



A Letter from the Director

As I write this letter to you, our country is at war with Iraq. In these uncertain times, I feel that it is more important than ever for Sarasa to continue bringing music to as wide an audience as possible. As we cross boundaries of class, race, caste, and gender with the universal language of music, we hope to promote increased communication in the global community.

Sarasa has been very lucky this past year to receive funding from the Kalliopeia Foundation for outreach work in adult and teenage correctional facilities. We are very grateful to them for their support – please take a look at our new website at www.sarasamusic.org to view responses we have received from inmates. Some of the musicians in the Sarasa ensemble are about to begin a three-week pilot residency in a teenage correctional facility for girls in Dorchester. Keeping in mind the exciting rap-classical collaborations that we've done with the teenagers this past year, we hope to create a composition during these three weeks that we will record at the end of our residency.

Sarasa has some pending grant applications to fund residencies in three Cambridge grade schools, but we have many expenses that are not covered by ticket sales or special project funding. In addition, our grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, although generous, has been cut in half as of this year due to state budget cuts.

So, this is our annual appeal to you, our faithful and committed audience, for your continued support! Donations from individuals are *by far* the largest source of Sarasa's income; they allow us to bring together the finest musicians from Europe and the U.S. and to continue our varied concerts and projects. Each contribution, however large or small, keeps us alive and thriving. We hope that you will be able to demonstrate your continued support with a donation in the near future.

Thank you all for your generosity, and especially for your encouragement and energy. It's what keeps Sarasa going in these difficult times.

–Timothy Merton

SARASA Series Concerts May 3rd & 4th

Join special guest soprano soloist Dominique Labelle and the Sarasa Ensemble for an intimate evening of Italian baroque cantatas and instrumental music.

"Dominique Labelle [possesses] a creamy, mezzo-like lower register, a quick vibrato that gave the tone a dark shimmer, a fluid and expressive way with ornamentation, an ability to show quicksilver changes of emotion with the voice." Joe Banno, The Washington Post

PROGRAM

- Trio Sonata No. 3 in F Major – Handel
- Cantata "Un'alma innamorata" HWV 173 – Handel
- Sonatas for Harpsichord – Domenico Scarlatti
K 282 in D major, K 299 in D major
- Cantata "Guardati, O Core" – Steffani
- Cantata "Già lusingato appieno da' Zeffiri" – Alesandro Scarlatti
- Violin Sonata in C Major, Opus 5, No. 3 – Corelli
- "Languia di bocca lusinghiera" HWV 123 – Handel



Dominique Labelle, soprano

Saturday, May 3, 8pm

Friends' Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge, MA

Sunday, May 4, 7pm

Concord Academy Dance Performance Space,
166 Main Street, Concord, MA

Tickets available at the door or online at
www.sarasamusic.org. \$16/\$14 seniors
and students, children under 12 free.

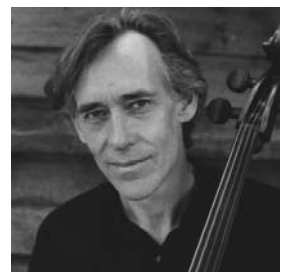
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 617-492-4758.



Elizabeth Blumenstock, violin



Kinloch Earle, violin



Timothy Merton, cello



Charles Sherman, harpsichord

SARASA'S SNOWMAN at Walden Pond



L to R: Emily Van Evera, Maggie Cole,
Michael Chance, Brian Brooks.

SARASA Ensemble & Prism Opera Collaboration

We are pleased to announce that Sarasa will be collaborating with the Prism Opera Company in a production of Mozart's "La clemenza di Tito" next season. There will be two performances at Pine Manor College on Friday, Feb 13, 2004 at 8:00 pm; and Sunday, Feb 15, 2004 at 3:00 pm. The core of the period ensemble will be made up of familiar Sarasa musicians, including Jennifer Stirling (viola), Richard Earle (oboe), and Timothy Merton (cello). We will be playing from a special reduced orchestra version being prepared for us by "Pocket Publications," which is affiliated with the Welsh National Opera. This company has prepared very fine versions of several other Mozart operas. The production will be scored for wind quintet and string quintet. Conductor Thomas Stumpf will be leading the ensemble from the fortepiano.

SARASA SERIES 2003-2004

We have exciting plans for next year's series! These include a concert in October, of music for three cellos, with Myron Lutzke, Phoebe Carrai, and Tim Merton, along with Maggie Cole, harpsichord and piano. In November we will be continuing our viola quintet theme. This concert will also include celebrated oboist Peggy Pearson. Confirmed dates will appear on the website and you will be receiving our brochure in September.

Silent Auction

We are planning a silent auction to take place during one of our concerts next season as a means of raising funds for Sarasa. We are currently asking for quality, tax-deductible donations, which can include anything from artwork to functional objects you no longer need, to services you can provide. The sky's the limit – use your imagination! Our director, Tim, will be offering a weekend getaway at his beautiful property in Vermont. All proceeds from the auction will go toward Sarasa's continued work in bringing classical music to the broadest possible community.

Please phone us at 617-492-4758 or email sarasa@earthlink.net to arrange a pick-up.



CD Project with Sanford Sylvan, Baritone

Last season, baritone Sanford Sylvan joined Sarasa as guest soloist in an all Bach program that included Cantata BWV 82 "Ich habe genug." We also performed this cantata with him in a special memorial event last September 11 at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. As a result of this inspiring collaboration, we have the opportunity to record a CD with Sanford next February. The cantata "Ich habe genug," which is one of his signature pieces, will be the main attraction on this CD.

Obviously, there are many expenses that go into making a recording, including paying, feeding, and housing musicians, not to mention transportation costs such as airfares. We pray there are some "angels" out there who might help us out financially with this wonderful opportunity.



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MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL