



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019, 8:00 A.M. ET

Contact: Gene Sobczak
Director of Advancement Operations
Gene@SeraphicFire.org | 303.588.3496

SERAPHIC FIRE CELEBRATES THE HISTORY OF CHORAL MUSIC IN 2019-20 SEASON

Season highlights include two-week Enlightenment Festival of Handel, Haydn and Bach, Hildegard of Bingen's *Ordo Virtutum*, Franz Biebl's *Ave Maria* for men's choir, and the first complete performances of Handel's *Messiah* by Seraphic Fire in 15 years

MIAMI – A two-week festival of vocal and instrumental music of Handel, Haydn and Bach, and return performances of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* are among the featured highlights in Seraphic Fire's 2019-2020 concert season, which celebrates the grand history and artistry of choral works and their composers through the ages.

"For our eighteenth season, we wanted to provide audiences with an opportunity to explore the rich historical and multi-cultural tapestry of choral music," says Artistic Director Patrick Dupré Quigley. "From our opening program in November of Hildegard of Bingen's *Ordo Virtutum* to our closing performances featuring Franz Biebl's *Ave Maria* in May 2020, Seraphic Fire's 2019-2020 concert season will cover over 800 years of music composed for the human voice."

The new season will mark several milestones for Miami's GRAMMY® nominated vocal ensemble, including the two-week music festival (this year titled, "The Enlightenment Festival") in February 2020 – the organization's first ever – which will feature combinations of vocal and instrumental music in both chamber and festival settings to include selections from Franz Joseph Haydn's *Arianna a Naxos*, Bach's secular cantatas and cello suites, and Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, all featuring the members of Seraphic Fire in step-out solo roles.

"The Enlightenment Festival will be a celebration of the music of some of this world's greatest minds," offers Quigley. "Concerts will focus on the music that Handel, Haydn and Bach wrote for public performance with an emphasis on Classicism and dramatic works."

Debuting in 2018, Seraphic Fire's groundbreaking Professional Choral Institute (PCI) at Aspen Music Festival and School returns in August 2019 to open the new season. "PCI is the first summer program in the country designed to prepare emerging vocal artists to work in the growing industry of professional ensemble singing," says Executive Director Rhett M. Del Campo.

As ensemble-in-residence, Seraphic Fire will end the festival's summer season performing Johann Sebastian Bach's *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit*, BWV 106 (Actus tragicus) and Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Aspen Festival Orchestra and the Colorado Symphony Orchestra Chorus on August 18, 2019. PCI will culminate with Seraphic Fire and PCI students presenting a side-by-side concert three days later in Harris Hall.

SERAPHIC FIRE

FLORIDA'S GRAMMY® NOMINATED VOCAL ENSEMBLE

“The feedback we received from the inaugural class of PCI was universally encouraging,” continues Del Campo. “Our students found the instruction to be exemplary, the setting of the Aspen Music Festival inspiring and supportive, and their access to state-of-the-art facilities and connections with the country’s finest musicians invaluable. We are honored to be partnering again with the Aspen Music Festival and School on this important education program!”

In the 2019-2020 season, Quigley will lead Seraphic Fire in four programs, including performances of one of the greatest masterworks of all time, Handel’s *Messiah*. “The last time Seraphic Fire performed the complete *Messiah* was in 2004,” recalls Quigley. “Our audiences have grown and changed since that time – and so have we. We felt the time was right to revisit this magnum opus.”

Associate Conductor James K. Bass leads two programs in the 2019-2020 season: Biebl’s *Ave Maria* and, in December, Seraphic Fire’s annual holiday program. “*A Seraphic Fire Christmas* is a holiday tradition in South Florida,” says Bass, “and it’s an honor once again to lead the incomparable voices of Seraphic Fire in a new program of carols, both ancient and modern.”

