

Kent Tritle's Spring Season Ranges from Sibelius's Massive *Kullervo* and the Verdi Requiem to Byrd's Mass for Five Voices

Soloists for the spring events include Jennifer Zetlan, Johanna Rusanen, Elizabeth del Trejo, Raehann Bryce-Davis, Joshua Blue, John Brancy, Takaoki Onishi, and Adam Lau.

The programs of Kent Tritle's spring 2019 concerts offer a display of the conductor's work on both a grand and intimate scale. "New York's choral conducting superstar" (Time Out New York), leads the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall in Sibelius's massive *Kullervo*, and in Verdi's mighty Requiem. Narrowing the lens, he conducts Musica Sacra in an a cappella program of works interleaving the Renaissance William Byrd's Mass for Five Voices with new works, including the world premiere of *Migration* by Michael Gilbertson for choir and cello; and he leads the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra of St. John the Divine in a program of music by Poulenc and the Fauré Requiem.



Kent Tritle, photo by Jennifer Taylor

That French program features soprano Jennifer Zetlan and baritone John Brancy; other soloists this spring include the Finnish soprano Johanna Rusanen (in her Carnegie Hall debut) and baritone Takaoki Onishi in *Kullervo*; and the quartet of soprano Elizabeth del Trejo, mezzo-soprano Raehann Bryce-Davis, tenor Joshua Blue, and bass Adam Lau in the Verdi Requiem.

The season also includes a residency at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, and organ recitals in Connecticut and Florida.

Kent Tritle is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the largest cathedral in the world; Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the acclaimed 200-voice volunteer chorus; and Music Director of Musica Sacra, New York's longest continuously performing professional chorus. He is Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music. Also an organ virtuoso, Kent is the organist of the New York Philharmonic.

A full schedule of the season's events with program details follows below.

Kent Tritle is one of America's leading choral conductors. Called "the brightest star in New York's choral music world" by The New York Times, he is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City; Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the acclaimed 200-voice avocational chorus; and Music Director of Musica Sacra, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City. In addition, Kent is Director of Choral Activities and a member of the organ faculty at the Manhattan School of Music and is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra.

Kent Tritle's discography of more than 20 recordings on the Telarc, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, VAI and MSR Classics labels includes the 2016 performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 8, David Briggs's organ-choral version, which received a rave review in *The American Organist*, and *Eternal Reflections: Choral Music of Robert Paterson* with Musica Sacra, about which Gramophone said, "As shaped by Music Director Kent Tritle, the myriad hues, lyricism and nobility in Paterson's music emerge in all their splendour." Other releases, including his 2013 recording of Juraj Filas' Requiem, *Oratio Spei* dedicated to the victims of 9/11, with the Prague Symphony Orchestra and the Kühn Choir; *Messages to Myself*, an acclaimed recording with Musica Sacra of five new works; and two releases with the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, *Cool of the Day* – an a cappella program of music ranging from Gregorian chant, Palestrina, and spirituals to Strauss's *Deutsche Motette* – and Ginastera's *The Lamentations of Jeremiah* with Schnittke's Concerto for Choir, have been praised by Gramophone, American Record Guide, and The Choral Journal.

Kent Tritle founded the *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* concert series at New York's Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and led it to great acclaim from 1989 to 2011. From 1996 to 2004, he was Music Director of New York's The Dessooff Choirs. Kent hosted "The Choral Mix with Kent Tritle" on New York's WQXR, a weekly program devoted to the vibrant world of choral music, from 2010 to 2014.

www.kenttritle.com

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KENT TRITLE'S SPRING 2019 SEASON

Monday, February 25, 2019, at 8:00 pm

Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

David Rosenmeyer, conductor*

Johanna Rusanen, soprano

Takaoki Onishi, baritone

Members of the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus

BERLIOZ *La mort d'Ophelie**

DEBUSSY "Sirènes" from *Nocturnes*

SIBELIUS *Kullervo*

Sibelius's *Kullervo* is a 70-minute suite of five movements for orchestra, soprano and baritone soloists and men's chorus that follows the life of Kullervo, one of the most tragic characters in Finnish folk literature as depicted in Finland's folk epic Kalevala. It highlights this program that also features two works for women's chorus and orchestra: "Sirènes" from Debussy's *Nocturnes* and Berlioz's *La mort d'Ophelie* in the composer's choral arrangement. OSNY Associate Conductor David Rosenmeyer leads the Berlioz. Tenors and basses from the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus join the men of the OSNY for the Sibelius work, which also marks the Carnegie Hall debut of Finnish soprano Johanna Rusanen, who is noted for her interpretation of the role.

Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 7:30 pm

[Manhattan School of Music](#), New York, NY

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONIC WOMEN'S CHORUS

Kent Tritle, conductor*

Ronnie Oliver, conductor**

MSM Graduate Conductors

BRAHMS *Vier Gesänge**

HOLST *Hymns from the Rig Veda*

PAULUS *The Earth Sings*

PERSICHETTI *Winter Cantata***

As part of the Manhattan School of Music's centennial season, Kent leads off a program by the Manhattan School of Music Women's Chorus also conducted by Ronnie Oliver and MSM graduate conductors, by leading Brahms's *Vier Gesänge*. The concert takes place in the MSM's newly-renovated Neidorff-Karpati Hall.

Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 7:30 pm
Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY

MUSICA SACRA

Kent Tritle, conductor
Arthur Fiacco, cello

BYRD Mass for Five Voices

TAVENER *The Lamb*

PAULUS *Pilgrim's Hymn*

GILBERTSON *Migration* for choir and cello with poetry by Kai Hoffman-Krull (World premiere)

In the lead-in to the Easter season this program presents Byrd's Mass for Five Voices as a frame, with the movements of the Renaissance work interleaved with works by Orlando Gibbons and Thomas Tallis, the contemporary John Tavener and Stephen Paulus, and the world premiere of *Migration*, a new work for choir and cello by 2018 Pulitzer Prize finalist Michael Gilbertson and poet Kai Hoffman-Krull, with cello soloist Arthur Fiacco.

Friday, March 8, 2019, at 7:30 pm
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Sarasota, FL
KENT TRITLE, organ

BUXTEHUDE *Praeludium* in E Major, BuxWV 141

J.S. BACH *An Wasserflüssen Babylon*, BWV 653

J.S. BACH Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548

MENDELSSOHN Sonata IV in B flat

BRAHMS *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen*, Op.122, No. 3

LISZT Prelude and Fugue on BACH

Friday, March 22, 2019
First Congregational Church of Ridgefield, CT
KENT TRITLE, organ

BUXTEHUDE *Praeludium* in E Major, BuxWV 141

J.S. BACH *An Wasserflüssen Babylon*, BWV 653

J.S. BACH Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548 Bach

MENDELSSOHN Sonata IV in B flat

BRAHMS *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen*, Op.122, No. 3

LISZT Prelude and Fugue on BACH

Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 7:30 pm

[Cathedral of St. John the Divine](#), New York, NY

CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, conductor

Jennifer Zetlan, soprano

John Brancy, baritone

FAURÉ *Requiem*, Op. 48

POULENC *Litanies à la Vierge noire*, FP 82

POULENC *Quatre petites prières de saint Françoise d'Assise*, FP 142

The Cathedral Choir and Orchestra spotlight two French masters with a program of Fauré's much beloved *Requiem*, paired with two mystical and deeply spiritual works by Poulenc.

Saturday, May 4, 2019, at 7:30 pm

[The Crane School of Music](#), SUNY Potsdam, NY

CRANE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS

Kent Tritle, conductor

HINDEMITH *Apparebit Repentina Dies*

MOZART *Mass in C Minor*, K. 427

Residency April 29 – May 4 to include master class

Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 8:00 pm

Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

Elizabeth de Trejo, soprano

Raehann Bryce-Davis, mezzo-soprano

Joshua Blue, tenor

Adam Lau, bass

VERDI *Requiem*

Verdi's *Requiem* concludes the OSNY's 146th season of New York's standard for grand choral performance. The tenor soloist, Joshua Blue, was the first prize winner of the OSNY's 2017 Lyndon Woodside Oratorio-Solo Competition.

February 13, 2019