



## The University of Notre Dame Chorale Spring 2017 Newsletter



The University of Notre Dame Chorale is back for the second half of the 2016-2017 school year, an exciting semester for us. With several concerts, fundraisers, and social events planned, we'll be spending a lot of time in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center in the next few months!



### Spring Concert

The Notre Dame Chorale has a great program scheduled for Saturday, April 1, at 8:00 pm in Leighton Concert Hall. We are bringing back our Festival Baroque Orchestra, which played to such acclaim the past two years for our December Messiah concerts. In this program, they will be supporting us in our performance of J. S. Bach's Cantata, BWV 10, the "German Magnificat." The soloists will be drawn from the ranks of graduate students in the program in Sacred Music at Notre Dame. Two other 18th-century classics for the chorus and orchestra are on the program: Handel's 1727 coronation anthem "Zadok the Priest" and the final chorus from Messiah, "Worthy Is the Lamb."

The program also features a 20th-century classic, Stravinsky's Mass for Chorus and Winds, in an arrangement for chorus and piano from 1948, the year of the work's completion, by Austrian composer Leopold Spinner.

The most unusual piece will be Stefan Girardet's "Ergo vivida vis animi" for chorus and Baroque strings, heard here in its world premiere. The Chorale premiered Girardet's "Lux Aeterna" last November and liked it so much they commissioned him to write a new piece for the April 1 concert, when the Festival Baroque Orchestra would be available to participate. The text is from Lucretius's *De rerum natura*, written ca. 60 B.C., and sings the praises of Epicurus, who had the strength of mind to transcend the "flaming walls of the world, traversing the immeasurable universe in thought" to gain a cosmic perspective. Girardet is known primarily as a film composer, whose music is arresting and colorful.

Rounding out the program will be Alexander Blachly's arrangements for chorus and piano of two of the most famous art songs of the nineteenth century: Schubert's *Auf dem Wasser zu singen* and Debussy's *Clair de lune*.

### **Winter Tour 2017**

Chorale had one of its most successful tours ever in Florida this winter break. From January 6<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, the group gave concerts in Atlanta, GA; Safety Harbor, FL; Naples, FL; Plantation, FL; Altamonte Springs, FL; Ormond Beach, FL; and Savannah, GA. We performed a variety of favorites from our fall concert and holiday repertoire and were welcomed by enthusiastic and large audiences at every stop! Each night, the students stayed with generous Notre Dame alumni and friends, and during the day (when not on the bus playing Mafia) we got to explore historic cities and beautiful beaches. The highlight for most of the group was the day trip to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, where nearly everyone bought frozen butterbeer and almost cried at the realization of our childhood dreams of attending Hogwarts.

We had an amazing time—our performance improved every night, we really enjoyed getting to know each other better and making funny memories, and we got to soak up a semester’s worth of Vitamin D before returning to South Bend. Our tour commissioners, Becca Fritz and Patrick Tingliff, organized an unforgettable tour, best summarized by Alex Blachly at the conclusion of our last concert: “We should come to Florida every year.” We offer many, many thanks to the alumni clubs throughout Florida which helped to coordinate the concerts and the incredibly generous families who opened their homes to us!



## Senior Sendoff

We are sad to be saying goodbye to some amazing people this May as our class of 2017 graduates. It has been an honor to sing with such talented, kind, funny, intelligent, and inspirational men and women, and we will miss them very much.

"Chorale, thank you for being my family at Notre Dame and making all the difference for me here. While I am sad to be leaving this amazing group at this amazing school, I can't help but be excited, because my leaving means that others are coming — others who will join this fantastic group and partake in the incredible experiences it provides."

--Julia Oksasoglu

"Music gathered us, love united us"

--Michelle Williams

"Love is not an affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained." --C.S. Lewis

--Mary Mecca

"We got range."

--Ian Tembe

"I joined Chorale on a whim my freshman year, but it has really become a defining aspect of my time at Notre Dame. I have met so many wonderful friends and made some incredible memories."

