

Press Release

Musicians of Ma'alwyck announces its 2017-18 Season

FOUR SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS, A WORLD-PREMIERE OPERA, PERFORMANCES AROUND THE CAPITAL REGION, A COLLABORATION WITH LOOSE CHANGE DANCE COLLECTIVE, WORLD-CLASS GUEST ARTISTS

Sept 4, 2017—Musicians of Ma'alwyck announces the details of its 2017-18 season with themes of WW1 and Women's Suffrage, as well as a look at historic music inspired by the newly installed Roman Ruins wallpaper at the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site.

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War 1, we focus the theme of our October 1st gala and opening subscription concert around the music, dance and stories of this period. Our gala features professional ballroom dance modeled after legendary dancers Vernon and Irene Castle paired with music by Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern and Victor Herbert. Our Oct 7th opening concert highlights the artistic legacy of violinist David Hochstein, who died on the front lines in Oct 1918 through the musical voice of Samuel Gardner, the winner of the first Pulitzer Prize in Music (1918) and a concert violinist of great fame.

Two subscription concerts will also be presented at the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site in Albany. The first concert (Nov 5th) weds music of Schuyler's time with a *tableau vivant* depicting scenes from the newly installed, historically accurate Ruins of Rome wallpaper in the Mansion. The second concert (April 29th) will feature music drawn from the manuscripts of Hyde Hall (the 1813 estate of George Clarke outside of Cooperstown). Following both concert series, ticket holders can enjoy an elegant buffet at nearby Café Capriccio.

In February we collaborate with members of Albany's Capitol Trio for a program of Dvorak's piano quintet alongside Florence Price's lovely *Five Folksongs in Counterpoint* and Kodaly's tuneful *Intermezzo*. Performances will be held at both the University at Albany and at Schenectady County Community College.

Our season will conclude in June 2018 with a new opera commissioned and produced by Musicians of Ma'alwyck titled *Aleda or The Flight of the Suff Bird Women*. Written by prodigy Max Caplan, a Niskayuna native, the opera details the story of a plot to bombard Woodrow Wilson's presidential yacht with Votes for Women pamphlets by aviatrix Leda Richberg-Hornsby. The daring plan lends itself well to musical treatment and a cast of four will be joined by 8 piece chamber orchestra. Also on the program will be the one act play *The Ballot of the Burden* by Krysta Dennis, and a program of Women's Suffrage in song by Old Songs of Vorheesville.

The season is rounded out by performances throughout the Capital Region, including a fundraiser for the historic Governor Yates Mansion in Glenville on September 15th featuring a dinner, new brew by Wolf Hollow brewery titled Yates Ale and concert by Musicians of Ma'alwyck; appearances at Bethlehem Library in Delmar on Nov 12th at 2pm; our annual Ten Broeck Mansion concert scheduled for Dec. 10th at 2pm; our annual Schenectady County Public Library concert (Beat the Snow series) scheduled for Sunday, January 28th at 2:30pm; and a return appearance at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library on Sunday, March 25th at 2pm.

The season opens September 15th and runs through June 10, 2018. Subscriptions, single tickets, dinner tickets for Café Capriccio and gala tickets are available on line at www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org or by calling 814-441-0852.

**TIL WE MEET AGAIN, A FUNDRAISING GALA FOR MUSICIANS OF MA'ALWYCK
Sunday, October 1st, 4-9pm Albany Marriot**

Musicians of Ma'alwyck presents its annual gala, for the first time in the fall, on Sunday, October 1st from 4-9pm at the Albany Marriot on Wolf Road. The event, Musicians of Ma'alwyck popular and exciting fundraiser, commemorates the music and dance of the WW1 period. Imagine yourself at the nightclub "Castles By The Sea" on the Long Beach Boardwalk and watch the Fred Astaire Dancers recreate some of the dances Vernon and Irene Castle made. The evening includes live music, professional ballroom dancing, delicious dinner, a silent auction with unique and classy items, and a chance to dance the evening away, all while supporting Musicians of Ma'alwyck.

The professional show includes music of Irving Berlin from his delightful 1917 musical *Watch Your Step*, as well as music of Jerome Kern, Victor Herbert and Art Hickman and others. A special WW1 cocktail will be offered: French 75. WW1 ladies' hats replicas created by Julie Potter (six time winner of the annual Saratoga Racetrack Hat contest) will be modeled and available for purchase. The general dancing will feature the wonderful dance music of DJ Peter Collins, who is renowned for his expertise in musical selections. He will be playing music drawn from the wonderful repertory of the 1910s. There will be many fun historic touches throughout the evening.

TO A SOLDIER: A GREAT LIFE LOST IN WW1 (Music of Samuel Gardner, Fritz Kreisler, David Hochstein, Dmitri Shostakovich and William Kroll with guests artists Theodore Arm, violin; Palma Catravas, piano; Andrew Snow, viola and reader William Levering). Saturday, Oct 7th, 1pm, Carl Taylor Auditorium, Schenectady County Community College

As we mark the 100th anniversary of America's entry into the First World War and its devastation, a look at its effect on the artistic world provides a glimpse into the bravery, commitment and honor of the musician soldiers. Violinist David Hochstein, nephew of Emma Goldman, asked to serve on the front where he hoped to use his prodigious musical gifts to bring solace to the troops, as well as using his great intelligence to ably lead men. Killed in October 1918, Hochstein's death was mourned by the musical community. This concert pairs readings of Hochstein's letters, as well as those of other soldiers American, French and Austrian, with the searing piano quintet written by violinist Samuel Gardner to depict Hochstein's life, along with music of Kreisler, William Kroll and Shostakovich to offer a unique and moving experience. Guest readers are Musicians of Ma'alwyck flutist Norman Thibodeau with Dr. William Levering, Pastor of First Reformed Church in Schenectady.

THE RUINS OF ROME (Music of Bellini, Diabelli and Stamitz for flute, violin and guitar with Loose Change Dance Collective). Sunday, November 5th, 2 and 4pm, Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, Albany.

A concert celebrating the new Ruins of Rome wallpaper recently installed in the Schuyler Mansion. Philip Schuyler traveled to England in the 1760s and ordered this custom wallpaper while there. The Schuylers, along with the van Rensselaers and another family in Salem,

Massachusetts, were the only houses in early America to have this stunning paper. Our repertory includes music of Stamitz, Bellini, Telemann and Rossini with a special potpourri of tunes from the opera *Norma*, set in ancient Rome. Featuring violinist Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, flutist Norman Thibodeau, and guitarist Sten Isachsen, Musicians of Ma'alwyck takes its programming cue from this wonderful and historically accurate wallpaper based on the engravings of Giovanni Pannini. The final work on the program will be a *tableau vivant* inspired by the wallpaper and the repertory, performed by members of Loose Change Dance Collective, Laurie Zabele Cawley, Director. As in past years, following the second performance Albany's wonderful Café Capriccio will offer a magnificent buffet dinner. Reservations are necessary by Nov. 1st and seating is limited to 30, and you must be a concert ticket holder to attend.

SWEET POWER (Music of Dvorak, Florence Price, and Kodaly with guests artists Hilary Walther Cumming, violin; Duncan Cumming, piano and Andrew Snow, viola. Featuring Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin and Petia Kassarova, cello). Friday, February 9th at 7pm, Carl Taylor Auditorium, Schenectady County Community College.

Dvorak's rapturous piano quintet composed in 1887 is the centerpiece of this program. Full of Bohemian melodies and dance rhythms, the piece is a glorious musical journey from beginning to end. We have paired it with the Five Folksongs (or Spirituals) in Counterpoint of Florence Price, the first African-American woman to be recognized as a major symphonic composer, her works were premiered by the Chicago Symphony and the WPA Orchestra, among others. The concert opens with the lovely *Intermezzo* for string trio of Zoltan Kodaly. This concert will also be performed at the University at Albany on February 7th.

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF HYDE HALL (Music of from the manuscripts of the Clarke family for flute, violin and guitar). Sunday, April 29th, 3 and 5pm, Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, Albany.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck is delighted to announce a collaborative concert with Hyde Hall near Cooperstown, New York. Built in 1813, this lovely estate was the home of the Clarke family for over one hundred years, and its well-educated affluent family had a wonderful collection of instruments and musical manuscripts. We will be performing selections from this incredibly body of scores. We will also repeat portions of this concert at Hyde Hall on Saturday, May 12 at 1pm. After our second performance at the Schuyler Mansion, a dinner at Café Capriccio will follow. Reservations are necessary by April 24th and seating is limited to 30, you must be a concert ticket holder to attend.

ALEDA OR THE FLIGHT OF THE SUFF BIRD WOMEN (An opera in one act by Max Caplan, commissioned and produced by Musicians of Ma'alwyck and paired with *The Burden of the Ballot*, an original one-act play about Albany's Anti-Suffrage movement by Krysta Dennis and New York Women Singing for Suffrage by Old Songs, Inc, Andy Spence, director). Dates June 8-10, 2018. More information to follow in January 2018.

Set in Staten Island in 1916, the *Aleda* tells the true story of a unique women's suffrage demonstration attempted by early female pilot Leda Richberg-Hornsby and the National American Woman Suffrage Association (N.A.W.S.A.). Equipped with a bi-plane, a cargo of votes-for-women petitions, and a huge

banner reading "Women want liberty too," the suffragists endeavored to fly over New York Harbor during a national celebration at the Statue of Liberty in order to "bomb" President Woodrow Wilson with petitions. The elaborate plan ended in something of a fiasco as a gale of wind forced a premature crash-landing in a Staten Island swamp (luckily no one was hurt) – yet the attempt stands as a testimony to the courage and inventiveness (not to mention dramatic flare) of these women in their struggle for the right to vote.

All four subscription concerts will be offered in excerpted form in free previews in the Carl Taylor Auditorium at Schenectady County Community College from 12-12:50 on Oct. 4th Nov. 1st, Feb. 7th, and April 27th.

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