

KENT TRITLE'S 2015-16 SEASON



Kent Tritle conducting Verdi's *Requiem* at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, March 26, 2015, photos by Brian Hatton

- **Mahler's "Symphony of a Thousand" with Oratorio Society of New York and Manhattan School of Music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine**
- **World Premiere of Evan Fein's *Deborah* with Musica Sacra, and New York Premiere of Marjorie Merryman's *Jonah* with Oratorio Society of New York**
- **Recording Release and Performance of "Four Quarters of Jerusalem" by the Cathedral Choir of St. John the Divine and Rose of the Compass**
- **Tallis's *Spem in Alium*, Strauss's *Deutsche Motette* with Musica Sacra**
- **Mozart Arrangement of Handel's *Messiah* with Oratorio Society of New York**
- **Residency at Sibelius Academy in Helsinki**

The 2015-16 season of Kent Tritle, called "New York's leading choral conductor" by The New Yorker, encompasses a range of music from the Renaissance landmark *Spem in Alium* by Thomas Tallis, to Mahler's massive "Symphony of a Thousand," to three works for chorus and orchestra written within the past 20 years. And these performances by Tritle's four organizations (sometimes in combination with one another) take place in a range of esteemed locations; from his home base of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Morningside Heights, to Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Tritle is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Music Director of Musica Sacra and the Oratorio Society of New York, and Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music.

In March of this year, in an event emblematic of his multiple roles in the city's choral life, Tritle led a sweeping, sold-out performance of Verdi's Requiem by the combined forces (numbering more than 350) of the Oratorio Society of New York and the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Raising the bar for the most ambitious event yet on his *Great Music in a Great Space* series at the Cathedral, in 2016 Tritle will lead the same groups in Mahler's Symphony No. 8, "Symphony of a Thousand," a work for eight soloists, double choir, children's choir, orchestra, and organ; in all, approximately 400-plus performers.

On the other end of the intimacy scale is "Four Quarters of Jerusalem," a concert and new recording by Kent leading the Cathedral Choir of St. John the Divine and early/world ensemble Rose of the Compass performing music associated with the Holy Land. In the middle is a program showcasing the choral intricacy of Tallis's 40-part motet *Spem in Alium* and Strauss's 20-part *Deutsche Motette* with Musica Sacra, in a look back to the ensemble's acclaimed 1991 RCA recording *Songs of the Divine*, which included these key masterworks.

And in the realm of the new: Tritle leads the world premiere of Evan Fein's *Deborah* with Musica Sacra, the New York premiere of Marjorie Merryman's *Jonah* with the Oratorio Society of New York, and the 2002 Requiem "Oratio Spei" by Juraj Filas – the Prague Symphony recording of which he conducted in 2013 – also with the Oratorio Society. He also prepares the Manhattan School of Music Chamber Choir for its performances of Tan Dun's *Water Passion After St. Matthew* led by the composer at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. (The complete season schedule follows below.)

In addition, Tritle will travel to Finland in early 2016 for a residency Helsinki's Sibelius Academy, during which he will teach choral conducting and organ performance.

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

Kent leads the fifth season of the revived *Great Music in a Great Space* series at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, whose choral events often feature the acclaimed Cathedral Choir:

- **"Four Quarters of Jerusalem"** a concert by the **Cathedral Choir of St. John the Divine with Rose of the Compass**, an ensemble led by Nina Stern comprising recorder, oud, kanun, and percussion, was first performed at the Cathedral in May 2013. This encore presentation celebrates the simultaneous release of a recording of the concert, made earlier this year, by the Pro Organo label. The program features choral settings of Sufi songs, Coptic chant and Renaissance works relating to the Holy Land, as well as joyous dance music of Armenian, Sephardic, and Islamic cultures. (*Wednesday, October 14, 2015*)
- Annual holiday events: The **Cathedral Christmas Concert** this year features a performance of J.S. Bach's *Magnificat* performed by the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra. (*Saturday, December 12, 2015*) And the **New Year's Eve Concert for Peace**, at Cathedral tradition, features a performance of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* by the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra, and appearances by special guests. (*Thursday, December 31, 2015*)

