



HOUSTON  
CHAMBER  
CHOIR

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Robert Simpson and the Houston Chamber Choir  
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## **YOUR MUSIC. YOUR CHOIR. HOUSTON CHAMBER CHOIR ANNOUNCES ITS 2011-12 SEASON**

(Houston, Texas) May 11, 2011 – Robert Simpson, Founder and Artistic Director of the internationally recognized Houston Chamber Choir announced the concert offerings for its 16<sup>th</sup> season, *Your Music, Your Choir*. Flowing through the heart of the concert season are choral stories interpreted by the artists of Houston Chamber Choir. Each member of the choir, an accomplished soloist in their own right, brings their decades of vocal training and silky phrasing to each work. Their excellence earned them a rare choral residency at Yale University in April 2012.

World premieres, sacred stories, holiday stories, West Side stories and more are all part of this acoustically superb season. Subscribe today and receive up to 25% off tickets, the best seats in each house and premium benefits. For season subscriptions visit <http://www.houstonchamberchoir.org> or call (713) 224-5566. Visit the Choir's website, Facebook (Houston Chamber Choir) and Twitter (HouChamberChoir) sites for detailed information about the 2011-12 season.

**The 16<sup>th</sup> season includes the following choral performances:**

**Ave Maria – Music of Devotion to Our Lady**

Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 7:30 pm

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

**Psalmi ad Vesperas (1694)**

**Giovanni Paola Colonna**

Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 7:30 pm

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

**Magnificat and Messiah – Music of Schubert and Handel with River Oaks Chamber Orchestra**

Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 7:30 pm

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

**Christmas at the Villa**

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

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

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

**A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass**

Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 7:30 pm

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

**Music in the Key of Joy**

**The Music of Leonard Bernstein with special guest Jamie Bernstein**

Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 7:30 pm

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

***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

**Hear the Future: 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Invitational School Choral Festival - FREE**

Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 4:00 pm

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

**Vienna 1828: Schubert's Invitation Concert**

*Presented by Da Camera of Houston*

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 8:00 pm

Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby Street, Houston, TX 77002

**2011-12 Season Concert Details:**

**Ave Maria – Music of Devotion to Our Lady**

Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 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. The season unfolds with her story told masterfully in song from the triple-choir setting of the Franciscan poem, *Stabat Mater* by Renaissance composer Felice Anerio, the transcendent mysticism of Avro Pärt's recent setting of the *Magnificat*, and John Tavener's *Song to the Mother of God*. The beloved *Ave Maria* by Franz Schubert brings the concert and Mary's story to a poignant close.

### **Psalmi ad Vesperas (1694)**

#### **Giovanni Paolo Colonna**

Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 7:30 pm

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

Houston Chamber Choir closed their historic 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, *A Bridge Across Time*, with a rare performance of *Messa a Nove Voci Concertata con Stamenti* (Mass for Nine Concerted Voices with Instruments) by Giovanni Paolo Colonna. The choir continues to make choral history with the first performance of Colonna's monumental Vespers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The composition, created in 1694, languished for centuries in the archives of Westminster Abbey and the Central Library of Zürich. It was recently discovered by musicologist Prryos Bamichas. Created for a grand festival at the Basilica of St. Petronio in Bologna, the work calls for choir, soloists and string orchestra.

### **Magnificat and Messiah – Music of Schubert and Handel with River Oaks Chamber Orchestra**

Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 7:30 pm

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

The joy and splendor of the yuletide season is joyfully expressed in Franz Shubert's sparkling *Magnificat* and the Christmas portion of *Messiah*. Houston Chamber Choir and the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra collaborate on this gorgeous celebration of the season.

### **Christmas at the Villa**

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

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

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

For many, the performance of *Christmas at the Villa* signifies the beginning of the holiday season. Houston Chamber Choir celebrates with *Carols of the Southwest* by Conrad Susa, a cycle of Spanish carols set for choir, marimba, guitar and harp. The children of The Treble Choir of Houston, under the direction of Marianna Parnas-Simpson, will perform at both matinee performances.

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

Saturday, March 14, 2012 at 7:30 pm

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

Two world premieres, works by Johannes Brahms and a composition by David Ashley White, Director of the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, provide audiences with a splendid concert program. Christopher Theofanidis, composer of the celebrated work, *The Refuge*, presented by Houston Grand Opera in 2007, adds to his compositions for the Choir. Houston Chamber Choir's own rising star, Dominick DiOrio, unveils his second composition for the Choir, *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass*. Inspired by the 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 at 7:30 pm

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

Leonard Bernstein is one of the few classical performers to become a household name in America. The Choir plays tribute to his expansive legacy with a program of his songs for the theater. *Lenny* includes such Bernstein signature works as *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 father's life and their relationship.

### ***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

Houston Chamber Choir and River Oaks Chamber Orchestra present a fun-filled hour of Handel's *Messiah* – perfect for whole family.

#### **Hear the Future: 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Invitational School Choral Festival - FREE**

Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 4:00 pm

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

This annual, free concert showcases three outstanding choirs from the Houston region. This year, invited choirs are: the Houston Independent Honors Choir conducted by Marianna Parnas-Simpson; the Kahla Middle School Choir from Cy-Fair ISD under the direction of Kammi Estelle; and Denise Eaton's award-winning choir from Spring High School.

#### **Vienna 1828: Schubert's Invitation Concert**

*Presented by Da Camera of Houston*

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 8:00 pm

Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby Street, Houston, TX 77002

The Houston Chamber Choir is pleased to have been invited by DaCamera of Houston to perform in dramatic recreations of Franz Schubert's last concert presented in 1828. This was the only concert Schubert ever devoted exclusively to his own music. Tickets to this event can be purchased through Da Camera of Houston, [www.dacamera.com](http://www.dacamera.com) or by calling (713) 524-5050.

Robert Simpson, Founder and Artistic Director of the internationally renowned Houston Chamber Choir, was honored by Chorus America with the Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art in June 2010. Throughout his illustrious career, Simpson has worked tirelessly to cultivate America's passion for choral music. As noted by Gramophone magazine, an internationally recognized authority on classical recordings, the Houston Chamber Choir's 2009 release, *Ravishingly Russian*, is highlighted by "exquisite harmonic illustration and enriched by an outpouring of graceful melody and restrained sentiment."

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