

## KENT TRITLE'S SPRING 2015 SEASON:

- **Verdi's Requiem in a Unique Collaboration**
- **Early Music in *Great Music in a Great Space* at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine**
- **World Premieres of Works by Filas, Gilbertson, Paterson, with Musica Sacra**
- ***Chichester Psalms* and *Carmina Burana* with Oratorio Society of New York**
- **Guest Solo Organ Engagement with Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance**
- **Summer Choral Institutes at Amherst Early Music Festival & Eastman School of Music**

A performance of Verdi's Requiem with close to 300 choristers that is a tripartite collaboration highlights the Spring 2015 season of Kent Tritle, called "New York's reigning choral conductor" by The New York Times. In an event emblematic of Kent's multiple roles in the city's choral life, he will conduct a performance of the massive work by the Oratorio Society of New York, of which he is Music Director, and the Symphony and Symphonic Chorus of the Manhattan School of Music, where he is Director of Choral Activities, in the grand space of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, where he is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist – with a new choral configuration that features the singers on risers in the cathedral's Great Choir space.

The program is perhaps Tritle's most ambitious yet at the Cathedral, where he marks his fourth season in 2014-15 also with concerts of early music and contemporary works by the professional Cathedral Choir. The season also marks Kent's tenth as Music Director of the 200-voice avocational Oratorio Society of New York (he has renewed his contract through 2016-17), which he leads in Carnegie Hall concerts of grand choral repertoire; it is also his eighth season as Music Director of the acclaimed professional chorus Musica Sacra, and they will highlight their season with a program of three world premieres.

The season also features a 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of The Dessoff Choirs, in which Kent will participate as a former music director. (The complete season calendar follows below.)

In addition, Kent, as organ soloist, will be a featured guest performer with Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance in its inaugural season at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center in March. As

part of the season, the Limón Dance Company is reviving Doris Humphrey's dance work *Passacaglia*, which is set to Bach's Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 582.

### **Great Music in a Great Space at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine**

The fourth season of the revived *Great Music in a Great Space* series at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine includes six choral concerts **with the performers placed in three locations within the cathedral**: the proscenium, or the steps of the cathedral's Great Choir; in the Great Crossing; and in the intimate St. James Chapel, one of the Chapels of the Tongues. There are three remaining choral concerts this season:

- The **Cathedral Choir** performs a program of music from medieval and Renaissance masters: the landmark ***Messe de Notre Dame of Guillaume de Machaut*** – the 14<sup>th</sup>-century work known as the first complete setting of the mass attributed to a single composer – and the complementary Gregorian Chant Propers for the Feast of the Annunciation, as well as motets of **Josquin de Prez** and **Heinrich Isaac**, in the Cathedral's St. James Chapel (*February 24, 2015*).
- The great **Requiem** of **Giuseppe Verdi** for four soloists, double choir, and orchestra is performed by the **Oratorio Society of New York** and the **Manhattan School of Music Symphony and Symphonic Chorus** in a new concert configuration that places the choruses – numbering close to 300 singers – on risers in the Great Choir space, and the orchestra in front of them on the floor of the Great Crossing. The soloists include soprano Lori Guilbeau, mezzo-soprano Sara Murphy, tenor Alex Richardson, and bass Matthew Anchel – Guilbeau, Richardson, and Anchel are Manhattan School of Music alumni. (*March 26, 2015*).
- The **Cathedral Choir** and **Rose of the Compass**, the world music ensemble led by Nina Stern, perform their fourth collaboration, "**The Wingèd Lion: Venice and the Orient**," a program focusing on the extraordinarily fertile artistic crossroads that was Venice from the early Middle Ages to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, featuring works by Gabrieli and Monteverdi as well as traditional music from Armenia, Turkey, and the eastern Mediterranean. This program takes place in St. James Chapel (*May 14, 2015*).

### **Oratorio Society of New York – Kent Tritle's Tenth Season**

Kent recently renewed his contract with the Oratorio Society of New York for three more years, ensuring his tenure as Music Director through the 2016-17 season. His tenth season of 2014-15 is the organization's 142<sup>nd</sup>; in addition to the Verdi Requiem performance, the spring season features a program of two 20<sup>th</sup>-century choral masterworks: A program of **Orff's *Carmina Burana*** conducted by Kent, and **Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*** conducted by OSNY Associate Conductor David Rosenmeyer, with soloists soprano Jennifer Zetlan, tenor Peter Tantsits, baritone Takaoki Onishi (Musical America's New Artist of the Month for July 2014) (*May 5, 2015*).

