



A Letter from the Director – It has been another wonderful, eventful Sarasa year, this one with a focus on singers, including, Dominique Labelle, Sanford Sylvan, Pamela Dellal, Pamela Murray and Emily Van Evera. Next season will feature the great English countertenor Michael Chance, with whom Sarasa will be touring in the Spring of 2005. The tour will include a concert at the renowned Frick Collection in New York City on May 1, 2005. In addition we will continue to bring you diverse programming with exciting and unusual instrumentation.

Although Sarasa is thriving in many ways, it continues to be a challenge to secure adequate funding to meet our expenses. While this newsletter serves as an update of our activities just as importantly it serves as our annual appeal for financial support. There are a

number of options for giving. The most direct is, of course, to use the enclosed envelope to send us a tax-deductible contribution. Any donation over \$100 is, as in the past, acknowledged with a gift of our CD, "A Baroque Mosaic" (just check the box on the enclosed donor card). In order to learn more about the options, please read the section below called "How You Can Help Sarasa."

Once again, we are very grateful to the Kalliopeia Foundation for its continued and generous support of our Outreach Programs in teenage correctional facilities, to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for organizational support funding and to all the individuals who have been so generous this past year with their time, financial support, and, most importantly their encouragement and appreciation of Sarasa.
–Timothy Merton

HOW YOU CAN HELP SARASA

Sarasa, now in its sixth year, has become a permanent fixture in the musical life of Boston. We realize that having long-term financial strategy is more important than ever as the organization grows. Now there are more ways you can help Sarasa meet its financial goals and expanded concert series and outreach work.

INVESTING IN SARASA – We have recently opened an account with the firm A.G. Edwards to support our investment strategy and provide our donors with a variety of opportunities to contribute to Sarasa. If you'd like more information on how to do this, please contact our financial advisor at A.G. Edwards, Jacques Lucchesi at (800) 832-4272. Listed below are several new ways for you to make donations to Sarasa:

- Outright Gift
- Direct Gifts of Appreciated Securities
- Direct Gifts of Life Insurance
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Pooled-Income Funds

WISH LIST – Last year we were thrilled to have an electric keyboard donated that we now use in every outreach residency. New or used, there are two items we need currently that could help Sarasa greatly in our every day operations:

PHOTOCOPY MACHINE – We constantly need to copy programs, documents and many other things.

DIGITAL CAMERA – Sarasa would like to capture great moments and feature them on our website.

VOLUNTEERS – Sarasa is very fortunate to have had a number of people help out at concerts. We would like to encourage anyone who has time to be on our expanding list of volunteers. Here are some future opportunities: *Reception catering, Concert set-up & post-concert cleanup, Pre-concert ticket & CD sales, Office assistance, Skilled accounting, Fundraising*

If you would like to help out or if you think of other ways to contribute your skills and time, please let us know!

Upcoming Concert

Hands and Feet Across the Water

AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Saturday, April 17, 8pm

Rieman Center for the Performing Arts (in association with the Dance Program, Office for the Arts at Harvard), 10 Garden St., Cambridge, MA

Sunday, April 18, 7pm

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

TICKETS: \$18 general seating, \$15 seniors/students, FREE for children under 12. Available at the door or through www.sarasamusic.org. For Saturday performance only, tickets are also offered through the Harvard Box Office at 617-496-2222.

Please join musicians of the Sarasa Ensemble in this presentation of "Hands and Feet Across the Water," which brings together Massachusetts dancers/choreographers Billbob Brown and Rebecca

Nordstrom with London musicians Maggie Cole, piano; Miranda Fulleylove, violin; and Sarasa director Timothy Merton, cello, for a delightful evening of music and dance.



The program includes a range of musical styles and choreographic themes including Brown's madcap solo "The Old One Two" to Khachaturian's irrepressible "Saber Dance" and a duet by Brown and Nordstrom created together to the music of Fritz Kreisler. There are other new original works to music of Ravel, Villa-Lobos, Martinu and Scarlatti. Also on the program will be selections for piano trio, including one by Haydn. These masterful and nuanced renderings of music and dance all contribute to a delightful, lively evening of artistic collaboration.

"...Spirit, courage, and a surfeit of ideas... and one heck of a sense of humor." – The Phoenix Gazette

SARASA SERIES 2004-2005

Confirmed dates and locations will be announced at www.sarasamusic.org,
and you will be receiving next season's complete schedule in September.

OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2004: **Buxtehude to Bach** – Krista River, mezzo soprano; Judy Linsenberg, recorders; Richard Campbell, viola da gamba; Timothy Merton, cello; Charles Sherman, harpsichord

NOVEMBER, 2004: **Piano Quartets** – Robbie Merfeld, piano; Mowry Pearson, violin; Betty Hauck, viola; Timothy Merton, cello

JANUARY, 2005: **Boccherini Cello Quintets & Haydn String Quartets** – Elizabeth Blumenstock, violin; Kinloch Earle, violin; Jennifer Stirling, viola; Phoebe Carrai, cello; Timothy Merton, cello



APRIL 23 & 24, 2005: **Amor hai Vinto "Love, You Have Conquered": Highlights of the German and Italian Baroque** – Michael Chance, countertenor; Elizabeth Blumenstock, violin; Kinloch Earle, violin; Jennifer Stirling, viola; Timothy Merton, cello; Maggie Cole, harpsichord

OUTREACH PROGRAMS – To date, Sarasa has played over 51 free community outreach concerts. Recently, our programs have focused on juvenile offenders in lock-up facilities run by the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS). In addition to one-time concerts, the ensemble is now conducting three-week outreach residencies, thanks to very generous renewed funding from the Kalliopeia Foundation.

During our Spring 2003 3-week pilot residency at North American Family Institute (NFI), each week we were escorted through a metal detector, then a maze of white fluorescent-lit hallways and doors that are kept locked and monitored. The young women we encountered were visibly struggling, emotionally and interpersonally. Our initial impression was daunting: girls clamoring for seats, loudly shouting and talking and staff repeatedly shouting for silence and control. However, as we began our program, organizing the girls into groups to work on different projects, playing short pieces for them and encouraging their input and participation, the change in the atmosphere was remarkable. Faces all around the room lit up; the hyperactive found focus and the lethargic were energized. Astonishing talent was demonstrated as each girl participated creatively in group and individual endeavors. By the time we left at the end of each visit, the mood of the residents had changed from distrust, boredom and anger, to hope, healthy release and celebration.

The transformation we witness during our visits show us that Sarasa's outreach residencies in detention facilities are a stunning success. The joy and energy we brought to these girls at NFI was palpable, their talent and healing made visible. Here is an excerpt from a recent letter: "As the Program

Director for NFI's Girls' Assessment/Treatment Unit I would ask that you strongly consider any request for funding that will allow this group's work to continue.... This is the type of programming that enhances the self-esteem of our population and truly makes them believe that they can do anything."

Bach Cantatas Recording

Following a sold-out benefit concert, baritone Sanford Sylvan and soprano Dominique Labelle, together with the Sarasa Ensemble, went into the Sonic Temple Studio in Roslindale to record a new Sarasa CD of Bach Cantatas. The three cantatas on the CD will be BWV 202 *Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten*, BWV 82 *Ich habe genug* and BWV 32 *Liebster Jesu, mein Verlangen*. Unfortunately due to illness, we weren't able to complete the CD in January, so we have rescheduled additional recording time for September. The CD may be available before Christmas at record stores and from our website on the AVIE label. After attending the benefit concert, Boston Globe critic Richard Dyer wrote, "It was a lovely occasion, and this writer already wants one of the first copies of the CD."

SARASA GOES TO THE OPERA

Friday, September 17, 8:00pm • Sunday, September 19, 3:00pm

Ellsworth Theatre at Pine Manor College, Chestnut Hill, MA
Tickets and information: 1-888-236-8181, www.prismopera.org

Prism Opera is collaborating with Sarasa in presenting the Mozart opera *La Clemenza di Tito*. In previous seasons, Prism Opera has performed operas of Britten, Vaughan Williams, and Holst under the direction of conductor/stage director Thomas Stumpf.

This production features a cast including Pamela Dellal, Paul Gutfry, Krista River, Arthur Rishi, Susan Trout and Deborah Van Renterghem. It promises to be an innovative production, in that it will

be in English (in a new translation by Thomas Stumpf) and the recitatives will be replaced by spoken dialogue, as in the *Magic Flute*. The instrumental score is a transcription that was made for the Welsh National Touring Opera which will be played by single strings and winds on period instruments. Regular returning Sarasa musicians include Richard Earle, oboe; Alison Bury and Kinloch Earle, violins; Jennifer Stirling, viola; Timothy Merton, cello; Anne Trout, double bass; along with Christopher Krueger, flute; Diane Heffner, clarinets; John Aubrey, horn; Andrew Schwartz, bassoon and Thomas Stumpf, fortepiano.



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