



www.oratoriosocietynj.org

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ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NJ CELEBRATES 70TH WITH MASS FOR PEACE

Concert Celebrates How Choral Music Builds Communities

The Oratorio Society of New Jersey (OSNJ) will continue the celebration of their 70th Anniversary Season with a performance of *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* by Karl Jenkins and *Coronation Anthem No. 1: Zadok the Priest* by Georg Frideric Handel.

Choral music serves to bring communities together, both among the singers who perform the music and the audience who attends the concerts. In celebrating its 70th anniversary, OSNJ has chosen to perform two works that were crafted to unite communities in marking important public occasions.

Coronation Anthem No. 1: Zadok the Priest by Georg Frideric Handel has played a central role in the coronation of every British monarch since Handel composed it in 1727 for the crowning of King George II. It has been played at the precise moment when the monarch assumes the crown and it is anticipated that it will be performed at the upcoming coronation of King Charles III. Since *Zadok* was performed at Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, OSNJ's inaugural season, it is a fitting piece to celebrate 70 years of performing together for its community.

Karl Jenkins composed *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* at the request of the Royal Armories Museum in England to mark the end of the 20th century and the start of the 21st. The overarching idea of the piece is to communicate the hope of moving from the most war-torn century of human history toward a more peaceful century, a hope that remains challenged by today's current events.

In describing his music, Jenkins has said that, "It sounds like nothing else, which is very satisfying [to me]." Jenkins has an unusual resume for a classical composer, having played not only in classical orchestras, but in jazz and rock bands (Soft Machine), as well. *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* reflects his broad musical tastes. Built on the elements of the traditional Latin Mass, the piece also includes elements of traditional folk melodies, the Muslim call to prayer, and Gregorian chant. The text incorporates lines from the ancient sacred Hindu book Mahabharata and the poetry of Malory, Dryden, and Tennyson, among others. Jenkins combines all of these disparate elements together in a coherent and moving piece that has

become one of the most popular choral pieces in the world. Listeners of Classic FM in the United Kingdom have placed it in their list of the top 20 classical pieces of all time. Given the timeliness of its message and its popularity, OSNJ chose *The Armed Man* as a fitting piece to share with its audience in marking the choir's 70th anniversary.

The concert will be conducted by OSNJ Music Director Dr. Sándor Szabó and will feature soloists Chelsea Friedlander (Soprano), Nani Fueting (Mezzo-Soprano), Christopher Lucier (Tenor) and Nate Mattingly (Bass-Baritone).

The concert will take on Saturday, April 29th, at 8 p.m. at Union Congregational Church, 176 Cooper Avenue in Montclair. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.oratoriosocietynj.org @ \$25, or at the door @ \$30.

OSNJ wants to thank Union Congregational Church for their hospitality and support in opening their doors to provide the choir with a place in Montclair to rehearse and perform. More information about Union Congregational Church can be found at <https://www.unioncong.org/>.

About the Performers



Praised for her "confidence and beautiful vocal color" **Chelsea Friedlander**, soprano, is thrilled to return to *The Oratorio Society of New Jersey* after recently singing as Soprano Soloist for Handel's *Messiah Sing!* in 2022 and 2021. Soloist Concert performances include: Chautauqua Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, Albany Pro Musica, Coro Lirico, Taghkanic Chorale, and New York City's famous Studio 54 Below. Favorite Operatic roles

include: Marie in *The Daughter of the Regiment* (Light Opera of NJ) Adele in *Die Fledermaus* (Light Opera of NJ), Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance* (Winter Opera Saint Louis, Ohio Light Opera), Olympia in *Tales of Hoffmann* (Nashville Opera), Monica in *The Medium* (Pacific Opera Project, CA) Cunégonde in *Candide* (Angels Vocal Arts, CA), Blonde in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (Dayton Opera) to name a few. Ms. Friedlander holds a Bachelor of Music from Cleveland Institute of Music and a Master of Music from Manhattan School of Music. Ms. Friedlander is represented by Athlone Artists. www.chelseafriedlander.com



Mezzo-Soprano Nani Fueting studied at Seoul National University, the J. P. Rameau Conservatoire in Paris, and Manhattan School of Music in New York, where she obtained the degree of doctor of musical arts. Her teachers include Mignon Dunn and Mark Oswald, among others. Ms. Fueting attended various music festivals where she worked with distinguished musicians such as Martin Katz and Graham Johnson. She has appeared as Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Stephano in *Romeo et Juliette*, Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*, Hänsel in *Häsel und Gretel*, Mercedes in *Carmen*, and the role of Girl in *Griffelkin* by Lucas Foss. Ms. Fueting has a distinct interest in chamber music, Lied recitals, and contemporary music. Ms. Fueting earned her second bachelor's degree in psychology from Columbia University, and master's degree in clinical psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University. Currently, she is pursuing her Ph.D. degree in School Psychology at Fordham University.