- **Mahler's Symphony No. 8, "Symphony of a Thousand,"** one of choral music's grandest works both in scope and theme, calls for eight soloists, double choir, children's choir, orchestra, and organ. Following their performance in March 2015 of Verdi's Requiem at the Cathedral, the **Oratorio Society of New York and the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra** will collaborate once again in an exploration of monumental music for the monumental space of the Cathedral. In the symphony, Mahler uses both the medieval sequence for Pentecost "Veni creator spiritus" and the final scene from Goethe's *Faust* to create a paean to the eternal power of the human spirit. The concert's soloists will include Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano, and the Cathedral Choristers, the children's chorus, will also be featured. (*Thursday, February 25, 2016*) In a related event, **organist David Briggs presents the world premiere of his organ transcription of Mahler's Symphony No. 8** on the Cathedral's "Great Organ" recital series, a performance that will be recorded for future release. (*Thursday, April 7, 2016*)
- Two weeks before Easter, the **Cathedral Choir and Orchestra** perform J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 4, "Christ lag in Todesbanden" along with Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien* and Vivaldi's *Stabat Mater*. (*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*)
- Kent will lead a performance of the musical **Godspell** to celebrate the 45th anniversary of its premiere and the playwright John-Michael Tebelak's close relationship with the Cathedral (he was its dramaturg in the late 1970s). The production will be semi-staged by Julia Whitworth, Canon for Liturgy and the Arts at the Cathedral. (*Monday, April 25, 2016*)

[Oratorio Society of New York](#)

The 143rd season of the Oratorio Society of New York, the city's exponent of the grand choral tradition, is Kent Tritle's 11th as its music director. In addition to the Mahler concert, their 2015-16 season includes a Carnegie Hall season of three concerts encompassing two classics and two recent works:

- Kent Tritle led the U.S. premiere of **Juraj Filas's Requiem, *Oratio Spei*** – a 2002 work dedicated to the victims of 9/11 – at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in 2011. He also conducted the work's [debut recording](#), in Prague with the Prague Symphony Orchestra, a project of the New York-based Harmony Foundation, in 2013. Noting that this work was "deeply influenced by the Requiem of Verdi," Kent says, "*Oratio Spei* is a great work for the Oratorio Society to perform after the Verdi, as it reflects the grandeur, scale and drama of that work but through a thoroughly contemporary compositional aesthetic." The concert's soloists are Susanna Phillips, soprano; Matthew Plenk, tenor; and John Michael Moore, baritone. (*Monday, November 2, 2015*)
- For its annual Christmastime performance of **Handel's *Messiah***, Kent and the OSNY this year perform **Mozart's arrangement** of the work. "The music will be a mixture of Classical and Baroque," says Kent. "Mozart 'modernizes' the orchestra to include trombones, two flutes, two clarinets, two horns and divided bassoons. And, similar to Handel's own practice

of 'switching out' the recitatives and airs to different voice types, so does Mozart – here we have the bass soloist singing 'But Who May Abide.' The tenor soloist sings 'Rejoice Greatly,' and the soprano soloist sings all of 'He Shall Feed His Flock/Come Unto Him,' plus the recitatives in the central portion of the Passion section." The *Messiah* soloists are Emalie Savoy, soprano; Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano; Nicholas Phan, tenor; and Matt Boehler, bass. (*Monday, December 21, 2015*)

- For the season finale, Kent leads **Haydn's** towering *Lord Nelson Mass* paired with the **New York premiere of Marjorie Merryman's *Jonah***, a 1995 oratorio based on the biblical story, that the Washington Post called "an artistic treasure." The concert's soloists are Rachel Rosales, soprano; Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano; John Matthew Myers, tenor; and Philip Cutlip, baritone. (*Monday, May 9, 2016*)

Musica Sacra

Kent marks his ninth season as Music Director of Musica Sacra in 2015-16, in which he leads the acclaimed professional chorus in two of the classic choral repertoire's most challenging works as well as a world premiere.

- The season opens with a rich a cappella program at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine that pays tribute to Musica Sacra's own heritage as well as that of contemporary American choral music. In 1991 Musica Sacra founder Richard Westenberg, assisted by Kent, led the group in recording, at the Cathedral, two of the most celebrated and challenging choral masterworks, Tallis's 40-part motet *Spem in Alium*, and Strauss's 20-part *Deutsche Motette*, for what became a popular RCA Red Seal disc, *Songs of the Divine*. Kent opens Musica Sacra's 2015-16 with these works, along with a 90th birthday tribute to the American composer and conductor Alice Parker – her work *An American Kedusha* and some of her beloved arrangements of early American music – and other works, including Robert Convery's *The Lamb* from Musica Sacra's 2011 recording *Messages to Myself*; and Randall Thompson's *Alleluia*, a choral classic, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its composition. The soloists are Christine Price, soprano; Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano; John Tiranno, tenor; and Joseph Beutel, bass-baritone. This concert will make use of the Cathedral's vast crossing, with singers positioned around the audience. (*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*)
- Musica Sacra's acclaimed rendition of **Handel's *Messiah*** at Carnegie Hall this year features soloists Kathryn Lewek, soprano; Christopher Ainslie, countertenor; Mingjie Lie, tenor; and Matt Boehler, bass. (*Tuesday, December 22, 2015*)
- The ensemble's spring concert at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall is highlighted by the **world premiere of *Deborah***, a cantata-oratorio by American composer [Evan Fein](#), who says about his new work, "*Deborah* tells the story of one of the most powerful and enigmatic women in the Bible. Derived from the Book of Judges, this tale has remarkably contemporary overtones, with its meditations on the role of female leaders, interfaith competition in Israel, and what constitutes a 'just war.'" The program also features Mozart's Solemn

