

EMMANUEL MUSE



Bach: A Signature Season
Johann Sebastian Bach.

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Community Connections at Emmanuel Music

Emmanuel Music's Community Connections program sponsors musical opportunities in three very different ways. First, its Community Collaborations program offers in-depth music education to young people from the greater Boston area, and reached over 1200 students last year. Second, a subsidized ticket program enabled another 200 people from underserved audiences to attend Emmanuel Music concerts. And third, the Community Connections Program honors and promotes young professional musicians through the annual "Lorraine Hunt Lieberson Fellowship at Emmanuel Music" awards.

Community Collaboration

Partners in Emmanuel Music's Community Collaborations include the Boston Arts Academy, the Mary McLeod Bethune Institute (serving teenage African-American and Latina girls), the Boston Children's Chorus (a multi-racial, multi-cultural arts organization), and the Perkins School for the Blind.

The longest-running collaboration has been with Boston's only high school for the visual and performing arts -- the Boston Arts Academy. Artists from Emmanuel Music give master classes, chamber music recitals, voice recitals, and presentations that supplement curriculum topics, build performance skills, and enhance learning. When scheduling permits, entire classes take the MBTA to Emmanuel Church to observe our musicians at work. This year, 45 students and teachers from the Boston Arts Academy attended the dress rehearsal of Handel's *Ariodante*. The opportunity to see and hear such a stellar cast in an historic setting was a first for many of them. This successful event will be repeated when classes attend the Lindsey Chapel concerts of Bach unaccompanied violin sonatas and

partitas in February and March of 2008.

A highlight of the past year was the collaboration with the Boston Children's Chorus in performing Bach Cantata BWV 8 with the Orchestra and Chorus of Emmanuel Music on March 18. Conductor and Chorus Master Michael Beattie met with the Children's Chorus to rehearse and discuss the cantatas. Their director of programs wrote, "The children were thrilled to have the opportunity to perform with Emmanuel Music and collaborate with high-caliber musicians on the Bach Cantata." Following the performance, a member of the congregation wrote that the performance "was very special not only because of the extraordinarily high artistic standards that we have so long appreciated from Emmanuel musicians but also because of the inclusion of such a wonderful group of inner city youngsters who sang their hearts out at an amazing level of competence." Two more cantata collaborations were planned; the first took place on October 14, 2007 and the second will be held April 6, 2008.

Subsidized Tickets

Emmanuel Music's subsidized ticket program encourages young people to attend concerts accompanied by their parents or a mentor. Organizations included in this program are: Big Sisters of Greater Boston, Big Brothers of Massachusetts Bay, Beacon Hill Village (seniors), Year-Up (an education and apprenticeship program for urban young adults), and the Boston Arts Academy. Christina, a student at the Boston Arts Academy, wrote, "Thank you for letting us high school city students have an opportunity to learn more about others who have a passion for music and have perfected their art."

Fellowships

Each year, Emmanuel Music honors three exceptional young musicians in the Boston area with the title "Lorraine Hunt Lieberman Fellow at Emmanuel Music." Fellows are featured in Emmanuel Music performances and in the Community Collaborations program, and are featured in all press materials. During the 2007/2008 concert season, the Lorraine Hunt Lieberman Fellows are: Kristen Watson, soprano; Jason McStoots, tenor; and Rafael Popper-Kaiser, cellist.

Soprano Kristen Watson, praised for her "silver-spun tone" and "winning stage presence," regularly appears as a soloist with Emmanuel Music as part of the ongoing Bach Cantata Series. Anticipated to "become a valuable presence in the early-music world" (Richard Dyer, *Boston Globe*), she recently



garnered acclaim for her performances as soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, as well as Purcell's *Fairy Queen* and Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* in productions that toured Ravinia, Tanglewood, and Disney Hall. Opera audiences have also heard Ms. Watson in productions with the Boston Lyric Opera, Opera New England, Opera Boston, and the Boston University Opera Institute.

Tenor Jason McStoots has been hailed as one of the "new generation of New England singers" and described by critics as "particularly outstanding" with "a perfect light-opera voice," "sweet, appealing tone and real acting ability." He is a soloist with the Bach Cantata Series of Emmanuel Music and has also appeared in their concert and opera performances. Mr. McStoots has established himself on the operatic stage, in the concert hall, and in the recital hall. His broad repertoire includes music ranging from Mozart operas to Handel oratorios and from Britten's *Canticles* to Floyd's *Susannah*.



Cellist Rafael Popper-Keizer has been hailed by the *New York Times* as "imaginative and eloquent," and praised by the *Boston Globe* for his "dazzling dispatch of every bravura challenge" and "melodic phrasing of melting tenderness." Mr. Popper-Keizer maintains an active and diverse career as chamber musician, soloist, and orchestral section leader. He enjoys affiliations with Emmanuel Music, Winsor Music, and Boston Musica Viva, and has performed with many of New England's most esteemed chamber musicians, including members of the Borromeo and Muir String Quartets, the Museum of Fine Arts Trio, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Popper-Keizer has been featured as a soloist at recitals in New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall and the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.



By Deborah Hoover, Community Connections Coordinator

The Lorraine Hunt Lieberson Fellows will be featured in upcoming Emmanuel Music performances this season at Emmanuel Church:

Kristen Watson, Bach: St. John Passion, Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 8 PM.

Jason McStoots, Bach: Mass in B minor, Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 8 PM.

Rafael Popper-Keizer, Schumann Chamber Series, *Fünf Stücke im Volkston*, Op. 102, April 6, 2008 at 4 PM.

For a complete listing of upcoming Emmanuel Music performances, previous newsletter articles, and other information, please visit our website at www.emmanuelmusic.org.
Emmanuel Music is the Ensemble-in-Residence at Emmanuel Church.

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