As in previous years, Seraphic Fire’s 2019-2020 concert season also will feature programs led by leading conductors in the field of choral music. In January 2020, Elena Sharkova, artistic director of Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale and a graduate of the Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory in St. Petersburg, returns to lead Seraphic Fire in a program of Russian choral works. In March 2020, San Francisco Symphony Chorus Director and frequent guest conductor of the Swedish Radio Choir Ragnar Bohlin makes his debut with Seraphic Fire in a concert of music from Scandinavia.

To provide concertgoers with more choices and opportunities for enjoying performances throughout the year, Seraphic Fire is re-imagining subscription packages with the launch of the 2019-2020 season. “We’re looking at growing audiences in all of our markets next season with ticket offerings that present the greatest value across the full spectrum of customer interest,” says Del Campo.

“Our Premier subscriptions are packed with benefits such as upgraded seating, invitations to special concerts, meet and greet opportunities with Seraphic Fire artists, private receptions and more for patrons who want to maximize their experience with us throughout the year. Our Standard subscriptions, on the other hand, will start at only \$150 for a five-concert package, which represents our lowest per-concert price in many years for a subscription.

“Additionally, for the first time ever,” continues Del Campo, “we’re offering half-priced subscriptions for children under 18 to make it easier for patrons to bring their children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, to experience Seraphic Fire.”

Subscriptions go on sale to the general public on Fri, Mar 29, 2019 and will be available online at SeraphicFire.org and by phone at 305.285.9060.



2019-2020 SERAPHIC FIRE SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

Boca Raton	St. Gregory's Episcopal, 100 NE Mizner Blvd	Boca Raton
Coral Gables	First United Methodist, 536 Coral Way	Coral Gables (FUM)
Coral Gables	St. Philip's, 1121 Andalusia Ave	Coral Gables (SP)
Ft. Lauderdale	All Saints Episcopal, 333 Tarpon Dr	Ft. Lauderdale
Miami	St. Sophia Greek Orthodox, 2401 SW 3rd Ave	Miami
Miami Beach	All Souls Episcopal, 4025 Pine Tree Dr	Miami Beach
Naples	Vanderbilt Presbyterian, 1225 Piper Blvd	Naples

Nov 2019

Hildegard of Bingen: *Ordo Virtutum (Play of Virtues)*

- Patrick Dupré Quigley, conductor

Hildegard of Bingen's music has echoed over the centuries and millennia since she put them down on paper. Universally revered as one of the greatest minds of the Middle Ages, Hildegard was the very definition of Medieval Mystic. Her *Ordo Virtutum (Play of Virtues)* features a cast including Mercy, Victory, Patience, Discretion and Charity. The women of Seraphic Fire bring this nearly millennia-old masterpiece back to life.

Wed, Nov 6, 7:30pm | Miami
 Thu, Nov 7, 7:30pm | Boca Raton
 Fri, Nov 8, 7:30pm | Coral Gables (SP)
 Sat, Nov 9, 7:30pm | Ft. Lauderdale
 Sun, Nov 10, 4:00pm | Miami Beach

Dec 2019

A Seraphic Fire Christmas

- James K. Bass, guest conductor

The incomparable voices of Seraphic Fire resound in carols, ancient and modern, in this new Christmas program. Seraphic Fire explores the songs of the angels, including Gregorian chant, Renaissance motets, English carols and the traditional singing of *Silent Night*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, and *Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree*. For over a decade, Seraphic Fire's Christmas concerts have been a South Florida tradition.

Wed, Dec 11, 7:30pm | Miami
 Thu, Dec 12, 7:30pm | Boca Raton
 Fri, Dec 13, 7:30pm | Coral Gables (FUM)
 Sat, Dec 14, 7:30pm | Miami Beach
 Sun, Dec 15, 7:00pm | Ft. Lauderdale
 Thu, Dec 19, 7:00pm | Naples
 Fri, Dec 20, 7:30pm | Coral Gables (SP)

SERAPHIC FIRE

FLORIDA'S GRAMMY® NOMINATED VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Jan 2020

Icons: Russian Choral Masterworks

- Elena Sharkova, guest conductor

The billowing sounds of the Russian choral tradition come to life under the baton of acclaimed Russian conductor Elena Sharkova. In her return to Seraphic Fire, Sharkova conducts a program of exceeding beauty, anchored by *basso profundo* (deep bass) lines that are so characteristic of Russian choral music.

