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**The Bardavon Presents**  
**HUDSON VALLEY PHILHARMONIC**  
**BACH: Mass in B Minor**  
**Saturday April 13 at 8pm**

*(Poughkeepsie, NY)* The Bardavon presents the **Hudson Valley Philharmonic: BACH - Mass in B Minor on Saturday, April 13 at 8pm at the Bardavon**, conducted by Randall Craig Fleischer. Bach's final work, composed at different times in his life, transcends the inconsistency of its origins, leaving a statement on the nature of sacred music as a bequest to the future.

**Bach-** Mass in B Minor, BWV 232 w/ **Vassar College Choir & Cappella Festiva, Christine Howlett, Artistic Director** with soloists: tenor Stephen Sands, mezzo-soprano/alto Monika Krajewska, soprano Sarah Brailey and Baritone Elijah Blaisdell.

Ticket holders are invited to a pre-concert talk by Maestro Fleischer with soloists one hour prior to the concert.

A Grammy nominated "crystalline tenor" (*Backstage*) praised by the *New York Times* as "a tenor with a focused, powerful tone" who sings with "subtlety," **Stephen Sands** is highly sought after as a soloist, ensemble member and conductor. He is a founding member and executive director of the internationally acclaimed Antioch Chamber Ensemble. Stephen is also the director of Downtown Voices, a high-level choral group praised for its "incisive, agile strength" (*New York Times*) that is part of Trinity Church Wall Street's music program, focused on bringing the best amateur and professional singers in the NYC metro area together. Stephen is also the founder and artistic director of Music in the Somerset Hills, a fast growing community music organization dedicated to providing musical experiences of the highest quality to those who live and work in New Jersey's Somerset Hills. <http://StephenSands.net>. Stephen has been heard as the Evangelist and tenor soloist in numerous performances of Bach's sacred oratorios, recently with the Trinity Choir and Baroque Orchestra in the St. John Passion of J.S. Bach. As an ensemble member, Stephen sings with the Carmel Bach Festival Chorale, Vox Vocal Ensemble, Aoede Consort, TENET, Clarion Music Society, Pomerium, and is a full-time member of the Choir of Trinity Wall Street under the direction of Julian Wachner.

Praised by New York Times for her "reach and strong tone that expresses not only beauty, but a luminous sense of peace with comfort", mezzo-soprano/alto **Monika Krajewska** is an accomplished and exceptionally versatile performance artist. Winner of numerous vocal competitions, including the Giuseppe Verdi Prize at Palm Beach Opera Competition, Rosa Ponselle International Vocal Competition, Sembrich Kochanska Vocal Competition of New York, and Amici Competition, Monika has sung with opera

companies, orchestras and Music Festivals around the world performing under the batons of renowned conductors such as Alberto Zedda, Anton Coppola, Will Crutchfield, Anton Guadagno, Bruno Aprea, Keri-Lynn Willson. Her signature roles include: Carmen (Carmen), Cenerentola (La Cenerentola), Rosina (Il Barbiere di Siviglia), Charlotte (Werther), Princess Marina (Boris Godunov), Olga (Eugenie Onegin) and Paulina (Pique Dame) In concert, Monika has sung the alto solos in the works of Bach, Beethoven, Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Schubert, and Verdi. She made her Carnegie Hall debut with MidAmerica Productions as a soloist in Mozart's Requiem and was subsequently invited back to sing in the program "Two Nations One Love", performing music of F. Chopin and K. Szymanowski. This year she was also featured at Carnegie Hall as a soloist with "Skylark" choir.