### **Musica Sacra**

In June 2014, Kent led Musica Sacra in recording sessions for an album of choral music by Robert Paterson, award-winning composer and founder of the American Modern Ensemble, which will be distributed by Naxos later this year. He marks his eighth season as Music Director of the acclaimed professional chorus in 2014-15.

The chorus will continue its engagement with new music with a program of **three new works in their world premiere performances**, performed at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (*March 4, 2015*):

- *Wisdom of the Wise Old Man* by **Juraj Filas** (whose Requiem, *Oratio Spei*, Kent led both in its New York premiere performance and in a recording with the Prague Symphony Orchestra);
- *Lux Aeterna* by **Robert Paterson** (one of the works on the new recording mentioned above);
- *Returning* by **Michael Gilbertson** (whose piece *Three Madrigals After Dowland* was featured in Musica Sacra's acclaimed 2012 recording, *Messages to Myself*).

Judith Zaimont's *Parable, A Tale of Abram and Isaac*, conducted by Musica Sacra Assistant Conductor Michael Sheetz, will round out the program, in which cellist Arthur Fiacco, Jr., and organists Raymond Nagem and Walter Hilse will also be featured.

### **Manhattan School of Music**

Performances by the choral forces of the **Manhattan School of Music** under Kent's direction – in addition to the Verdi Requiem with the three MSM alumni – are highlighted by a performance by the Manhattan School of Music Chamber Choir at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, presented by the center's Conservatory Project (part of the Millennium Stage, the Kennedy Center's free daily performance series) featuring David Lang's *Little Match Girl Passion* conducted by Kent, and works by Gregg Smith conducted by Malcolm Merriweather (*February 17, 2015*).

### **The Dessoff Choirs' 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert**

One of New York's choral stalwarts, The Dessoff Choirs, Christopher Shepard, Music Director, celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special concert featuring three of the organization's former music directors: James Bagwell, Amy Kaiser, and Kent Tritle. Kent will conduct repertoire from his tenure of 1996-2004 including works by Mendelssohn and selections from Frank Martin's Mass for Double Chorus A Cappella. (*March 22, 2015, at Peter Norton Symphony Space*)

### **Organ Activities: Soloist for Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance, and New York Philharmonic Tour**

Kent Tritle will be guest organ soloist for the inaugural season of Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance, Taylor's new venture through which he will curate and present great modern dances of the past and present alongside his own works at Lincoln Center. Kent will be featured in four performances of Doris Humphrey's *Passacaglia*, which is set to the Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor by Johann Sebastian Bach, by the Limón Dance Company at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center (*March 14, 22, 25, and 27, 2015*).

As the organist of the New York Philharmonic, Kent will perform with the orchestra on its spring tour of Europe, playing in Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin* in London, Paris, and Cologne.

### **Summer Choral Institutes at Amherst Early Music & Eastman School of Music**

In the summer of 2015, Kent leads two choral institutes:

- **Amherst Early Music Festival Choral Workshop** – Kent leads a week-long choral workshop, a new addition to the largest early music festival in the U.S., this summer in New London, Connecticut, focusing on works by Palestrina, Victoria, and Monteverdi. (*July 5-12, 2015*)
- **Summer@Eastman's Advanced Choral Conducting Institute** – Kent Tritle, along with Eastman School of Music Director of Choral Activities William Weinert, will lead a five-day course focusing on in-depth analysis and rehearsal of Mozart Requiem, *Coronation Mass*, and shorter sacred works of Mozart, and recent research on issues of choral and instrumental performance practice in the Classical era. (*July 20-24, 2015*)

**Kent Tritle** is one of America's leading choral conductors. Called "the brightest star in New York's choral music world" by The New York Times, he is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City; Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the acclaimed 200-voice avocational chorus; and Music Director of Musica Sacra, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City.

In addition, Kent is Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music and is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic.

Kent Tritle has made more than a dozen recordings on the Telarc, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, VAI and MSR Classics labels. CDBaby recently made available his 2013 recording of Juraj Filas' Requiem, *Oratio Spei* dedicated to the victims of 9/11, with the Prague Symphony Orchestra, vocal soloists Ana María Martínez, Matthew Plenk, Filip Bandzak, and the Kühn Choir. His discography, including the recent *Messages to Myself*, an acclaimed recording with Musica Sacra of five new works; and two releases with the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, *Cool of the Day* – an a cappella program of music ranging from Gregorian chant, Palestrina, and spirituals to Strauss's *Deutsche Motette* – and Ginastera's *The Lamentations of Jeremiah* with Schnittke's Concerto for Choir, have been praised by Gramophone, the American Record Guide, Audiophile Audition, and The Choral Journal.