Wed, Jan 15, 7:30pm | Miami Beach

Thu, Jan 16, 7:00pm | Naples

Fri, Jan 17, 7:30pm | Coral Gables (FUM)

Sat, Jan 18, 7:30pm | Ft. Lauderdale

Sun, Jan 20, 4:00pm | Miami Beach

Feb 2020

The Enlightenment Festival

- Patrick Dupré Quigley, conductor

A celebration of music of some of this world's greatest minds, Seraphic Fire's Enlightenment Festival focuses in on the music that Handel, Haydn, and Bach wrote for public performance with an emphasis on Classicism and dramatic works.

Wed, Feb 12, 7:00pm | Ft. Lauderdale: Haydn *Arianna a Naxos*; Clara Osowski, mezzo-soprano; Leon Schelhase, fortepiano)

Thu, Feb 13, 7:30pm | Miami: Haydn *Arianna a Naxos* Clara Osowski, mezzo-soprano; Leon Schelhase, fortepiano)

Fri, Feb 14, 7:30pm | Coral Gables (SP): Bach Coffee and Wedding Cantatas; Margot Rood, soprano; Patrick Muehleise, tenor; Steven Eddy, bass

Sat, Feb 15, 7:30pm | Ft. Lauderdale: Bach Coffee and Wedding Cantatas; Margot Rood, soprano; Patrick Muehleise, tenor; Steven Eddy, bass

Sun, Feb 16, 4:00pm | Boca Raton: Bach: Coffee and Wedding Cantatas; Margot Rood, soprano; Patrick Muehleise, tenor; Steven Eddy, bass

Tue, Feb 18, 7:30pm | Miami: Bach: Cello Suites; Guy Fishman, baroque cello

Wed, Feb 19, 7:00pm | Ft. Lauderdale Bach: Cello Suites; Guy Fishman, baroque cello

Fri, Feb 21, 7:30pm | Coral Gables (FUM): Handel *Acis and Galatea*; Steven Soph, Acis; Kathryn Mueller, Galatea

Sat, Feb 22, 7:30pm | Ft. Lauderdale: Handel *Acis and Galatea*; Steven Soph, Acis; Kathryn Mueller, Galatea

SERAPHIC FIRE

FLORIDA'S GRAMMY® NOMINATED VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Sun, Feb 23, 4:00pm | Naples: Handel *Acis and Galatea*; Steven Soph, *Acis*; Kathryn Mueller, *Galatea*

Mar 2020

Northern Lights: Music of Scandinavia

- Ragnar Bohlin, guest conductor

The chill of ice and radiance of the northern lights are palpable in this concert of choral music from Scandinavia conducted by Ragnar Bohlin, director of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, founder of the professional choir Cappella SF and guest conductor of the Swedish Radio Choir. With fresh harmonies, pulsing rhythm and fantastical choral effects, the Scandinavian choral tradition is an exciting discovery.

Wed, Mar 11, 7:30pm | Miami

Thu, Mar 12, 7:00pm | Naples

Fri, Mar 13, 7:30pm | Coral Gables (SP)

Sat, Mar 14, 7:30pm | Ft. Lauderdale

Sun, Mar 15, 4:00pm | Miami Beach

Apr 2020

Handel: *Messiah*

- Patrick Dupré Quigley, conductor

For the first time since 2004, Seraphic Fire and Patrick Dupré Quigley perform Handel's complete *Messiah* in concerts to benefit Seraphic Fire's education and musician advancement programs.

