

March, 2008

Dear Friends,

Johann Sebastian Bach paid extraordinary attention to the earliest of all woodwind instruments, the flute. No doubt attracted to its inherently expressive qualities, he composed seven sonatas for flute and harpsichord and combined it with violin and harpsichord in his epic Trio Sonata from the “Musical Offering”. Some of Bach’s most sublime music involves pairing the flute with the human voice, such as in the profoundly moving soprano aria, “Aus Liebe” from the St. Matthew Passion, and the captivating “Esurientes” from the Magnificat for two flutes and contralto solo. The next concert of Chamber Music Rochester, **Johann Sebastian Bach: The Flute Brandenburgs**, will present two of the three Brandenburg Concerti that feature the flute and two of his remarkable sonatas for flute and continuo. The concert will take place on March 16 at 7:30 PM at the Memorial Art Gallery.

The concert will begin with the **Sonata in E Minor for Flute and Harpsichord**. This work is a technical challenge even when played on a modern instrument, but flutist Jan Angus will play it on a Baroque flute. Since this instrument plays one half step lower than the modern flute, harpsichordist Joseph Werner will play his part on a transposing harpsichord. Next, flutist Jan Angus, violinist Juliana Athayde, and harpsichordist Joseph Werner will play the **Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major for Flute, Violin, Harpsichord and Strings**. Considered by many to be a bona fide harpsichord concerto, this work contains a brilliant and lengthy first-movement cadenza for that instrument. The intricate weaving of lines between the three solo instruments is, as one might expect, absolutely masterful.

The second half of the concert will open with the **Sonata in B Minor for Flute, Harpsichord, and Continuo**. By far the longest and most demanding of the flute sonatas, it is truly a duo for flute and harpsichord. Complicated interplay abounds in every movement, including a virtuoso fugue and syncopated final gigue. Flutist Joanna Bassett will join Kathleen Murphy Kemp on Baroque cello and Joseph Werner on harpsichord for this performance. The concert will come to a joyous conclusion with the **Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major for Two Flutes, Violin, Harpsichord and Strings**. This ebullient piece features bubbling lines from the two flutes and highly virtuosic passagework in the solo violin part. RPO members Tigran Vardanyan, William Hunt, Melissa Matson, and Kathleen Murphy Kemp will play the ripieno string parts in the concerti.

The pre-concert chat will begin at 7:00 PM and will feature a discussion of the Baroque Flute by Jan Angus and the Baroque Cello by Kathleen Murphy Kemp. Intermission will feature another exciting docent-led gallery tour. We look forward to seeing you on March 16 at the Memorial Art Gallery for an inspiring evening of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Sincerely,

Stefan Reuss and Joseph Werner, Co-Artistic Directors