Kent Tritle founded the *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* concert series at New York's Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and led it to great acclaim from 1989 to 2011. From 1996 to 2004, Mr. Tritle was Music Director of New York's The Dessooff Choirs. Kent hosted "The Choral Mix with Kent Tritle," a weekly program devoted to the vibrant world of choral music on New York's WQXR, from 2010 to 2014.

**Website:** [www.kenttritle.com](http://www.kenttritle.com)

**Kent Tritle on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/kenttritle](http://www.facebook.com/kenttritle)

**Kent Tritle on Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/kenttritle](http://www.twitter.com/kenttritle)

**Join Kent Tritle's [e-newsletter list](#).**

## KENT TRITLE SPRING 2015 SEASON

**Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at 6:00 PM**

[Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage](#) – Terrace Theater

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHAMBER CHOIR**

Kent Tritle, conductor

Malcolm Merriweather, conductor\*

DAVID LANG *Little Match Girl Passion*

GREGG SMITH Selected works\*

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**Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 7:30 PM**

[Great Music in a Great Space](#) at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine – Chapel of St. James

**CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

Kent Tritle, conductor

MACHAUT *Messe de Nostre Dame*

JOSQUIN DES PRES Motets

HEINRICH ISAAC Motets

Gregorian Chant Propers for the Feast of the Annunciation

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**Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 7:30 PM**

**Cathedral of St. John the Divine**

[MUSICA SACRA](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

Michael Sheetz, conductor\*

Arthur Fiacco, Jr., cello

Raymond Nagem, organ

Walter Hilse, organ

JURAJ FILAS *Wisdom of the Wise Old Man* – World premiere

MICHAEL GILBERTSON *Returning* – World premiere

ROBERT PATERSON *Lux Aeterna* – World premiere

JUDITH ZAIMONT *Parable, A Tale of Abram and Isaac*\*

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**Saturday, March 14, 2015, at 8:00 PM**  
**Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 2:00 PM**  
**Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 7:00 PM**  
**Friday, March 27, 2015, at 8:00 PM**  
**David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center**  
**[PAUL TAYLOR'S AMERICAN MODERN DANCE](#)**

Kent Tritle will be the organ soloist in the Limón Dance Company's performances of Doris Humphrey's *Passacaglia*, which is set to Bach's Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 582.

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**Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 7:00 PM**  
**Peter Norton Symphony Space**  
**[THE DESSOFF CHOIRS](#)**  
James Bagwell, conductor  
Amy Kaiser, conductor  
Kent Tritle, conductor

90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert  
Program to include Kent Tritle conducting works by Mendelssohn and selections from Frank Martin's Mass for Double Chorus A Cappella

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**Thursday, March 26, 2015, at 7:30 PM**  
**[Great Music in a Great Space](#) at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine – The Great Choir**  
**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONIC CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA**  
**ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK**  
Kent Tritle, conductor  
Lori Guilbeau, soprano  
Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano  
Alex Richardson, tenor  
Matthew Anchel, bass

VERDI Requiem

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April-May, 2015  
European tour with the [NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC](#), playing organ in Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin*

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**Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 8:00 PM**

[Carnegie Hall](#)

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

David Rosenmeyer, conductor\*

Jennifer Zetlan, soprano

Peter Tantsits, tenor

Takaaki Onishi, baritone

BERNSTEIN *Chichester Psalms*\*

ORFF *Carmina Burana*

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**Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 7:30 PM**

[Great Music in a Great Space](#) at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine – Chapel of St. James

**CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

**ROSE OF THE COMPASS**

Nina Stern, director

Kent Tritle, conductor

“The Wingèd Lion: Venice and the Orient”

Music by Gabrieli and Monteverdi, and traditional music from Armenia, Turkey, and the eastern Mediterranean

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**July 5-12, 2015**

[AMHERST EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL CHORAL WORKSHOP](#)

The 2015 Choral Workshop at the Amherst Music Festival, led by Kent Tritle, is designed to give the serious amateur choral singer an opportunity to learn and perform masterworks of the Renaissance and Baroque, with a focus on works by Palestrina, Victoria, and Monteverdi.

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**July 20-24, 2015**

**Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY**

[Summer@Eastman ADVANCED CHORAL CONDUCTING INSTITUTE](#)

Kent Tritle and William Weinert lead in-depth analysis and rehearsal of Mozart Requiem, *Coronation Mass*, and shorter sacred works of Mozart, and recent research on issues of choral and instrumental performance practice in the Classical era

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*As of February 3, 2015*