Wed, Apr 15, 7:30pm | Boca Raton

Thu, Apr 16, 7:00pm | Naples

Fri, Apr 17, 7:30pm | Coral Gables (FUM)

Sat, Apr 18, 7:30pm | Ft. Lauderdale

May 2019

Biebl: *Ave Maria* – Music for Men's Chorus

- James K. Bass, guest conductor

Franz Biebl wrote his iconic *Ave Maria* for an all-male Bavarian Firemen's Chorus in the summer of 1959. From those humble beginnings, the piece made its way through the glee clubs of U.S. universities before being performed and recorded by the pre-eminent all-male vocal ensemble, Chanticleer. Seraphic Fire now performs the Biebl and explores the tradition of music for men's choirs that inspired this singular work.

Tue, May 5, 7:30pm | Boca Raton

Wed, May 6, 7:30pm | Miami

Fri, May 8, 7:30pm | Coral Gables (SP)

Sat, May 9, 7:30pm | Ft. Lauderdale

Sun, May 10 4:00pm | Miami Beach



2019-2020 SERAPHIC FIRE NON-SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

Cutler Bay, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Sun, Dec 16, 4:00pm | *A Seraphic Fire Christmas*

Sun, Apr 19, 4:00pm | Handel: *Messiah*

Tickets available via SMDCAC.org or 786.573.5300 starting August 2019.



2019-2020 SERAPHIC FIRE NATIONAL CONCERTS

Aug 2019

Professional Choral Institute at Aspen Music Festival and School

- Sun, Aug 18, 4:00pm | Mahler: Symphony No. 2 and Bach: "Actus tragicus"
- Wed, Aug 21, 7:30pm | Professional Choral Institute Performance

Dec 2019

A Seraphic Fire Christmas

- Sat, Dec 7, 7:00pm | Grafton, VT
- Sun, Dec 8, 4:00pm | TBD

ABOUT PATRICK DUPRÉ QUIGLEY

Patrick Dupré Quigley, conductor, is the Founder and Artistic Director of Seraphic Fire. He has guest conducted the San Francisco Symphony, The Cleveland Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony, New World Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, Mobile Symphony Orchestra, and the Naples Philharmonic. This season, Mr. Quigley debuts with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and the New Jersey Symphony.

Over the sixteen years of Mr. Quigley's tenure as Artistic Director, Seraphic Fire has grown to annually present forty-five concerts over eight subscription programs. The organization's multiple educational outreach programs (Seraphic Fire Youth Initiative; StudentAccess; Seraphic Fire-UCLA Emerging Artist Program; the Professional Choral Institute at the Aspen Music Festival) reach thousands of students, from elementary to graduate school. The Seraphic Fire Media catalog contains thirteen titles; two are recipients of GRAMMY® nominations.

Mr. Quigley holds a master's degree from the Yale School of Music, an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, and has pursued further professional studies at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy's Fundraising School.

ABOUT JAMES K. BASS

James K. Bass, three-time GRAMMY®-nominated singer and conductor, is Professor and Director of Choral Studies at the Herb Alpert School of Music at UCLA. He is the Associate Conductor and Director of Education for the Miami based ensemble Seraphic Fire and is the Artistic Director of the Long Beach Camerata Singers.

Bass is an active soloist and ensemble artist. In 2017 he made his Cleveland Orchestra solo debut singing with Franz Welser-Möst and the orchestra in Miami and in Severance Hall, Cleveland. Other engagements as soloist include the New World Symphony with Michael Tilson-Thomas, The Florida Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony, Back Bay Chorale and Orchestra, Firebird Chamber Orchestra, and The Sebastians.

He has appeared with numerous professional vocal ensembles including Seraphic Fire, Conspirare, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Apollo Master Chorale, Vox Humanae, True Concord and Spire. He was the

SERAPHIC FIRE

FLORIDA'S GRAMMY® NOMINATED VOCAL ENSEMBLE

featured baritone soloist on the GRAMMY nominated recording Pablo Neruda: The Poet Sings with fellow singer Lauren Snouffer, conductor Craig Hella-Johnson and the GRAMMY winning ensemble Conspirare. He is one of 13 singers on the GRAMMY®-nominated disc A Seraphic Fire Christmas and appears on CD recordings on the Harmonia Mundi, Naxos, Albany, and Seraphic Fire Media labels.

