

Contact: Jennifer Wada
718-855-7101
jennifer.wada@verizon.net

KENT TRITLE'S 2012-2013 SEASON MARKS HIS 30TH YEAR IN NEW YORK CITY

Landmark Season Includes Britten's War Requiem with the Oratorio Society of New York, Bach's Mass in B Minor at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Mendelssohn's Elijah at the Manhattan School of Music, and Travels Across the U.S. for Carnegie Hall's National High School Choral Festival

Tritle's Manhattan School of Music Program Now Offers Doctoral Degree in Choral Conducting

Kent Tritle arrived in New York in 1982 to pursue graduate studies at The Juilliard School. The work he has done in the three decades since then has earned him the reputation as "New York's reigning choral conductor" (The New York Times), and one of the most acclaimed anywhere.

The breadth of his activity in 2012-13, his 30th anniversary year in New York City, attests to the praise. He marks his second year as Director of Cathedral Music and Organist of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, his eighth season as Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York and sixth season as Music Director of Musica Sacra. He is Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music; and a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School, and is the host of the weekly radio show "The Choral Mix with Kent Tritle" on New York's WQXR and www.wqxr.org. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra.

Among the highlights of the year:

- Kent's second season at the **Cathedral of St. John the Divine** features three concerts with the Cathedral Choir performing **Bach's Mass in B Minor** (*October 10, 2012*); Vaughan Williams's Mass in G Minor and Fauré's Requiem (*March 20, 2013*); and "Jerusalem," a concert featuring the Choir with Rose of the Compass, an ensemble featuring recorder, oud, kanun, and percussion (*May 1, 2013*). In addition to these events, the newly-revived **Great Music in a Great Space** series will also include a Christmas concert with the Cathedral Choir (*December 8, 2012*), and the annual New Year's Eve Concert for Peace with the choir and orchestra and special guest Judy Collins.
- Three Carnegie Hall concerts with the **Oratorio Society of New York**, the acclaimed 200-voice volunteer chorus marking its 140th anniversary in 2012-13, feature **Britten's War Requiem** (*April 22, 2013*); the **New York premiere of Paul Moravec's oratorio The Blizzard Voices** (*November 5, 2012*); and the OSNY's annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* (*December 17, 2012*)

- Kent's season with **Musica Sacra**, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City, launches with a program at Alice Tully Hall featuring Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* and Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* as well as Mozart's *Exsultate jubilate* with the rising star soprano **Susanna Phillips**, a singer with whom Kent has worked since her early days at Juilliard (*October 22, 2012*). Musica Sacra will return to the Church of St. Paul the Apostle (where they performed Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* to acclaim in September 2011) for "The Soul Rejoices," a program featuring Magnificat settings by Monteverdi and Pärt (*May 15, 2013*), and to Carnegie Hall for its annual performances of Handel's *Messiah* (*December 20 & 23, 2012*).
- Since joining the faculty of the **Manhattan School of Music** as Director of Choral Activities in 2008, Kent Tritle has not only expanded the school's choral program to the point where it now offers a **doctoral program in choral conducting**, but he has broadened the scope of the vocal ensembles' activities so that they are increasingly integrated into New York's professional concert scene. In 2011-12, the Symphonic Chorus performed Walton's *Henry V* with the New York Philharmonic, and the Chamber Choir joined the Philharmonic for a Young People's Concert, both in fall 2011.
In 2012-13, Kent's programs with the choral forces of MSM include performances of **Mendelssohn's *Elijah*** by the MSM Symphony and Symphonic Chorus (*February 28, 2013, at the Manhattan School of Music*); and **Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*** with the MSM Chamber Choir and Chamber Ensemble (*April 10, 2013, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine*).
- Two Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus concerts featuring organ will take place at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine: a program led by Philippe Entremont featuring Poulenc's *Gloria* and **Saint-Saëns's *Symphony No. 3, "Organ,"*** with Kent Tritle as soloist (*February 8, 2013*); and a concert led by Kent featuring British **organist and composer David Briggs's transcription of Mahler's *Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection,"*** for organ, chorus, and soloists, a project commissioned by the Cathedral (*April 12, 2013*).
- The New York Philharmonic's special season-ending concert ***Philharmonic 360 – Spatial Music from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* to Stockhausen's *Gruppen**** at the Park Avenue Armory (*June 29-30, 2012*) will feature two of Kent's groups: the Oratorio Society of New York and the Manhattan School of Music Chamber Choir performing in the finale of Act I of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.
- **Carnegie Hall's National High School Choral Festival 2012-13** will be guided by Kent Tritle, who has selected the choruses from Arlington High School (Texas); Box Elder High School (Utah); Blue Valley Northwest High School (Kansas); and North Jersey Homeschoolers' High School for the project. The choruses' directors will come to New York in the fall for a professional development weekend with Kent, who will in February and March travel to each high school for a one-day preparatory session. The four choruses will then travel to New York for three days, April 17-19, of intensive rehearsal with Kent and John Nelson before a performance in Carnegie Hall of Mozart's *Requiem* with the Orchestra of St. Luke's conducted by Nelson (*April 20, 2013*).

