

# Your Music Your Choir

The 2011–2012 Season



HOUSTON  
CHAMBER  
CHOIR

Robert Simpson  
*Artistic Director*



HOUSTON  
CHAMBER  
CHOIR

## Your Music

We all love stories. And stories are at the very heart of choral music. Just think about it: every note we sing is brought to life from a printed page. Those stories were first felt and imagined by a composer who, by writing it down, allowed us to feel that emotion ourselves. And we have great music and stories spanning 500 years to share with you this season. Sacred stories, holiday stories, West Side stories – it's all here. This is Your Music.

## Your Choir

Each member of the Houston Chamber Choir is a professional solo artist whose years of vocal training, experience and passion give life to the Choir's silky sound. A tribute to their musical achievement has come recently in the form of a rare invitation from Yale University to present a master class and concert in April 2012. But these young musicians are also full of fun and have a wide range of interests and hobbies you might not expect. You will get to hear them individually and collectively throughout the season. They love music, but you are the reason they perform. This is Your Choir.

**Robert Simpson**

*Founder & Artistic Director*



## Welcome to Our 16th Season



### Ave Maria Music of Devotion to Our Lady

Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 7:30 pm

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Parkway, Houston, TX 77002

Mary's journey from humble maiden to grieving mother has inspired composers throughout the centuries – and it is the heart of the Houston Chamber Choir's opening concert. This evening of great music in a great space weaves together works spanning 500 years, from the triple-choir setting of the *Stabat Mater* by Renaissance composer Felice Anerio, to the transcendent mysticism of Arvo Pärt's recent setting of the *Magnificat*, and John Tavener's *Song to the Mother of God*. Perhaps the most widely loved song of all, Schubert's *Ave Maria*, brings the concert to a poignant close.

**Sponsored by Valobra Jewelry and Antiques**

### Psalmi ad Vesperas (1694) Giovanni Paolo Colonna

Saturday, October 29, 2011, 7:30 pm

St. Philip Presbyterian Church, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Hidden away for centuries in the archives of Westminster Abbey and the Central Library of Zürich, Giovanni Colonna's monumental *Vespers* has recently come to light, thanks to the enterprising work of Greek musicologist Prryos Bamichas. To his knowledge, the Houston Chamber Choir's performance of the work is the first in modern times. Composed in 1694 for a grand festival at the Basilica of St. Petronio in Bologna, this piece calls for choir, soloists and string orchestra. His contemporaries called Colonna "the Orpheus of our century," and the very fact that copies of the *Vespers* traveled to England and Switzerland attests to its popularity.



## Magnificat and Messiah Music of Schubert and Handel With River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

Saturday, December 3, 2011, 7:30 pm

The Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Boulevard, Houston, TX 77019

Handel's *Messiah* holds a place of honor among Christmas favorites. But there are many other gorgeous, though less well-known, pieces for the yuletide season. The Houston Chamber Choir, with the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, provides the best of both worlds with a performance of Franz Schubert's sparkling *Magnificat* and the Christmas portion of *Messiah*. These contrasting works are perfect partners in expressing the joy of the season.

**Sponsored by Bradshaw-Carter Memorial & Funeral Services**

## Christmas at the Villa

Saturday, December 10, 2011, 3:30 and 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 11, 2011, 3:30 and 7:30 pm

Chapel of the Villa de Matel, 6510 Lawndale Avenue, Houston, TX 77023

For many, the holiday season does not officially begin until they have been to the Villa to hear the Chamber Choir. Our exuberant celebration brings together fresh carols and seasonal favorites. This year, we will feature *Carols of the Southwest*, a cycle of Spanish carols set for choir, marimba, guitar and harp, by Conrad Susa. The children of The Treble Choir of Houston will perform at both matinees under the direction of Marianna Parnas-Simpson.

**Sponsored by Raymond James & Associates, Inc.**

## A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass

Saturday, March 24, 2012, 7:30 pm

The Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Boulevard, Houston, TX 77019

Works by Brahms, as well as two world premieres and a composition by one of our favorite composers, David Ashley White, are highlights of our March concert. Christopher Theofanidis, a composer in great demand who scored a success with his HGO premiere, *The Refuge*, adds to the works he has already written for the Chamber Choir. And *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass*, by Houston Chamber Choir's own rising star Dominick DiOrio, will receive its first performance. Inspired by poetry of Amy Lowell, the work is scored for marimba, choir and soprano soloist. This concert will be presented at Yale University in April 2012.

## Music in the Key of Joy The Music of Leonard Bernstein with special guest Jamie Bernstein

Saturday, May 19, 2012, 7:30 pm

The Church of St. John the Divine,  
2450 River Oaks Boulevard, Houston, TX 77019

Few people in the classical music world become household names, but Leonard Bernstein is one of them. As conductor, educator, and composer, Bernstein left an expansive legacy. The Houston Chamber Choir pays tribute to this American genius with a program of his songs for the theater, including *New York, New York*; *Maria*; *The Best of All Possible Worlds*; and his choral masterpiece *Chichester Psalms*. The evening's master of ceremonies will be Bernstein's daughter, Jamie, who will reminisce about her famous father's life and her experiences growing up with him.

**Sponsored by Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.**

**with Support from The Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts**



## Special Events

### Messiah for Kids!

Saturday, December 3, 2011, 10:00 am

The Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Boulevard, Houston, TX 77019

A concert the whole family will enjoy! Join the Houston Chamber Choir and River Oaks Chamber Orchestra for a fun-filled hour of Handel's Messiah — for kids! This performance is geared toward the youngsters in the audience with stories about the life and music of the great G.F. Handel.