Bass was selected by the master conductor of the Amsterdam Baroque Soloists, Ton Koopman, to be one of only 20 singers for a presentation of Cantatas by J. S. Bach in Carnegie Hall and was an auditioned member of Robert Shaw's workshop choir at Carnegie. He has appeared as conductor with the Florida Orchestra during their annual education concerts.

During his tenure as Artistic Director for the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, the official chorus of the Florida Orchestra, he was responsible for five recordings and multiple world premieres. In 2012 he served as chorusmaster and co-editor for the Naxos recording entitled Delius: Sea Drift and Appalachia featuring the Florida Orchestra and conducted by Stefan Sanderling. In 2014 he was the principal preparer for the recording Holiday Pops Live! conducted by the principal pops conductor Jeff Tyzik. During his tenure as a chorusmaster he has prepared choirs for Sir Colin Davis, Sir David Willcocks, Jahja Ling, Michael Tilson-Thomas, Gerard Schwarz, Giancarlo Guerrero, Michael Francis, Marcelo Lehninger, Stefan Sanderling, Evan Rogister, Danail Rachlev, Joshua Weilerstein, Markus Huber, David Lockington, Xian Zhang, Patrick Quigley and Neal Stulberg.

His professional career has coincided with the development of Seraphic Fire as one of the premier vocal ensembles in the United States. He has been actively involved as soloist, ensemble artist, editor, producer and preparer for 14 of the ensembles recordings and routinely conducts the ensemble in Miami and on tour. During the summer of 2011 he co-founded the Professional Choral Institute. In its inaugural year of recording, Seraphic Fire and PCI received the GRAMMY® nomination for Best Choral Performance for their recording of Johannes Brahms' Ein Deuthches Requiem. As the Director of Education for the ensemble he has been involved with annual events that service more than 2000 students in the Miami-Dade county area each year. In 2017 Seraphic Fire and UCLA launched a new educational initiative entitled the Ensemble Artist Program that aims to identify and train the next generation of high-level ensemble singers.

Bass received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Miami, where he was a doctoral fellow, and is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy.



ABOUT ELENA SHARKOVA

Russian-American conductor Elena Sharkova is recognized nationally and internationally as an inspirational, versatile, and effective conductor, choral clinician, music educator, and lecturer. She has conducted professional, university, youth, and community choirs and orchestras in 17 countries across North America, Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. Elena has served as a jury member at numerous national and international music festivals and competitions. An expert on Russian choral music, Elena has lectured extensively on its repertoire and performance practices and conducted several U.S. premieres of Russian contemporary compositions.

Elena Sharkova regularly appears with professional artists; some of most notable conducting engagements include Kronos Quartet, actor Ryan Gosling's rock play "Deadman's Bones," and spring 2012 series of performances with Grammy Award winning "orchestra of voices" male choir Chanticleer as one of the ensemble's 2011-2012 Guest Music Directors.

As a soprano, Elena Sharkova has performed and recorded with one of Russia's finest professional choirs Lege Artis and appears on five studio CDs on SonyClassical label.

As Artistic Director of Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale, Elena Sharkova has prepared and conducted the chorus in over 40 major choral-orchestral works such as Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *Five Mystical Songs*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Brahms *German Requiem* and *Nanie*, Bruckner's *Te Deum*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and many others. Under Sharkova's direction, Chorale presented complete performances of the monumental masterpiece of Russian liturgical music – Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* in 2008, and in 2011 premiered the new edition of Ippolitov-Ivanov's *All-Night Vigil*, op. 43.