The Blizzard Voices

Premiered by Opera Omaha in 2008, *The Blizzard Voices*, the New York premiere of which Kent will conduct with the Oratorio Society of New York on November 5, 2012, is an oratorio by

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec based on poetry by former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser. It tells the story of the Great Plains blizzard of 1888 – sometimes called the “Children’s Blizzard” because so many schoolchildren were killed when the storm struck in the middle of the day on January 12, 1888. Each of Kooser’s poems set to music is written in a different voice of a victim or witness. As Kelly Blice wrote in the publication *Prairie Fire* in August 2008, “Moravec uses the chorus to represent the entire community and the voice of some of the poems, which he feels are broadly representative of many individuals’ plights. The chorus is also used to evoke the sound of the wind, as it was this force of nature that caused the storm to be so deadly and terrifying. It is the composer’s intention to musically depict the drama of the rapid drop in temperature—18 degrees within three minutes—and the unpredictability of the event.”

Young Singers

Through his three ensembles and at the Manhattan School of Music and The Juilliard School, Kent Tritle has worked with a wealth of young singers over the years, but it is worth noting that several who he has engaged frequently in recent years are on the leading edge of the current group of rising stars in opera and concert: sopranos Susanna Phillips, Emalie Savoy, and Jennifer Zetlan; mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke; and tenor Paul Appleby.

New Recordings

***Just released:* Mozart’s *Coronation Mass*, Bruckner *Motets with the Oratorio Society of New York*.** Kent Tritle’s first recording with the Oratorio Society of New York features soloists Rachel Rosales, soprano; Malena Dayen, mezzo-soprano; John Tiranno, tenor; and Joshua South, baritone, along with the Orchestra of the Society, on this OSNY release.

***To be released August 2012:* *Messages to Myself*.** Musica Sacra performing an a cappella program of five new works, which were presented in their world premiere (Daniel Brewbaker’s *Mother, Father*, a setting of e.e. cummings text; and Michael Gilbertson’s *Three Madrigals after Dowland*), and New York premiere (Zachary Patten’s *Magnificat*, Behzad Ranjbaran’s *We Are One*, and Christopher Theofanidis’s *Messages to Myself*) performances on May 13, 2011. This MSR Classics release is Kent Tritle’s first recording with Musica Sacra – and the revival of the ensemble’s recording tradition that includes more than ten releases on the RCA, Deutsche Grammophon, and BMG (Vanguard) labels.

And of the recently released *Cool of the Day*, an MSR Classics disc of a cappella repertoire ranging from Gregorian chant, Palestrina, and spirituals to Strauss’s *Deutsche Motette*, with the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, Fanfare said, “I know of no other recording that matches the depth and beauty of these performances.”

Organ Performances in 2012-13

Among Kent Tritle’s organ performances during the season are a recital at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine of music by Dupré and Widor that will be recorded for the Pro Organo label (*January 16, 2013*), Kent’s first recording at the Cathedral; and two events that are part of the Bard SummerScape 2012 “Saint-Saëns and His World” festival: a performance of Saint-Saëns’s “Organ” symphony with the American Symphony Orchestra (*August 11, 2012*), and a recital featuring French repertoire (*August 12, 2012*).

