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**GREAT MUSIC AT ST. BART'S PRESENTS NEW MUSIC IN THE CHAPEL
AND A CHORAL MASTERWORK IN THE CHURCH:**

- **ECCO – East Coast Chamber Orchestra – Performs the New York Premiere of Christopher Theofanidis's *A Thousand Cranes* on Thursday, April 20, in the Chapel**
- **The Dalton Chorale and St. Bartholomew's Boy and Girl Choristers Perform Orff's *Carmina Burana* on Wednesday, May 17, in the Church**



ECCO ([download](#)) and The Dalton Chorale

To conclude its 2016-17 season, the *Great Music at St. Bart's* series presents two concerts emblematic of its goal to embrace a wide range of music in programs that shine in St. Bart's spaces: the new ensemble ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra) performing a program highlighted by the New York premiere of a work by Christopher Theofanidis in the St. Bart's Chapel, an intimate space perfectly suited to contemporary music; and The Dalton Chorale, joined by the St. Bartholomew Boy and Girl Choristers, performing Orff's *Carmina Burana* in the majestic 1,000-seat, Byzantine-style sanctuary of St. Bartholomew's Church.

Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 7:30 pm in the Chapel

ECCO (EAST COAST CHAMBER ORCHESTRA) – New York premiere of Theofanidis's *A Thousand Cranes*

Bringing together principal players of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, and St. Louis Symphony Orchestras, the East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO) has been hailed by The Washington Post as "classical music's future." ECCO makes *its Great Music at St. Bart's* debut with a program featuring music for harp and strings – André Caplet's *Conte fantastique* for harp and string orchestra (1908), and the New York premiere of *A Thousand Cranes* for strings and harp (2015) by Christopher Theofanidis – as well as Lutoslawski's Five Folk Melodies and Suk's Serenade for Strings.

ECCO performed the world premiere of *A Thousand Cranes* at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas in 2015. Described as having been "inspired by the power of a child's innocence to transcend human tragedy," the work has three movements: "Stars and Sonnets," "Wind Spirit," and "Sadako." Watch ECCO play excerpts from *A Thousand Cranes*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6o2_WqXr8hE

The critically acclaimed East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO) is a collective of dynamic like-minded artists who convene for select periods each year to explore musical works and perform concerts of the highest artistic quality. Drawing from some of the world's finest orchestras, chamber groups, and young soloists, ECCO strives for vitality and musical integrity; a self-governing organization, each member is equal and has a voice in every step of the artistic process, from programming to performance. ECCO performs across a wide range of venues for a wide range of audiences, and is also firmly committed to sharing educational experiences with the communities it visits. Through interactive children's concerts, small group master classes, and one-on-one lessons, ECCO continually seeks out opportunities to connect with young people. www.eccorchestra.org

Tickets: \$35, \$25 for Students and Seniors

Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 7:30 pm in the Church

CARL ORFF: *CARMINA BURANA*

DALTON CHORALE

David Shuler, conductor

St. Bartholomew's Boy and Girl Choristers

Molly Davey, soprano

Ryland Angel, tenor

Peter Walker, bass

Bernadette Hoke, Eric Birk, piano

Deane Prouty, percussion

The Dalton Chorale, under the direction of David Shuler, will celebrate its 25th anniversary season with a performance of Carl Orff's monumental *Carmina Burana*, in the version with accompaniment by two pianos and percussion. The concert will also include excerpts from *The Passing of the Year* (2000) by Jonathan Dove.

The Dalton Chorale is a community-based choral society founded in 1991 to give members the opportunity to sing extraordinary music together. A diverse ensemble of some 60 voices, the chorus specializes in large sacred works of the 18th and 19th centuries as well as new music. The Chorale will be joined by St. Bartholomew's Boy and Girl Choristers. www.daltonchorale.org

Tickets: \$30, \$20 for Students and Seniors

Tickets may be purchased online at <http://mmpaf.org>, by phone by calling 212-378-0248, or in person at St. Bart's in Midtown Manhattan, 325 Park Avenue at 51st Street.

The 2016-17 season of *Great Music at St. Bart's* continues the new programmatic focus initiated last year by MMPAF Artistic Director William K. Trafka (Director of Music and Organist of St. Bart's): **to embrace a wider range of music in programs that shine in St. Bart's spaces.** *Great Music at St. Bart's*, the concert series produced by the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation (www.mmpaf.org), for the past six years has presented music in St. Bartholomew's Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York located in the heart of midtown Manhattan. The magnificent 1918 Romanesque-style church features a portal designed by Stanford White and a grand Byzantine-style interior – and two of New York's unlikely but outstanding concert spaces: the 150-seat chapel, an intimate and acoustically brilliant space that is perfectly suited for contemporary chamber music, and the majestic 1,000-seat sanctuary – outfitted with comfortable chairs enabling flexible seating – whose Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ is the largest in New York City and one of the finest examples of the American Classic Organ in the U.S.

March 24, 2017