

Press Release for 10/1/14 Performance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2014

Press Contact: Dorothy Shrader, info@upchamberorchestra.org or 580.327.7136

Bach and Telemann at Christ & St. Stephen’s Church

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014 | 8 PM

122 W. 69th St., New York, NY

$10/$7 Tickets

**Box Office**:

For tickets visit: <http://www.upchamberorchestra.org/bach-and-telemann.html> or

For press tickets call (508) 327-7136 or email info@upchamberorchestra.org

Violinist **Marc Uys** was born in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, where he had his first violin lessons at the age of four. He holds a Master of Music degree (distinction) from the University of Cape Town. From 2002 to 2006, Marc was the first violinist of the Sontonga Quartet. This group, widely regarded as the leading string quartet in South Africa, worked extensively with composers ranging from Kevin Volans to Terry Riley and Osvaldo Golijov, championing many new works in South Africa and abroad and performing in venues such as the Victoria National Gallery in Melbourne, Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Barbican in London, and Central Park and Lincoln Center in New York. During this time, Marc was able to develop and pursue his passion for South African music – music he has continued to explore and promote since moving on from the quartet.

This has primarily been through his collaboration with harpist Jacqueline Kerrod in the duo ‘Clockwise’. Together, they have commissioned more than a dozen works and presented them in a 30-concert nationwide tour in South Africa and subsequently in New York, San Francisco, at the Harare International Festival of Arts in Zimbabwe, and most recently at the Scrag Mountain Festival in Vermont.

He holds the positions of Concertmaster of the NewYork based Arcos Orchestra, Assistant Concertmaster of Sarasota Opera, Assistant Concertmaster of the Canadian Chamber Orchestra of NYC, is a member of the Firebird Chamber Orchestra in Miami, and is Concertmaster at Ken Kiesler’s Conductors’ Retreat at Medomak, Maine. Future engagements include another European tour with the Arcos Orchestra as concertmaster and soloist and a return to Kabul.

Internationally acclaimed Bass-Baritone **Joseph Beutel** is an Indiana native. He has often been praised for his richness of vocal color and versatility on stage.  Beutel has performed with a variety of opera companies across the country and in Europe: Santa Fe Opera, Minnesota Opera, Gotham Chamber Opera, Seattle Opera, American Lyric Theater, Opera Moderne, and Schlüterwerke in Austria, among others. He is finding his way into the musical theater world with his work in Most Happy Fella with Encores! and Carousel with the New York Philharmonic in 2012. Beutel has a love for new and contemporary opera as seen with his work on many workshops and premiers.  One such premier was with Minnesota’s Pulitzer Prize winning opera commission Silent Night by composer Kevin Puts where he originated the role of the British Major.  Some other roles that Beutel has performed include The Police Sergeant in Pirates of Penzance, Mephistopheles inFaust, Raimondo in Lucia di Lammermoor, Colline in La Bohème, Sarastro in The Magic Flute, der Tod in Der Kaiser von Atlantis, Nourabad in Pearl Fishers, Bonzo inMadame Butterfly, and Sparafucile in Rigoletto.  He was the winner of a Sullivan Foundation Career Development Award in 2011 and the Johannes Somary Award from the Oratorio Society of New York competition in 2013.

Conductor **Thomas Cunningham** is artistic director of Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Cunningham made his New York City debut conducting Tchaikovsky's final opera, Iolanta for Opera Slavica. He is conductor of the Ripieno Ensemble in Bucks County, PA, and works regularly with The Princeton Festival, Opera Slavica, and The CoOPERAtive program. Previously, he has worked on productions ranging from Jenůfa and Eugene Onegin, to Alcina, Così fan tutte and La fille du régiment. Also in demand as a chorus master, Mr. Cunningham regularly prepares choruses in Romantic, Germanic and Slavic languages. For more information, visit [www.ThomasCunningham.us](http://www.thomascunningham.us/%22%20%5Co%20%22%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**About Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra**

Founded in 2014, Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra's purpose is to collaborate anywhere, anytime, with anyone. A collection of musicians from the greater New York City area, we work with artists, organizations and communities to create engaging programming and events.

Urban Playground is made up of graduates from the major conservatories of New York, and boasts players who have performed with leading orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic.

**PROGRAM**

Telemann: Overture Burlesque
Bach: Violin Concerto in E-Major, BWV 1042
MARC UYS, Violin
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Telemann: Overture to Brockes Passion
Bach: BWV 82,*Ich habe genug*
JOSEPH BEUTEL, Bass-Baritone
CORY SNODDY, Oboe

Please join us for a concert of German Baroque masters. Brahms once said of his Tragic and Academic Festival Overtures that "one laughs while the other cries." In the intimate setting of Christ & St. Stephen's Church, this concert is built on that premise. Telemann's rarely performed Overture Burlesque traces the characters of the Commedia dell'Arte with wit and charm. Bach's E Major Violin Concerto shares its exuberance, coupled with a poignant, slow second movement. The second half of the program opens in the form Bach is perhaps best known for: The Passion. This Telemann passion overture weaves and immerses us in the drama of the Crucifixion. Closing the program is Bach's Cantata "*Ich habe genug*" (I have enough). This was one of Bach's favorites of his myriad of cantatas, as he saw fit to perform it numerous times, altering the scoring to fit the forces at hand.

-Thomas Cunningham

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