010, at 7:30 PM
Manhattan School of Music

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
CHAMBER CHOIR**
Brahms: *Liebeslieder Waltzes* and
Zigunerlieder
Works by Schubert and Schumann

Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 4:00 PM

**METROPOLITAN OPERA GUILD
MASTER CLASS – Oratorio**

Friday, April 23, 2010, at 8:00 PM
Carnegie Hall

MUSICA SACRA

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra
Pianist to be announced
Leslie Fagan, Soprano
Virginia Warnken, Mezzo-soprano
Matthew Garrett, Tenor
Kevin Deas, Bass
Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major,
K. 488
Mozart: “Grand” Mass in C Minor, K. 427

Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at 8:00 PM
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE

Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Renée Anne Louprette, Associate Conductor
Leslie Fagan, Soprano
Virginia Warnken, Mezzo-soprano
Oliver Mercer, Tenor
Scott Murphree, Tenor
Peter Stewart, Baritone
Matt Boehler, Bass
Monteverdi: *Laetatus sum*
Stravinsky: Mass
Pärt: *Miserere*

Monday, May 10, 2010, at 8:00 PM
Carnegie Hall

ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

Emalie Savoy, Soprano
Holly Sorensen, Mezzo-soprano
Matthew Garrett, Tenor
Ian Greenlaw, Baritone
Mendelssohn: *Paulus*

May 27-29, 2010
Avery Fisher Hall

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC – Organ

Alan Gilbert, Conductor
Ligeti: *Le Grande Macabre*

June 3-5, 2010
Avery Fisher Hall

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC – Organ

Sir Andrew Davis, Conductor
Kent Tritle, Organ
Saint-Saëns: Symphony No. 3, “Organ”

Visit www.kenttritle.com

June 25, 2009