### Hear the Future 13th Annual Invitational School Choral Festival

Sunday, January 29, 2012, 4:00 pm

South Main Baptist Church, 4100 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

#### FREE ADMISSION

A highlight of our season is the school invitational choral festival, Hear the Future, which each year showcases three outstanding choirs from our region. This year, the invited choirs are the HISD Elementary Honors Choir, conducted by Marianna Parnas-Simpson; Kammi Estelle's Kahla Middle School Choir from Cy-Fair ISD; and the award-winning choir from Spring High School under the direction of Denise Eaton and David Landgrebe.

### Vienna 1828: Schubert's Invitation Concert Presented by DaCamera of Houston

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 8:00 pm

Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

800 Bagby Street, Houston, TX 77002

It was not until the last year of Schubert's life that a public concert in Vienna was devoted solely to this extraordinary composer's works, a program at the Gesellschaft that presented vocal, choral and chamber works. Houston Chamber Choir is pleased to have been invited by DaCamera of Houston to perform in a unique recreation of this historic musical event.

Tickets can be purchased through Da Camera of Houston.

[www.dacamera.com](http://www.dacamera.com) or (713) 524-5050

# Special Thanks to Our Generous Supporters

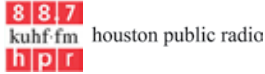
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**HOUSTON ENDOWMENT**

A PHILANTHROPY ENDOWED BY JESSE H. AND MARY GIBBS JONES



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## Premium Savings with Preferred Seating

Subscribers save up to 25% on tickets and receive the BEST SEATS in the house with preferred seating!

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Subscribers receive 10% off additional ticket purchases AND preferred seating.

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Provide us with your email address and we will send exclusive ADVANCE PROGRAM INFORMATION prior to each concert, including links to program notes, directions and parking.

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Houston, TX 77052-3388

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## Connect with Your Choir



Find Houston Chamber Choir on Facebook



Follow HouChamberChoir on Twitter

All sales are final; no refunds. All concert attendees — including children — must have a ticket. Please note that our concerts are not open to infants and children under the age of 6, except for the Messiah for Kids! and Hear the Future performances. We have accessible seating at all of our performance spaces. Please make your access-related needs known when you order tickets.

Prices listed include a non-discountable per ticket fee. Subscribers may exchange subscription tickets for another Houston Chamber Choir 2011–2012 Season performance up to 24 hours prior to the concert. Tickets may be turned back for resale up to 24 hours prior to a performance.

All programs and artists subject to change without notice.



## 2011–2012 Season Concerts

Special 6-concert Subscription Price: \$156

Senior 65+ Subscription: \$136

*(Does not include special events)*

### **Ave Maria**

*Music of Devotion to Our Lady*

Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 7:30 pm

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

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*Giovanni Paolo Colonna*

Saturday, October 29, 2011, 7:30 pm

St. Philip Presbyterian Church

#### SPECIAL EVENT

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Saturday, December 3, 2011, 10:00 am

The Church of St. John the Divine

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*Music of Schubert and*

*Handel With River Oaks*

*Chamber Orchestra*

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The Church of St. John the Divine

### **Christmas at the Villa**

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3:30 and 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 11, 2011,

3:30 and 7:30 pm

Chapel of the Villa de Matel

#### SPECIAL EVENT

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*School Choral Festival*

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**FREE ADMISSION**

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*Schubert's Invitation Concert*

*Presented by DaCamera of Houston*

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 8:00 pm

Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for

the Performing Arts

[www.dacamera.com](http://www.dacamera.com) or (713) 524-5050

### **A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass**

Saturday, March 24, 2012, 7:30 pm

The Church of St. John the Divine

### **Music in the Key of Joy**

*The Music of Leonard Bernstein*

*with special guest Jamie Bernstein*

Saturday, May 19, 2012, 7:30 pm

The Church of St. John the Divine

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**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR GALA – SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012**

# 2011–2012 Houston Chamber Choir Season Ticket Order Form

**Please note:** This form is for subscription ticket purchases only. Individual tickets go on sale August 1, 2011.

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Name

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Address

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City

State

Zip

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Phone (day)

Phone (evening)

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Email address (for advance concert information)

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Special needs requests

**1. Choose your subscription type and quantity and select your Christmas at the Villa date:**

Regular Subscription \_\_\_ x \$156 / Senior 65+ Subscription \_\_\_ x \$136 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one date/time for Christmas at the Villa:

Sat, Dec. 10, 3:30 pm  Sat, Dec. 10, 7:30 pm  Sun, Dec. 11, 3:30 pm  Sun, Dec. 11, 7:30 pm  
(3:30 pm matinee performances feature the children of the Treble Choir of Houston)

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**2. Write in the number of ADDITIONAL TICKETS below for your guests. Subscribers receive 10% off additional tickets (discounted price below) AND preferred seating.**

\_\_\_ Ave Maria – Sept 20  
\_\_\_ Psalmi ad Vesperas – Oct 29  
\_\_\_ A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass – Mar 24

Regular \_\_\_ x \$27 / Senior 65+ \_\_\_ x \$22.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Magnificat and Messiah – Dec 3  
\_\_\_ Christmas at the Villa – Dec 10 3:30  
\_\_\_ Christmas at the Villa – Dec 10 7:30  
\_\_\_ Christmas at the Villa – Dec 11 3:30  
\_\_\_ Christmas at the Villa – Dec 11 7:30  
\_\_\_ Music in the Key Of Joy – May 19

Regular \_\_\_ x \$36 / Senior 65+ \_\_\_ x \$31.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**3. Add your tax-deductible contribution to Houston Chamber Choir** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. GRAND TOTAL** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Check enclosed, made payable to Houston Chamber Choir  
Please charge my:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

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Name on credit card (please print clearly)

Signature

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Account Number

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