



Howard Dyck
Artistic Director



Historically Informed, Stunningly Performed
20th Season in the Region of Waterloo
9th Season in Dundas
NBPS NEWSLETTER - 22 August 2021

Dear friends of Nota Bene,

We are now well into summer, and it would appear that there is indeed light at the end of the performing arts tunnel. Given that we've suffered through 3 Covid waves during the past 17 months, we can only hope that light isn't yet another approaching virus-laden train! Actually, we are cautiously optimistic that NBPS will be able to embark on a modest, yet musically significant season, and we invite you join us.



I'm happy to tell you that we will have festive music for you in early December. Bach's Cantata 36, *Schwingt freudig euch empor*, combined with Vivaldi's *Gloria* is a programme which juxtaposes the quiet contemplation and anticipation of Advent with the exuberance and unbridled joy of Christmas. I am right now assembling a small but potent force of players and singers who are all chomping at the bit, eager to resume making music together after the long, pandemic induced hiatus. Stay tuned for more details as we approach the Yuletide season.

The other major production we hope to revive is the Palm Sunday weekend performance of Handel's *Messiah*. This is the production we had hoped to bring you in 2020, but which fell victim to the Coronavirus. It will be such a privilege to engage once again with Handel's towering masterpiece which never fails to inspire both performers and audiences.

We are also planning to feature some of our players in a couple of intimate concerts which will explore the all but limitless riches of the Baroque era.

I'm sure most of you have experienced a great deal of music online while you were staying safe at home. We recognize that there may be a period of transition during which audiences begin to venture out once again to experience the unique excitement of actual live performance. It may be too that some of you have come to prefer live performance brought to you virtually in the comfort of your own home. We recognize this new reality, and so we will be making our concerts available online. There will be further details on this shortly.

It's also very exciting for me to give you a sneak preview of just one highlight in the 2022-2023 season. 2022 will mark the 350th anniversary of the death of Heinrich Schütz, one of the giants of

the early German Baroque. Accordingly, I and a number of other alumni of the German Academic Exchange (DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) decided to organize a Heinrich Schütz festival which will take place in the fall of 2022, and which will feature NBPS as one of the performing ensembles. That festival, a weekend of live performances in November, 2022, will also involve early music ensembles from across Canada who will be participating online. I think it's becoming very clear that our use of modern technology, in response to the pandemic, has changed, perhaps permanently, the way we will experience music in the future.

In addition to working at the details of everything I've outlined above, I'm also thinking and reading about the fascinating world of historically-informed performance (HIP). Although it began as a movement dedicated to early music, the parameters are shifting so that there is now a growing interest in historically-informed performance of 19th and even early 20th century repertoire. While Nota Bene Players & Singers will continue to bring you a great deal of 17th and 18th century music, we may also occasionally venture further in both directions, that is to say, to the 15th, 16th, and 19th centuries. In a future edition of this Newsletter, I want to consider the dilemmas that I, as a conductor, am forced to confront when deciding how to interpret various works. Each and every answer to these puzzling questions results in even more questions. There is always another layer of the musicological onion waiting to be peeled back. That is the joy of being a performing musician!

I wish you a happy and healthy summer! If some of you may not yet be fully vaccinated, I urge to look after that as soon as possible. You will be protecting yourselves and those around you.

Howard Dyck, C.M.
Artistic Director, Nota Bene Players & Singers

Greetings from Marc Paré, NBPS Chair 20th Anniversary Season 2021-2022

Various NBPS organizational news.

The results of our June "**Canada Helps \$20,000**" and "**Matching Dollar-for-Dollar**" challenges are in! Although we were not the winner of the "\$20,000 Canada Helps Grand Prize", our audience members were instrumental in raising an astounding amount of \$3,250. A most fortunate amount! Our sincere thanks go out to our wonderful audience members who participated in the fundraiser. These funds will be allocated to our 2021-2022 season programming that should be announced in the next coming weeks, pandemic restrictions allowing.



In another bit of good news, the NBPS was awarded a **Region of Waterloo Arts Grant** totalling the amount of \$8,500 towards its production of "A Baroque Christmas - Contemplation and Celebration" as described previously in Howard Dyck's post in this newsletter. The NBPS would like to thank the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund for its continued efforts with making music happen in the region. We are all most fortunate for this agency's support for all music genres in the region throughout the years. In addition, the NBPS would like to thank all those involved with the grant writing, as the process will often times take many hours to complete and deliver - many thanks to these precious volunteers.

Our efforts at finding online **streaming solutions** are progressing well and we should have some word of this in the coming weeks. Such as it is, the NBPS is intent on returning to some form of public performances either in person, or, in combination of in-person and streaming, or, as streamed events. For those of you who may find online streaming challenging, the NBPS will offer

its help in trouble-shooting where possible, contact Marc Paré for this particular help.

Finally, a reminder that you may find local Waterloo-Wellington classical music news articles and events calendar/ads in **The Music Times** bi-monthly journal. You may find hard copies in various locations throughout both regions, and, online at www.TheMusicTimes.info. Help spread the word regarding this worthy resource.

Looking forward to seeing you once again at our concert events, either in person or online. Feel free to email should you have any questions re: the organization or any of this newsletter content.

If you have not done so yet, kindly consider COVID vaccination. As always, speak to your health professional regarding any vaccination questions you may have and as to whether you are safe to vaccinate. Let's all do our share in helping each other out through this act of kindness.

Be Safe and Kind Regards,

Marc Paré
NBPS Chair
Email: marc.pare@notabeneplayersandsingers.ca
Website: www.NotaBenePlayersAndSingers.ca
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NotaBenePlayersAndSingers>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NBPlyrsAndSngrs>

NBPS would like to gratefully acknowledge the following for their continued support

Jackman Foundation



Pollock Family Fund



The NBPS gratefully acknowledges the kind support of the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund



Read news to classical music in Waterloo-Wellington regions.

The Music Times

classical music in Waterloo-Wellington

chamber • experimental • new • orchestral • vocal • wind ensemble

Connect With Us



www.NotaBenePlayersAndSingers.ca

nbps.office@notabeneplayersandsingers.ca

Phone: 1-866-303-0009

Charity Registration no.: 866582315 RR0001