Praised as a "stand-out" by the New York Times, **Tenor Christopher Lucier** has developed a reputation for his "large and beautiful lyric voice" which has served him in his professional association with roles in works of Giuseppe Verdi and Gaetano Donizetti. To his "wonderfully sung" assumption of Il Duca di Mantova in *Rigoletto* and his "commanding" turn as tenor soloist in Verdi's *Requiem*, he has added the roles of Macduff in *Macbeth*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Nemorino in *l'elisir d'amore*, and Fenton in *Falstaff*. Chris has also come to be associated with new American works, from playing Dickon in the premiere of Nolan Gasser's *Secret Garden* to the central role of Paul in Nancy Van De Vate's *All Quiet on the Western Front*. An Albany Records recording of Lee Hobby's *Summer and Smoke* (in which Chris assumed the role of Roger Doremus) was named by Opera News as one of the 10 best Opera Recordings of the year. Chris has also prioritized education, bringing his original, exciting hour of comedy and opera to thousands of students in over 100 performances in his association with Salt Marsh Opera, preparing students for their encounters with *The Magic Flute*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *La Cenerentola*.



From Fort Worth, TX, **Nate Mattingly** is a bass-baritone who is known for his acute musicianship, powerful stage presence, and beautiful vocal production. With his background in theory and composition, Nate has developed new works such as the title role in Evan Mack's *Yeltsin in Texas* at Opera in the Heights ('20), Judge Dodsworth in Matthew Peterson's *Voir Dire* at Fort Worth Opera ('17, recording available on Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon), the posthumous premiere of Roque Cordero's *Cantata para la paz* in Fort Worth ('17) and has also performed roles such

as Salieri in *Mozart and Salieri* at Opera Saratoga ('19), Secret Police in *The Consul* at Opera Saratoga ('18), and Friedrich Bhaer in *Little Women* at Opera in the Heights ('17). When not on the stage, Nate also collaborates with composers and librettists in settings such as Fort Worth Opera's Frontiers, American Lyric Theatre's Composer Librettist Development Program, and Seagle Music Colony's American Center for New Works Development.

Nate is now an extra chorister for the Metropolitan Opera (*Götterdämmerung*, '19; *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, '21; *Don Carlos/Don Carlo*, '22; *Lohengrin*, '23) and currently resides in Kingston, Oklahoma when not working in NYC.



OSNJ Music Director and Conductor Dr. Sándor Szabó is actively engaged as conductor, organist, pianist, harpsichordist, vocal coach, arranger and adjudicator. Choirs and orchestras under his leadership have toured throughout Europe, Canada, and the United States, and he has performed in major concert halls and cathedrals in Europe and North America. Dr. Szabó began his musical education in Yugoslavia. He graduated from the University of Novi Sad in 1984 with the diploma "Academic Musician in the Piano Art" and received a Master's degree from the University of Music Arts, Belgrade.

From 1983 until his immigration to Canada in 1988, Dr. Szabó carried on a performing career while teaching piano at the University of Music Arts, Novi Sad, and working as assistant conductor/accompanist at the Serbian National Opera. Dr. Szabó has studied with many distinguished musicians, including conducting with Stanko Šepić, Ann Howard Jones and Joseph Flummerfelt; piano with Bordás Lajos, Jokuthon Mihajlović, Nevena Popović, Anthony di Bonaventura and Tong Il Han; organ with Max Miller, Eugene Roan and McNeil Robinson; and harpsichord with Mark Kroll.

Dr. Szabó holds Master's degrees in organ performance and sacred music from Westminster Choir College, where he was awarded the full-tuition Currin scholarship, and earned a DMA in piano performance at Boston University. He also holds the Fellowship Certificate (FAGO) from the American Guild of Organists and is a member of Phi Beta Delta, an honor society for international scholars, as well as Pi Kappa Lambda, a national music honor society. Dr. Szabo has held the post of music director in prominent churches in Ontario, Canada, MA, NJ and NY. Dr. Szabó is the music director and conductor of the Oratorio Society of New Jersey, Music Director/ Organist at Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Pompeii parishes, Dobbs Ferry NY, and organist/choir director at Temple B'nai Abraham, Livingston, NJ.

Founded in 1952, the **Oratorio Society of New Jersey** is an amateur ensemble dedicated to performing major works of the Western classical choral repertoire, from the Baroque era to the current century. Based in Montclair, choir members reside throughout Northern Jersey. Directed since 2005 by Conductor Sándor Szábo, OSNJ performs two programs each year, one in the fall and one in the spring, and presents an annual Community Messiah Sing in December. Recordings of numerous performances of OSNJ can be heard on the website www.oratoriosocietynj.org and are also available on CD.

Further information is available at www.oratoriosocietynj.org

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