

[Subject line for email: **Release: Choral-Orchestral Concert**]

For Immediate Release

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LAKEVILLE, CT (10/12/11)

Crescendo presents
Baroque Masterworks by J.S. Bach and contemporaries

Crescendo, the premier early music chorus and orchestra of Connecticut's Northwest Corner, announces its November 12th and 13th concerts—"Bach: Darkness to Light." In addition to the headlining pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach, the well-known motets for double choir "Komm, Jesu, komm" and "Singet dem Herrn," Crescendo will feature works by composers close to the great master. Among them will be two U.S. premieres of cantatas by Christoph Graupner and Wilhelm Friedemann Bach.

Artistic director of Crescendo, Christine Gevert, comments on the program: "It is a welcome challenge for us to present to the New England audiences works by Johann Sebastian Bach that are so well known and loved. These two motets are among the most complex, beautiful and spiritual compositions of its genre in the whole Baroque era. In this area you rarely get to hear Baroque choral repertoire in a large formation with period instruments, and this is exactly what we are offering."

The other composers in the program had a significant influence on J.S. Bach, or were influenced by him. This is the case with his oldest son, Wilhelm Friedemann, whose cantata "Wohl dem, der den Herren furchtet" was only discovered in the late 1990's, and published just a few years ago. J.S. Bach held Wilhelm Friedemann in the highest esteem as a musician. Sadly, very few of his compositions survive till today.

The Crescendo Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Period Instrument Orchestra and soloists will perform. As she has in the past, Ms. Gevert showcases noted early music specialists who lend their expertise to Crescendo. Among them are Soprano Julianne Baird, considered "one of the most extraordinary voices in the service of early music that this generation has produced. She possesses a natural musicianship which engenders singing of supreme expressive beauty." (New York Times)

- The concerts will be held at the First Congregational Church, 251 Main St., Great Barrington, MA at 6 p.m. Saturday, November 12 and at Trinity Church, 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lakeville, CT at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 13. A talk about the music will be given by scholar Juliet Mattila, beginning 30 minutes before each concert.
- Tickets are \$40 (premium seating), \$30 (general admission) and \$10 for children 18 and under. A group rate is available for the Great Barrington concert. For tickets and information, call 860-435-4866 or go to www.worldclassmusic.org where you can now purchase tickets online.

Now in its ninth year, Crescendo is based in Lakeville, CT. The organization's ongoing schedule of music performance and education is currently offered for the communities of Connecticut's Northwest Corner, the Berkshires in Massachusetts and New York's Mid-Hudson Valley. Crescendo's choral and instrumental concerts as well as its workshops, lectures and master classes often include the participation of international performers and teachers and these programs reach audiences of all ages and levels of experience.

Katherine Drake for Crescendo

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