

“Dazzlingly beautiful each year.” -- *The New York Times*

The Choir of Trinity Wall Street and Trinity Baroque Orchestra Handel’s *Messiah*

Wednesday, December 7 at 8:00pm

(Los Angeles, CA) November 16, 2016 - Valley Performing Arts Center presents New York’s premiere choral ensemble and Baroque orchestra: The Choir of Trinity Wall Street and Trinity Baroque Orchestra, under the direction of Julian Wachner, performing the season’s most heralded piece of music: Handel’s *Messiah* on Wednesday, December 7 at 8:00pm.

Last Holiday season, *The New York Times* said, “It’s dazzlingly beautiful each year ... Handel’s *Messiah* features a string of solo recitatives and airs for soprano, alto, tenor and bass. As such, it is usually performed by a choir and four soloists ... but Trinity Wall Street, adheres to a different practice. Drawing on a deep pool of talent among its 26-member chorus, it fields a whole flock [12] of soloists. This results in electrified exchanges between the group and its individual members. With each solo, the audience gets to know another singer, so that by the final ‘Amen,’ the chorus has become an ensemble of characters, its sound colored by the memories of individual voices.”

The New York Times continued, “There’s also vibrant tension between the purposeful vision of the conductor, Julian Wachner, who urges the music on with brisk tempos and meticulously built choral fugues, and the freedom the singers bring to their solos.”

George Frideric Handel’s *Messiah* and Trinity have a long history. Trinity presented one of the first performances of the work in North America in 1770, and The GRAMMY®-nominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street and Trinity Baroque Orchestra are still widely regarded as peerless interpreters of the work. One of New York City’s treasured landmarks, The Trinity Church’s Cemetery and Churchyard houses the final resting places of some of history’s most influential figures including Alexander Hamilton and John James Audubon.

“VPAC is Los Angeles’ premiere acoustical environment for Baroque music,” said Thor Steingraber, Executive Director. “Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra brought its Baroque Conversations to VPAC two years ago, with four harpsichords, and consensus was that our venue was like no other in its pristine yet warm sound. Last season the Handel and Haydn Orchestra celebrated its 200th anniversary in our Great Hall, and now The Choir of Trinity Wall Street and Trinity Baroque Orchestra follow suit.”

About The Choir of Trinity Wall Street

This premiere ensemble, under the direction of Julian Wachner, can be heard both in New York City and around the world in performances alternately described as “thrilling” (*The New Yorker*), “musically top-notch” (*The Wall Street Journal*), and “simply superb” (*New York Times*). The Choir leads the liturgical music on Sundays at Trinity Church and St. Paul’s Chapel, while performing in Bach at One, Compline by Candlelight, and many other concerts and festivals throughout the year, often with the Trinity Baroque Orchestra and NOVUS NY. Critically acclaimed annual performances of Handel’s *Messiah* are part of its

long and storied tradition, and attending the Choir's performances at Trinity's annual Twelfth Night Festival has quickly become the holiday tradition of many New Yorkers as well.

The Choir has toured extensively throughout the United States, making appearances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Berkeley Early Music Festival, BAM Next Wave Festival, and the Prototype Festival. The Choir is also increasingly in demand internationally, and recent seasons have seen performances at Paris's Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and London's Barbican Theatre. The Choir has been featured with the Bang on a Can All-Stars, the New York Philharmonic, and with the Rolling Stones on their 50th anniversary tour.

In addition to their GRAMMY®-nominated *Israel in Egypt* CD, The Choir of Trinity Wall Street has released several recordings with Naxos, Musica Omnia, VIA Recordings, and Avie Records. Trinity's long-term commitment to new music is evident in recordings and collaborations with living composers such as Du Yun, Paola Prestini, Ralf Gawlick, Elena Ruehr, and Julia Wolfe, whose 2015 Pulitzer Prize-winning work *Anthracite Fields* was recorded with The Choir. The 2016-2017 season promises to continue The Choir's long-standing reputation for conferring a "musical blessing" (*New York Times*) on New York City and beyond.

About Trinity Baroque Orchestra

Praised by *The New York Times* for its "dramatic vigor" and "elegantly shaped orchestral sound," the GRAMMY®-nominated **Trinity Baroque Orchestra** made its debut for Trinity Church Wall Street's 2009 performances of *Messiah*, and has since performed early music masterworks with The Choir of Trinity Wall Street. In early 2016, Trinity's ever-popular Bach at One series completed a presentation of Bach's entire monumental output of sacred vocal music. In addition to a soon-to-be released recording of Handel's *Messiah*, the Trinity Baroque Orchestra has recorded with The Choir of Trinity Wall Street for Handel's *Israel in Egypt* and *J.S. Bach: Complete Motets*.

With Julian Wachner as principal conductor, the group boasts a varied roster of North America's finest period players. Robert Mealy, described by *The New Yorker* as "New York's world-class early music violinist," serves as principal concertmaster. In addition to performing with the finest orchestras, several of the players hold positions at distinguished institutions including Yale University, Harvard University, Indiana University, and the Juilliard School's Historical Performance Program.

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Calendar Listing

Event: The Choir of Trinity Wall Street and Trinity Baroque Choir, Handel's *Messiah*

Date: Wednesday, December 7 at 8:00pm

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330

Tickets: **Price:** Starting at \$33
In Person: VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard
By Phone: (818) 677-3000
Online: ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

Press Tim Choy, Niki Blumberg, Davidson & Choy Publicity
Contacts: 323-954-7510 | t.choy@dcpublicity.com; n.blumberg@dcpublicity.com

Gary W. Murphy, Public Relations Consultant
310-914-0178 | gmurphypr@gmail.com