



Harmony with Nature inspires 38th season

The Italian solo cantata is a high point of literary and musical development beginning in the 17th century. Many works center on the imagined lives of shepherds and shepherdesses who lived in Arcadia in the golden age. This was not exactly 'new' since the educated Catherine de Medici, queen in France 1542-89, produced entertainments called 'magnificences' which included similar concepts. Catherine's courtiers and children appeared in plays in pastoral dress. For Catherine the peaceful countryside might have been a welcomed contrast to the wars which surrounded her. (CPM's February 2014 concert was devoted to her court music).



Seventeenth century Rome saw beginnings of a literary circle formed under the patronage of Queen Christina of Sweden, who had abdicated the Swedish crown in 1654, and taken up residence there. Highly educated she would become a significant patron of music and

opera in the city. The principal intention of the group was to reform the diction of Italian poetry, which the founders believed had become corrupt through over-indulgence and the desire to sensationalize as inspired by the writer Giambattista Marino. A more natural, simple poetic style based on the classics and particularly on Greek and Roman pastoral poetry was the goal. After Christina's

death in 1689, her friends founded the academy to give their meetings permanence and "to exterminate bad taste, and to see to it that it shall not rise again." They named the academy for Arcadia, a pastoral region of ancient Greece, and assumed Greek names themselves. The November 2015 concert is devoted to music of this period including cantatas by Alessandro Scarlatti.

The season opener includes works by Telemann and Handel. With the assistance of John Pruett, baroque violin, we offer a "Paris" quartet showing Telemann's knowledge of the French style. The cantata *Delirio amoroso* from Handel's early days in Rome is a dramatic work with the typical Arcadian characters Clori and Tirsi. It shows the most extreme state of mind of a person in love. Clori in a bewildering love dream finds herself in Hades. As the cantata progresses emotions run high, but in the end, all is well.



Texts in the Arcadian style look to a vision of pastoralism and harmony with nature as inspired by the classic Greek and Roman writings. This idea of harmony was prominent in English poetry including works for St. Cecilia's Day with texts by John Dryden. Selections from these works as set by Handel will be included on our March 2016 concert.

CPM Other Activities

- ♪ CPM continued as artists in residence at Belmont Abbey College and will do so for 2015-16.
- ♪ Eddie performed with the NC Baroque orchestra in Charlotte and Rock Hill in March, 2015.
- ♪ Members provided vocal and instrumental music for weddings in the area.
- ♪ Karen made a presentation in May at the Historical Keyboard Society of North America Conference in Montréal, Quebec.

- ♪ Karen and Holly along with some family members attended the Boston Early Music Festival in June. (see photo on reverse side).
- ♪ Holly was on the viola da gamba faculty of Mountain Collegium held at Western Carolina University June 28-July 4.
- ♪ Karen attended the Southeastern Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists, July 1-4, and assisted husband John in photographing events.

Carolina Pro Musica 2015 -2016

Captivated by Love and Dancing

October 3, 2015 8:00 PM St. Martin's Episcopal

■ Baroque violinist John Pruett joins for a glimpse into musical genius. Handel's virtuosic cantata *Il Delirio Amoros* (text by Cardinal Pamphili), and Telemann's enthralling Paris Quartet in E minor culminate in new sounds for audience and performers.

Changing the World - Queen Christina in Rome

November 14, 2015 8:00 PM St. Martin's Episcopal

■ Christina, Queen of Sweden, abdicated her throne, became a catholic and moved to Rome where she befriended local elite including cardinals who became part of her inner circle and attended her music and theatre soirées. A. Scarlatti, Stradella, Pasquini, and Corelli were some of her favorites.

Christmas at St. Mary's

December 12, 2015 7:00 & 8:30 PM St. Mary's Chapel

■ Our annual holiday event: music from the 18th century, readings of the season and carols for all to sing. Bob Sweeten, Max on the Bob and Sheri Show, returns to tell the Christmas story. Musicians in 18th c. attire. *Two performances*

Innovations Italian Style

February 20, 2016 8:00 PM Sharon Presbyterian, Chapel

■ Monteverdi turned music upside down, making emotionally charged creations. The intensity of works by Carissimi and Monteverdi changed the world forever. The UNC Charlotte Chorale, Randy Haldeman, director, joins for this program of madrigals, oratorio excerpts, vocal solos and instrumental works.

Music in the Isles - with a salute to Ireland

March 5, 2016 8:00 PM St. Martin's Episcopal

■ Eighteenth-century Britain included four different countries, plus European immigrants. Composers produced new music, and made concert arrangements of folk melodies. Native composer John Stanley's works were performed along with those of Handel, J.C. Bach and C.F. Abel. Concert includes familiar Irish tunes and works by O'Carolan.

Concert venues:

St. Martin's Episcopal

1510 E. 7th St. Charlotte 28204

St. Mary's Chapel

1129 E. 3rd St. Charlotte 28204

Sharon Presbyterian - The Chapel *New!*

5201 Sharon Rd. Charlotte 28210

☛ Tickets are available online, by mail or at the door.



Chris Maurer, Holly Maurer with their daughter-in-law Elizabeth and son Paul Maurer at the Boston Early Music Festival, June, 2015. Photo: John Jacob

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Carolina Pro Musica General & Artistic Fund

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Arts at the Abbey, Royal Gardens
CVNC (cvnc.org), Mation Engineering, Michael's Music Service,
St. Martin's Episcopal, Sharon Presbyterian



The Artists 2015-16

Karen Hite Jacob, *director, harpsichord, organ*
Rebecca Miller Saunders, *soprano, percussion*
Holly Wright Maurer, *viola da gamba, flauto traverso, recorder*
Edward Ferrell, *recorders, flauto traverso, guitar*
John Pruett, *baroque violin (October)*
Bob Sweeten, *narrator (December)*