

April, 2011

Dear Friends,

In the fall of 1998, an internationally renowned British conductor with bright red hair and a collection of dazzling bow ties and matching vests took the helm of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as its tenth Music Director. Christopher Seaman's thirteen years of artistic leadership, the longest in the RPO's history, has produced the acknowledged level of excellence the orchestra now enjoys. As his tenure comes to an end in June, Chamber Music Rochester is both proud and fortunate to present Maestro Seaman in one of his final appearances in our city while serving in his current role.

One of Christopher's favorite musical pleasures over the years has been to conduct the orchestra from the harpsichord. Audiences have come to expect his appearances at the "janglebox", as he calls it, for all things Baroque. Accordingly, we have programmed two masterpieces from the pen of Johann Sebastian Bach to fill the bill. The six Brandenburg Concertos feature various solo instrumental groups combined with strings, harpsichord, and basso continuo. The **Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major, BWV 1049** features two flutes and a violin as the solo grouping. Bach's writing for the two flutes is gracious and melodious. In contrast, the violin part is as devilishly difficult as any Paganini Caprice. RPO Concertmaster Juliana Athayde and flutists Rebecca Gilbert and Joanna Bassett will join Christopher and the string ensemble for this performance. The **Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048** is unique because it is scored for a small string ensemble playing individual solo parts. In this performance, Christopher will lead violinists Juliana Athayde, Wilfredo Deglans, and Shannon Nance, violists Melissa Matson, Marc Anderson, and Olita Povero, cellists Stefan Reuss, Kathleen Murphy Kemp and Lars Kirvan, and bassist Colin Corner.

The program will open with the **String Quintet in E Major, Op. 11, No. 5** by the eighteenth century Italian composer and cellist Luigi Boccherini. Although the piece is not well known in its entirety, the third movement Minuet probably rivals Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik" as one of the most familiar pieces in all of classical music. Violinists Wilfredo Deglans and Shannon Nance, violist Melissa Matson, and cellists Stefan Reuss and Lars Kirvan will perform the work. The program will also include J. S. Bach's masterful and demanding **Trio Sonata from the "Musical Offering", BWV 1079** for flute, violin, and continuo. Violinist Juliana Athayde, flutist Rebecca Gilbert, and cellist Kathleen Murphy Kemp will join Joseph Werner at the harpsichord for this performance.

This exciting season finale is takes place at 7:30 PM on May 1 in the Performance Hall of the Hochstein Music School. The pre-concert chat will begin at 7:00 PM. Stefan and Joe will be on hand to preview our spectacular 35th Anniversary Season. Our guest of honor, Christopher Seaman, will also join us for a trip down memory lane. Seating at Hochstein is not reserved, so please get there early for your favorite seats. We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

Stefan Reuss and Joseph Werner, Co-Artistic Directors