Born in southwestern Wisconsin, soprano **Sarah Brailey** grew up on a farm overlooking the Mississippi River with horses, goats, geese, and all manner of feline and canine companions. Her mother—an amateur Bach-obsessed pianist and organist turned nurse and her father, a physician with an encyclopedic knowledge of opera and a voice to match his six-and-a-half-foot frame—kept the radio tuned to public radio and encouraged their children's musical instincts from an early age. Childhood highlights included repeat performances of Mozart's Queen of the Night under the living room grand piano, winning Best Keyboards in a high school show choir competition, and playing the Elgar cello concerto in a master class for renowned cellist Paul Katz. Sarah's impatience with specialization continues to the present. She enjoys a career filled with a plethora of diverse projects including soloing in Handel's *Messiah* with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, performing with Kanye West and Roomful of Teeth at the Hollywood Bowl, and recording cello and vocal soundscapes for the current *Fog x FLO* Fujiko Nakaya public art installation in Boston's Emerald Necklace park system. She has been hailed by *The New York Times* for her "radiant, liquid tone," "exquisitely phrased," and "sweetly dazzling singing" and by *Opera UK* for "a sound of remarkable purity." Co-founder of Just Bach, a new monthly concert series in Madison, Wisconsin, Sarah is also the Artistic Director of the Handel Aria Competition. This season, Sarah can be seen singing John Zorn at the Chicago Art Institute, the Guggenheim Museum, and the November Music Festival in s'Hertogenbosch, Netherlands. She is thrilled to be singing Mahler's 2<sup>nd</sup> Symphony with the Johnstown Symphony and a program of Josquin des Prez and his contemporaries with Cut Circle in San Francisco. She will return to the Brooklyn Art Song Society for a program of songs by Ned Rorem and will join Bang on a Can All-Stars and The Choir of Trinity Wall Street at Carnegie Hall in Julia Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize-winning oratorio *Anthracite Fields*. She is also looking forward to recording the premiere album of Dame Ethel Smyth's symphony *The Prison* with The Experiential Orchestra and bass-baritone Dashon Burton. Much to her mother's delight, Sarah continues to sing plenty of Bach, and will perform as soprano soloist in the *St. John Passion* with Saint Thomas Fifth Avenue in New York City, the *Weihnachts-Oratorium* with Lyra Baroque and the Bach Society of Minnesota, and *Cantata 97: In allen meinen Taten* with the Oratory Bach Ensemble.

Baritone **Elijah Blaisdell** is earning a reputation as a dedicated, versatile, and sensitive artist, and is sought after as both a soloist and a chorister by ensembles around the

country. An early and new music specialist, his most recent credits include performing as an Adams Fellow with The Carmel Bach Festival, featured soloist with Grammy-Award winning Ensemble The Crossing, St. Matthew Passion with Bach Society of St. Louis, Coffee Cantata and Dido and Aeneas with Madison Bach Musicians, and a chorister with The Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Grammy-Nominated Ensemble True Concord, Grammy-Award winning Ensemble Seraphic Fire, and Boston Lyric Opera. Recent operatic highlights include the role of Schaunard in La Boheme with the Crested Butte Music Festival in Colorado and ensemble member with the new Ourboros Trilogy in Boston. A passionate advocate for new music, Elijah regularly works with new music ensembles, including The Crossing Choir, Genesis Chamber Singers, and Beth Morrison Projects, and has performed and recorded new works with Cappella Clausura, Commonwealth Chorale, Central Washington University, and Futura Productions. Elijah also collaborates frequently as a soloist with True Concord, St. Andrew's Bach Society, Cambridge Concentus, Summit Chorale Society, and North End Music and Performing Arts Center. Additionally, Elijah performs with the Boston Lyric Opera, and Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. Elijah is a graduate of the New England Conservatory's Masters program in Opera, and is currently based in Boston. Originally from Seattle, Elijah holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Central Washington University where he studied with Dr. Gayla Blaisdell. He currently studies with Carole Haber.

It was over 80 years ago that the Dutchess Philharmonic Community Orchestra was founded by four local amateur musicians, and 59 years ago that conductor Claude Monteux elevated the orchestra to a fully-professional ensemble, renaming it the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. This season also represents the HVP's 20th year under Bardavon management and the 26th under the music direction of conductor **Randall Craig Fleischer**.

**Single tickets to all HVP concerts are \$20 to \$57 based on location.**

**Call or visit** the Bardavon Box Office, 35 Market Street, Poughkeepsie 845.473.2072 or the UPAC Box Office, 601 Broadway, Kingston 845.339.6088. For more information, log on to [www.bardavon.org](http://www.bardavon.org). Tickets are also available online through Ticketmaster at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), 800.745.3000. Please note that the Bardavon Member benefits and special discounts are not available through Ticketmaster. Ticketmaster fees will apply.