Kent Tritle is one of America’s leading choral conductors. Called “the brightest star in New York’s choral music world” by *The New York Times*, he is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. The 2012-2013 season marks his eighth season as Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the acclaimed

200-voice volunteer chorus; and sixth season as Music Director of Musica Sacra, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City.

In addition, Kent is Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music and is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School. He is the host of the weekly radio show "The Choral Mix with Kent Tritle," a weekly hour-long radio program on New York's Classical 105.9 WQXR and www.wqxr.org devoted to the vibrant genre of choral music and the breadth of activity in the choral community.. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic.

Kent Tritle founded the *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* concert series at New York's Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and led it to great acclaim from 1989 to 2011. From 1996 to 2004, Mr. Tritle was Music Director of the Emmy-nominated Dessoff Choirs, winners of the ASCAP/Chorus America award for adventurous programming of contemporary music.

Kent Tritle has made more than a dozen recordings on the Telarc, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, VAI and MSR Classics labels. His most recent CDs with the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, *Cool of the Day*, an a cappella program of music ranging from Gregorian chant, Palestrina, and spirituals to Strauss's *Deutsche Motette*, and Ginastera's *The Lamentations of Jeremiah* and Schnittke's Concerto for Choir, have been praised by Gramophone, the American Record Guide, and The Choral Journal.

Website: www.kenttritle.com

Kent Tritle on Facebook: www.facebook.com/kenttritle

Kent Tritle on Twitter: www.twitter.com/kenttritle

"The Choral Mix" on WQXR: www.wqxr.org/programs/choral

KENT TRITLE 2012-2013 SEASON

Friday & Saturday, June 29 & 30, 2012, at 8:00 PM

Park Avenue Armory

[PHILHARMONIC 360](#) – Spatial Music from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* to Stockhausen's *Gruppen*

Alan Gilbert, Magnus Lindberg, Mattias Pintscher, Conductors

Artists to include the Oratorio Society of New York and Manhattan School of Music Chamber Choir,

Kent Tritle, Director

Program to include the Finale of Act I from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*

Saturday, August 11, 2012, at 8:00 PM

Sosnoff Theater, Bard College

Bard SummerScape 2012: "Saint-Saëns and His World"

["SAINT-SAËNS. A FRENCH BEETHOVEN?"](#)

American Symphony Orchestra

Leon Botstein, Conductor

Kent Tritle, Organ

Program to include:

SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No. 3, "Organ"

Sunday, August 12, 2012, at 10:00 AM

Sosnoff Theater, Bard College

Bard SummerScape 2012: "Saint-Saëns and His World"

"THE ORGAN, KING OF INSTRUMENTS"

KENT TRITLE, Organ

Yulia Van Doren, Soprano

Jonathan Spitz, Cello

VIERNE Toccata in B-flat Minor from *Pièces de fantaisie*
GOUNOD "Ave Maria" for soprano and organ (after J.S. Bach)
SAINT-SAËNS *Fantaisie* for Organ in E-flat Major
ADAM *Cantique de Noël* for voice and organ
FRANCK Chorale No. 3 in A Minor
SAINT-SAËNS *Priere*, Op. 158
WIDOR Symphony No. 6 for Organ in G Minor, Op. 42, No. 2

August 17 & 18, 2012

Auditorio Ibirapuera, São Paulo, Brazil

ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

Orquestra Filarmônica de São Carlos

Kent Tritle and David Rosenmeyer, Conductors

MOZART Credo Mass in C Major, K. 257

COPLAND *Old American Songs*

RICARDO CALDERONI *Um Cais Para o Caos (A Quay to Chaos)* for Chorus, Four Soloists, and Orchestra (2012)

RICARDO CALDERONI *Concerto Chameleon* for Guitar, Clarinet, and Orchestra

August 24-27, 2012

CATHEDRAL CHORISTERS OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Tour to Washington, DC

Wednesday, October 10, 2012, at 7:30 PM

Great Music in a Great Space at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Amy Justman, Soprano