--Madison Jaros



I was blessed to have the privilege of joining the Chorale the fall of my junior year. All the memories I made with the Chorale, from my first rehearsal to the exiting events of tour, will always remind me that God blessed me abundantly during my time at Notre Dame. Yes, these memories include the even the dizzy disasters that were my first roller coaster ride and my famous carousel-injury, not to mention the first time I ever sang Thule. I am grateful to all the wonderful singers of the Notre Dame Chorale who extended open arms when I joined less than 2 years ago. Some of these members even instituted rule #3 on Winter Tour 2016 that said: "Don't be mean to James." While this could be taken to mean a lot of different things (good or bad), I understood it as their little way of saying: "James, we are so glad to have you in Chorale." I am grateful to Alex Blachly, our beloved director, and to the members of Chorale: I will miss you all dearly. Thank you, and may God bless you always!

--James Pratt



"The proudest moments in my life have included scoring an eagle on a par four, assisting in open heart surgery, and hitting a high A during rehearsal a few weeks ago."

--Louisa Antonelli

"I'm from the manhole cover capital of the world." --Lucas Unruh

"Music brings the world together."

--Mary Wang

**Senior Week/Baccalaureate Mass**

For those who despaired that April 1<sup>st</sup> would be the Chorale's last performance for the year, fear not! We will be sticking around to sing at the Baccalaureate Mass and a Commencement concert during Senior Week after finals finish in May. It's one of the most anticipated weeks of the year for the members of Chorale, and we are looking forward to paying our respects to the graduating class of 2017.

**Notre Dame Day**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the many clubs and organizations on campus will have the opportunity to participate in a fundraising competition, and we hope you will support us in our efforts to earn funds for our concerts, tours, and other expenses. The 29-hour campaign allocated percentages of a one-million dollar Challenge Funds to campus groups based on how much support they get from votes via website, text, or phone calls. We hope you will allocate some or all of your votes towards the Chorale! For more information on how to participate, please visit <https://notredameday.nd.edu/pages/faq-1>.

**Merchandise**

Chorale CDs make great gifts for the music lover in your life, and proceeds go directly towards our fundraising efforts. Please visit <http://www3.nd.edu/~chorale/pages/cdss.html> to order!

**Thank You!**

The Chorale enjoys so many unique and amazing opportunities thanks to the generous support of our alumni, family, and friends. Our travel, concerts, and activities would not be possible without your assistance, so thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. Please visit <http://www3.nd.edu/~chorale/pages/support.html> to continue to support our program and enable us to share our music.



University of Notre Dame Department of Music Presents

DEBARTOLO<sup>+</sup>  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

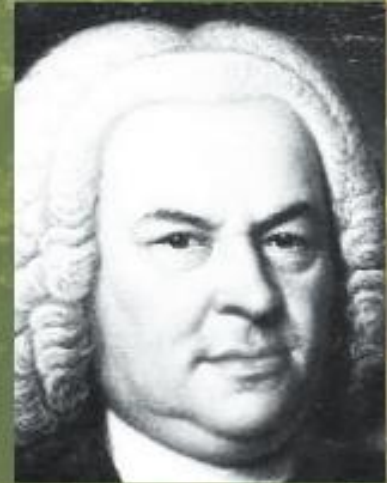
# NOTRE DAME CHORALE

Alexander Blachly, Director

Päivi Ekroth, Piano

Festival Baroque Orchestra

## 2017 Spring Concert



*Bach*

*Cantata BWV 10  
Meine Seel' erhebt  
den Herrn*



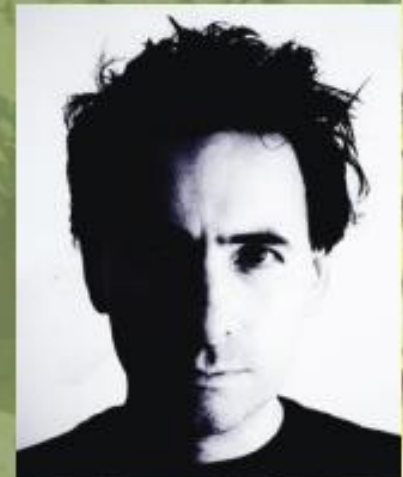
*Handel*

*Zadok the Priest  
Worthy Is the Lamb*



*Stravinsky*

*Mass for Chorus &  
Winds*



*Girardet*

*Ergo vivida vis animi  
—Lucretius  
(WORLD PREMIERE)*

8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 1, 2017

Leighton Concert Hall

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

University of Notre Dame