Vespers, K.339. The soloists are Jennifer Zetlan, soprano; Helen Karloski, mezzo-soprano; Marc Day, tenor; and Kevin Deas, bass. (*Wednesday, March 9, 2016*)

Manhattan School of Music

Among the performances by the choral forces of the Manhattan School of Music under Kent's direction, in addition to the Mahler "Symphony of a Thousand":

- Kent will prepare the Manhattan School of Music Chamber Choir for a performance of Tan Dun's 2000 work ***Water Passion After St. Matthew*** for soprano and bass-baritone soloists, violin, cello, and percussion staged and conducted by the composer himself in the dramatic setting of The Temple of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Soloists include Jennifer Zetlan, soprano. (*Saturday, November 14, 2015, two performances*)
- The Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus and Chamber Choir, prepared by Kent, will perform **Berlioz's *Lélio*** with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jacques Lacombe on a program also to feature the *Symphonie fantastique*. (*January 22 & 23, 2016*)

Organ Recitals

For his annual organ recital at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Kent will perform Stephen Paulus's *Tryptich*, Duruflé's Prelude and Fugue "sur le nom d'Alain," Franck's *Cantabile*, and Widor's Symphony No. 7 (*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*). Leading up to that date, he will perform recitals at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, where he will also conduct a choral workshop (*September 15-16, 2015*), at First United Methodist Church in Newnan, Georgia (*September 29, 2015*), and at First United Methodist Church in Iowa City, Iowa (*October 26, 2015*).

Sibelius Academy in 2016

Kent will travel to Finland for a residency Helsinki's Sibelius Academy, at which he will teach choral conducting and organ performance. The repertoire will include Telemann's *Deus Judicium Tuum*. (*January 27-31, 2016*)

Summer 2015: Choral Institutes and More

- **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*)

- The **Oratorio Society of New York's** annual trip abroad takes the group to Germany this summer, where Kent will lead the group in works by Hanssler, Bruckner, and Rheinberger, and Vaughan Williams's *Dona nobis pacem* at Market Church in Halle and Evangelical-Reformed Church in Leipzig. (August 19 & 23, 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 15 recordings on the Telarc, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, VAI and MSR Classics labels; his most recent is *Eternal Reflections: Choral Music of Robert Paterson* with Musica Sacra. 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

Kent Tritle on Facebook: www.facebook.com/kenttritle

Kent Tritle on Twitter: www.twitter.com/kenttritle

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

KENT TRITLE 2015-16 SEASON

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.

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

September 15-16, 2015 – organ recital and choral workshop

[Stetson University](#), Deland, FL

KENT TRITLE, organ

PAULUS *Tryptich*

DURUFLÉ Prelude and Fugue “sur le nom d’Alain”

FRANCK *Cantabile*

WIDOR Symphony No. 7 in A Minor, Op. 42, No. 3

Tuesday, September 29, 2015, at 7:00 pm

[First United Methodist Church](#), Newnan, GA

KENT TRITLE, organ

PAULUS *Tryptich*

DURUFLÉ Prelude and Fugue “sur le nom d’Alain”

FRANCK *Cantabile*

WIDOR Symphony No. 7 in A Minor, Op. 42, No. 3

Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 7:30 pm

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

St. James Chapel

CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

ROSE OF THE COMPASS

Nina Stern, director

Kent Tritle, conductor

“Four Quarters of Jerusalem”

Celebrating the simultaneous release of a recording of the concert, made earlier this year, by the Pro Organo label, the program features choral settings of Sufi songs, Coptic chant and Renaissance works relating to the Holy Land, as well as joyous dance music of Armenian, Sephardic, and Islamic cultures.

Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at 7:30 pm

Cathedral of St. John the Divine

[MUSICA SACRA](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

TALLIS *Spem in Alium*

STRAUSS *Deutsche Motette*

BRUCKNER *Os Justi*

ALICE PARKER *An American Kedusha*

ROBERT CONVERY *The Lamb*

RANDALL THOMPSON *Alleluia*

Monday, October 26, 2015

[First United Methodist Church, Iowa City, IA](#)

KENT TRITLE, organ

PAULUS *Tryptich*

DURUFLÉ *Prelude and Fugue “sur le nom d’Alain”*

FRANCK *Cantabile*

WIDOR *Symphony No. 7 in A Minor, Op. 42, No. 3*

Monday, November 2, 2015, at 8:00 pm
Carnegie Hall

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor
Susanna Phillips, soprano
Matthew Plenk, tenor
John Michael Moore, baritone

FILAS Requiem "Oratio Spei" (2002)

Saturday, November 14, 2015, at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)

Tan Dun, conductor
Jennifer Zetlan, soprano
Manhattan School of Music Chamber Choir
Kent Tritle, director
Ronnie Oliver, associate director

[TAN DUN'S WATER PASSION](#)

Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 7:30 pm

[Great Music in a Great Space](#) at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
KENT TRITLE, Organ

PAULUS *Tryptich*
DURUFLÉ Prelude and Fugue "sur le nom d'Alain"
FRANCK *Cantabile*
WIDOR Symphony No. 7 in A Minor, Op. 42, No. 3

Saturday, December 12, 2015, at 7:30 pm

[Great Music in a Great Space](#) at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, conductor

"A Cathedral Christmas"

Program to include:

J.S. BACH *Magnificat*

Monday, December 21, 2015, at 8:00 pm
Carnegie Hall

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor
Emalie Savoy, soprano
Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano
Nicholas Phan, tenor
Matt Boehler, bass

HANDEL *Messiah* (arrangement by Mozart)

Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at 7:30 pm
Carnegie Hall

[MUSICA SACRA](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor
Kathryn Lewek, soprano
Christopher Ainslie, countertenor
Mingjie Lie, tenor
Matt Boehler, bass

HANDEL *Messiah*

Thursday, December 31, 2015, at 7:30 pm
[Great Music in a Great Space](#) at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, conductor
Special guests to be announced

“New Year’s Eve Concert for Peace”
Program to include:
BERNSTEIN *Chichester Psalms*

January 22-24, 2016

[NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA](#)

Jacques Lacombe, conductor
Bernard Uzan, narrator
Symphonic Chorus of Manhattan School of Music
Kent Tritle, director

BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*
BERLIOZ *Lélio*

January 27-31, 2016

[SIBELIUS ACADEMY](#)

A residency Helsinki's Sibelius Academy, at which Kent will teach choral conducting and organ performance. The repertoire will include Telemann's *Deus Judicium Tuum*.

Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 7:30 pm

**[Great Music in a Great Space](#) at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONIC CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA
ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK**

Kent Tritle, conductor

Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano

Other soloists to be announced

Cathedral Choristers of St. John the Divine

MAHLER Symphony No. 8, "Symphony of a Thousand"

(In a related event, organist David Briggs presents the world premiere of his organ transcription of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 on the Cathedral's "Great Organ" recital series on Thursday, April 7, 2016)

Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 7:30 pm

Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center

[MUSICA SACRA](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

Jennifer Zetlan, soprano

Helen Karloski, mezzo-soprano

Marc Day, tenor

Kevin Deas, bass

EVAN FEIN *Deborah* (World Premiere)

MOZART Solemn Vespers, K.339

Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 7:30 pm

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

CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, conductor

Amy Justman & Michele Kennedy, sopranos

Katie Geissinger & Kirsten Sollek, mezzo-sopranos

Michael Steinberger & Marc Day, tenors

Malcolm J. Merriweather & Peter Stewart, baritones

J.S. BACH Cantata No. 4, "Christ lag in Todesbanden"

SCHÜTZ *Musikalische Exequien*

VIVALDI *Stabat Mater*

Monday, April 25, 2016, at 7:30 pm

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

GODSPELL

Kent Tritle, conductor

Julia Whitworth, director

Monday, May 9, 2016, at 8:00 pm

Carnegie Hall

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, conductor

Rachel Rosales, soprano

Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano

John Matthew Myers, tenor

Philip Cutlip, baritone

MERRYMAN *Jonah* (New York Premiere)

HAYDN *Nelson Mass – Missa in Angustiis*

As of June 17, 2015