Katie Geissinger, Mezzo-soprano

Oliver Mercer, Tenor

Kelly Markgraf, Baritone

BACH Mass in B Minor

Sunday, October 14, 2012, at 3:00 PM

Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center

The Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation 38th Anniversary Gala Concert and Dinner

Winners of the 2012 International Vocal Competition

Musica Sacra Orchestra

Kent Tritle, Conductor

Monday, October 22, 2012

Alice Tully Hall

MUSICA SACRA

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Susanna Phillips, Soprano

Anna Shelest, Piano

MOZART *Exsultate jubilate*

BEETHOVEN *Choral Fantasy*

HAYDN *Lord Nelson Mass*

Monday, November 5, 2012, at 8:00 PM

Carnegie Hall

ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

David Rosenmeyer, Assistant Conductor

Susanna Phillips, Soprano

Maeve Höglund, Soprano

Jennifer Feinstein, Mezzo-soprano (2012 Lyndon Woodside Oratorio Solo Competition Fourth Place Winner)

Aaron Blake, Tenor

Jonathan Estabrooks, Baritone (2011 Lyndon Woodside Oratorio Solo Competition First Place Winner)

Kevin Deas, Bass

MORAVEC *Blizzard Voices* (2008, New York Premiere)

COPLAND *Old American Songs*

IVES Works to be announced

Saturday & Sunday, November 17 & 18, 2013

Mary W. Sommerveld Hall, Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

SOUTH DAKOTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Kent Tritle, Conductor

BACH *Brandenburg* Concertos (Complete)

Saturday, December 1, 2012, at 7:30 PM

Greenfield Hall, [Manhattan School of Music](#)

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHAMBER CHOIR

Kent Tritle, Conductor, and student conductors

Choral music from China, Estonia, and the U.S., including works by Eric Whitacre and Arvo Pärt

Saturday, December 8, 2012, at 7:30 PM

[Great Music in a Great Space at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine](#)

CATHEDRAL CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Michele Kennedy, Soprano

Amanda Sidebottom, Soprano

Gregory Purnhagen, Baritone

“A Ceremony of Carols”

BRITTEN *A Ceremony of Carols*

HANDEL Organ Concerto Op. 4, No. 2

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Fantasia on Greensleeves*

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*

GABRIELI Canzoni

GABRIELI “Angelus ad pastores ait”

LAURIDSEN “O Magnum Mysterium”

BIEBL “Ave Maria”

Carols sung by all

Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 6:30 & 8:30 PM

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art - Met Museum Presents](#)

CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

“O Magnum Mysterium: O Great Mystery”

A program of settings of the “O Magnum Mysterium” text by T.L. da Victoria, Morton Lauridsen, and Francis Poulenc; works by Byrd, Biebl, and Hassler; as well as music by Eric Whitacre and Nico Muhly

Monday, December 17, 2012, at 8:00 PM

Carnegie Hall

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Nacole Palmer, Soprano (2012 Lyndon Woodside Solo Oratorio Competition prize winner)

Hai-Ting Chinn, Mezzo-soprano

Matthew Garrett, Tenor

Philip Cutlip, Baritone

HANDEL *Messiah*

Thursday, December 20, 2012, at 8:00 PM

Carnegie Hall

[MUSICA SACRA](#)

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Kathryn Lewek, Soprano

Kirsten Sollek, Mezzo-soprano

Nicholas Phan, Tenor

Matt Boehler, Bass

HANDEL *Messiah*

Sunday, December 23, 2012, at 8:00 PM

Carnegie Hall

MUSICA SACRA

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Kathryn Lewek, Soprano

Kirsten Sollek, Mezzo-soprano

Nicholas Phan, Tenor

Matt Boehler, Bass

HANDEL *Messiah*

Monday, December 31, 2012, at 7:30 PM

Great Music in a Great Space at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT FOR PEACE

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Harry Smith, Host

Special guest Judy Collins

Cathedral Choir and Orchestra of St. John the Divine

Jamet Pittman, Soprano

Kirsten Sollek, Contralto

Steven Fox, Tenor

Peter Stewart, Baritone

Anna Shelest, Piano

Program to include:

MOZART *Coronation Mass*

BEETHOVEN *Choral Fantasy*

BRUCKNER *Motets*

Wednesday, January 16, 2013, at 7:30 PM

Great Music in a Great Space at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

KENT TRITLÉ, Organ

DUPRÉ *Magnificat Antiphons*

WIDOR *Symphony No. 6 for Organ in G Minor, Op. 42, No. 2*

(This program will be recorded by the Pro Organo label)

Sunday, January 27, 2013

First United Methodist Church, Sarasota, Florida

KENT TRITLÉ, Organ

Monday, January 28, 2013

Sarasota Institute of Lifetime Learning, Sarasota, Florida

Musical Conversation: Kent Tritle

February—March: Travels to four U.S. high schools for one-day preparation sessions for Carnegie Hall's National High School Choral Festival

Friday, February 8, 2013, at 7:30 PM

[Cathedral of St. John the Divine](#)

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONY AND SYMPHONIC CHORUS

Philippe Entremont, Conductor

Kent Tritle, Organ

POULENC Gloria

SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No. 3, "Organ"

Wednesday, February 27, 2013, at 7:30 PM

Borden Auditorium, [Manhattan School of Music](#)

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONY AND SYMPHONIC CHORUS

Kent Tritle, Conductor

MENDELSSOHN *Elijah*

Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at 7:30 PM

[Great Music in a Great Space at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine](#)

CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Jamet Pittman, Soprano

Philip Cutlip, Baritone

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Mass in G Minor

FAURÉ Requiem

Thursday, March 28, 2013

Carnegie Hall

ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S

Ivan Fischer, Conductor

[Musica Sacra](#), Kent Tritle, Music Director

BACH *St. Matthew Passion*

Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at 7:30 PM

[Cathedral of St. John the Divine](#)

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHAMBER CHOIR AND CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Kent Tritle, Conductor

MONTEVERDI Vespers of 1610

Friday, April 12, 2013, at 7:30 PM

[Cathedral of St. John the Divine](#)

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONIC CHORUS AND DAVID BRIGGS, ORGAN

Kent Tritle, Conductor

MAHLER Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection," transcription for organ, chorus, and soloists (Commissioned by the Cathedral)

Saturday, April 13, 2013, at 1:30 PM

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

LYNDON WOODSIDE ORATORIO SOLO COMPETITION

Of the [Oratorio Society of New York](#)

April 17-20, 2013

Carnegie Hall

[NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL](#)

A choral experience, guided by Kent Tritle, that culminates in a performance of Mozart's Requiem at Carnegie Hall with the Orchestra of St. Luke's and conductor John Nelson

Saturday, April 20, 2013

Carnegie Hall

[NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL CONCERT](#)

Orchestra of St. Luke's

John Nelson, Conductor

Kent Tritle, Choral Director

MOZART Requiem

Monday, April 22, 2013, at 8:00 PM

Carnegie Hall

[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Emalie Savoy, Soprano

John Myers, Tenor

Jesse Blumberg, Baritone

BRITTEN *War Requiem*

Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 4:00 PM

[Church of St. Ignatius Loyola](#)

CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANDER ORGAN

Kent Tritle with Scott Warren, Nancianne Parrella, Andrew Henderson

Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at 7:30 PM

[Great Music in a Great Space at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine](#)

CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE & ROSE OF THE COMPASS

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

Rose of the Compass

Nina Stern, Recorders and Chalumeau

Ara Dinkjian, Oud

Tamer Pinarbasi, Kanun

Glen Velez, Percussion

"The Holy Land: Jerusalem"

A rich mosaic of songs and instrumental elections combines the spiritual wisdom of Judeo, Christian, and Islamic traditions.

Wednesday, May 15, 2013, at 8:00 PM

Church of St. Paul the Apostle, 60th St. & Columbus Avenue

MUSICA SACRA

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

“The Soul Rejoices”

Magnificats of Monteverdi and Pärt, and music of Mendelssohn and Tavener

July 17, 2013, at 7:30 PM

St. Vitus, Prague

KENT TRITILE, Organ

Updated July 22, 2012