Regarded for her passion for non-Western, cross-genre, and multi-cultural music, Elena and Chorale delighted South Bay audiences with performances of such folk-inspired compositions as *Navidad Nuestra* and *Missa Criolla* by Argentinean composer Ariel Ramirez, *Caribbean Mass* by contemporary American composer Glen McClure, and jazz-inspired *Mass in Blue* by English composer Will Todd.

Artistic Director of the 250-voice strong Cantabile Youth Singers of Silicon Valley since 2004, Elena Sharkova conducts CYS's top performing and touring choirs, *Vocalise* and *Ensemble*, and oversees all educational and performance aspects of the program. Under her direction, Cantabile made solo appearance on the legendary stage of Carnegie Hall in 2005 and 2010 and toured Estonia, Finland, Russia, and England.

Elena Sharkova was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Russia, where she received an undergraduate degree in music education and piano, and a graduate degree in conducting from St. Petersburg State Rimski-Korsakov Conservatory. From 1988 to 1993, Elena served as Chair of the Choral Department of the Preparatory Music School at the Conservatory where she conducted four children's choruses and taught the innovative Ogorodnov Method to graduate students.

In 1996, Elena received her second graduate degree in conducting from Western Michigan University where she studied with Dr. Craig Arnold.

SERAPHIC FIRE

FLORIDA'S GRAMMY® NOMINATED VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Elena has had a privilege to serve as guest conductor of all-state, divisional, and national honor choirs for American Choral Directors Association, Music Educators National Conference, Organization of American Kodály Educators, Association for Music in International Schools, Manhattan Concert Productions, Music Celebrations International, Distinguished Concerts International and Heritage Festivals of Gold.

Elena lives in San Jose with her wine-maker husband Tony Craig and their son Sasha.



ABOUT RAGNAR BOHLIN

Ragnar Bohlin has burnished the reputation of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus since becoming Chorus Director in 2007.

Three years later, the Symphony and Chorus, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas, won three Grammy awards for their smashing recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8, including Best Choral Performance.

The same year, the energetic Bohlin conducted the Symphony and Chorus in Bach's monumental Mass in B minor at Davies Symphony Hall; made his Carnegie Hall debut conducting Brahms's German Requiem; and led the Swedish Radio Choir on a U.S. tour.

Born in Sweden in 1965, Bohlin was trained at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, where he earned a master's degree in organ and conducting. He studied choral conducting with the celebrated choir director Eric Ericson, orchestral conducting with Jorma Panula, piano with Peter Feuchtwanger in London, singing with the great Swedish tenor Nicolai Gedda, and through a Sweden-America Foundation scholarship he visited choruses throughout the United States.

Bohlin served as choirmaster of Stockholm's Maria Magdalena Church, and has toured internationally and won many competition prizes with Stockholm's KFUM Chamber Choir, the Maria Magdalena Motet Choir and the Maria Vocal Ensemble. Mr. Bohlin has appeared on Swedish radio with the Swedish Radio Choir, the Maria Vocal Ensemble, and the Maria Magdalena Motet Choir and has also worked with The Ericson Chamber Choir, the Royal Philharmonic Choir, and the Opera Choir of Stockholm. Other guest conducting appearances include debuts with the Stavanger Symphony and the Edmonton Symphony. He also returned to the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra for multiple appearances in 2015 and 2016. He has prepared choruses for some of the world's premier conductors, including Tilson Thomas, Herbert Blomstedt, Valery Gergiev, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Alan Gilbert. In 2019, he will conduct Bach's St John Passion with the SF Symphony Chorus, the B-minor Mass in Shanghai, and the Christmas Oratorio in Helsingborg. Bohlin is the founding Artistic Director of the professional chamber chorus Cappella SF.

A dedicated teacher, Bohlin is on the performance faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, has taught at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, and served as a visiting professor at Indiana University, the University of Michigan, and Miami University. In 2006, he was awarded the prestigious Johannes Norrby Medal for expanding the frontiers of Swedish choral music making. In March 2013, Mr. Bohlin was awarded the Cultural Achievement Award from the Swedish-America Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco.