



**PRO MUSICA
COLORADO**
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra
PO Box 3148, Boulder, CO 80307
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Contact: Cynthia Katsarelis, Music Director and Conductor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRO MUSICA COLORADO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WITH BOULDER CHAMBER CHORALE
Pro Musica Colorado and Boulder Chamber Chorale present Handel's Messiah!

Boulder, Colorado—Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra (PMC) is joined by the Boulder Chamber Chorale for Handel's Messiah!

On Saturday, December 1st, 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 2nd, 3:00 pm, both performances at Mountain View United Methodist Church (355 Ponca Place, Boulder, CO), the evolution of the spirit of classical music, and how it can be used for positive solutions for world challenges, takes flight. *Handel's Messiah*, which includes the famous Hallelujah Chorus, is a Christmas tradition not to be missed! PMC partners with the Boulder Chamber Chorale and their artistic director, Dr. Vicki Burrichter, for these special performances.

"*Messiah* is a masterpiece that has inspired every composer who has written oratorios, including Haydn's *Creation*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, and Mendelssohn's oratorios," says Cynthia Katsarelis, Music Director and Conductor of PMC. "I'm thrilled to be working again with Vicki Burrichter; we share an impassioned vision of this music, one that is informed by the early music movement but rendered with the expressive palette and power of modern instruments."

Dr. Burrichter is pleased to work with Maestra Katsarelis again, having prepared the chorus for PMC for Haydn's *Creation* in the past. "Cynthia and I have a similar musical sensibility and commitment and our knowledge areas compliment each other well. This is the first time the Boulder Chamber Chorale has collaborated with PMC, and we are very excited for this new venture!"

In addition to the musical collaboration, another feature will be added to the concert. Handel presented this work annually as a fundraiser for an orphanage. In this charitable tradition, Pro Musica Colorado and Boulder Chamber Chorale are including a food drive that will benefit Community Food Share. Non-perishable, packaged items (no glass containers) will be collected. Especially needed are: Nut Butters - Soups & Stews - Cereal & Oatmeal - Canned Tuna & Chicken - Baby Food & Formula (Not Expired) - Beans (Canned or Dry) - Canned Fruits - Canned Vegetables - Pasta & Sauce - Rice.

"I love the fact that Handel presented his Messiah annually as a benefit for orphans," says Katsarelis. "As someone who teaches music in Haiti, I've witnessed the power of music to lift spirits, heal trauma, and make community. With our wonderful orchestra, chorus, and soloists, we are excited to share the *Messiah* with our community in Boulder and beyond."

Ticket prices for *Classical Evolution – 2018-2019 Season*: \$35 General, \$25 Seniors, \$5 Students, \$55 Supporter Ticket. Two-Concert Package – two concerts for \$50. Groups save 15% when you purchase 10 or more Adult tickets for the performance. Tickets are available online at: www.promusicacolorado.org. For more information, or to purchase tickets by phone, call: 720-443-0565.

Concert at a Glance – *Handel's Messiah!*

Photos and Bios: <http://www.promusicacolorado.org/press-kit/>

Saturday, December 1, 7:30 pm & Sunday, December 2, 3:00 pm

Mountain View United Methodist Church, 355 Ponca Place, Boulder, CO 80303

Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra

with the Boulder Chamber Chorale and Artistic Director, Dr. Vicki Burrichter

Jennifer Bird, soprano; Steven Soph, tenor; Leah Creek Biesterfeld, alto; Adam Ewing, baritone

Cynthia Katsarelis conductor

Program: George Frideric Handel *Messiah*

- more -



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About Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra and Cynthia Katsarelis, Music Director and Conductor

Now in its 12th season, Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra has many of Colorado's finest musicians, and is committed to impassioned performances of repertoire ranging from the classic to the cutting edge.

Cynthia Katsarelis has served with the Cincinnati Symphony, Pops and May Festival, the Greensboro (N.C.) Symphony, and has conducted many professional, college, and youth orchestras. She has assisted James Conlon, Keith Lockhart, Erich Kunzel and Michael Christie. Most recently she conducted the Colorado Music Festival's Young People's Concerts. Katsarelis is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, with degrees in both violin and conducting. [READ MORE](#)

About the Boulder Chamber Chorale and Dr. Vicki Burrichter, Artistic Director

The Boulder Chamber Chorale is a select small ensemble comprised of some of the finest singers from within the Boulder Chorale. The group performs on Boulder Chorale concerts as well as in outreach performances such as this season's free library concert and Brewery Tour.

Dr. Vicki Burrichter's passion is choirs and choral singers. She brings to all of her choirs an expectation of excellence, a sense of humor, an understanding of diverse genres and cultures, and a theatrical sensibility that makes her choirs exciting and moving to experience. [READ MORE](#)

Jennifer Bird, soprano

American soprano Jennifer Bird enjoys a busy and varied singing career in the US and Europe, having built a reputation as a charismatic, intelligent and versatile performer of more than 50 roles in opera, operetta and musical theater, as well as much of the standard oratorio and concert literature. [READ MORE](#)

Steven Soph, tenor

A "superb vocal soloist" (*The Washington Post*), tenor Steven Soph performs repertoire spanning the medieval to modern day. Aside from being an active Bach interpreter and international soloist, Steven performs with top American vocal ensembles including GRAMMY®-nominated Seraphic Fire and True Concord Voices & Orchestra; GRAMMY® Award-winning Roomful of Teeth and Conspirare; Trident; Yale Choral Artists; Cut Circle; Santa Fe Desert Chorale; Oregon Bach Festival Chorus; Colorado Bach Ensemble; Sounding Light; Ensemble Origo; and Spire Chamber Ensemble. [READ MORE](#)

Leah Creek Biesterfeld, alto

Described as "vibrant and full-voiced" (*The Denver Post*) and praised for her "tangy, nut-brown mezzo" (*Opera News*), Leah Creek Biesterfeld appears frequently as a soloist along the Front Range with groups such as Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra, Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, Colorado Bach Ensemble, Seicento Baroque Ensemble, and St. Martin's Chamber Choir. [READ MORE](#)

Adam Ewing, baritone

Lyric baritone Adam Ewing is an Affiliate Professor of Voice at Regis University. He made his operatic debut as Major General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance* with Loveland Opera, and his orchestral debut as the lead of the barbershop quartet in *The Music Man* with the Colorado Symphony. [READ MORE](#)

About Community Food Share

Community Food Share is a food bank fighting hunger in Boulder and Broomfield Counties by providing access to fresh, nutritious food through more than 40 local partners and its onsite and mobile pantries. Last year, Community Food Share distributed enough food for more than 8.7 million meals. You can join the fight against local hunger with gifts of funds, food, and time. Find out how by visiting www.communityfoodshare.org.