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**KENT TRITLE'S SPRING 2013 SEASON FEATURES HIS FIRST PERFORMANCE OF  
BRITTEN'S *WAR REQUIEM*, WITH THE ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK,  
MENDELSSOHN'S *ELIJAH* WITH STUDENTS OF THE MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF  
MUSIC, AND TRAVELS ACROSS THE U.S. FOR  
CARNEGIE HALL'S NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL**

For the second half of the concert season that marks his 30<sup>th</sup> year in New York, conductor Kent Tritle, dubbed "New York's reigning choral conductor" by The New York Times, conducts Britten's *War Requiem* for the first time, with the Oratorio Society of New York; and continues his second season of the *Great Music in a Great Space* concert series at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. He also leads the student forces of the Manhattan School of Music in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*; and creates synergy between his two Morningside Heights bases with events that feature his Manhattan School students onstage at the Cathedral.

In addition, he concludes the Musica Sacra season with a program at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, and travels across the country to prepare choruses for their participation in Carnegie Hall's National High School Choral Festival.

About the December 20 performance by Musica Sacra of Handel's *Messiah* that Tritle led at Carnegie Hall, Anthony Tommasini said in The New York Times, "Mr. Tritle ... has worked extensively in the early-music movement and brings an understanding of Baroque performance styles to Handel's score. Yet there was not a trace of an interpretive agenda in this wonderfully natural and flowing performance. He captured the narrative urgency of the work during the stretches of accompanied recitative and choral outbursts. But in the most intricate choruses, like 'He trusted in God,' a stirring fugue, the dramatic sweep of the music came simply from the choristers' clear-textured singing and the orchestra's straightforward playing."

Kent Tritle this season 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](http://www.wqxr.org). An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra.

- Kent's second season at the **Cathedral of St. John the Divine** features two spring concerts with the Cathedral Choir: Vaughan Williams's Mass in G Minor and Fauré's Requiem (*March 20, 2013*); and "The Holy Land: Jerusalem," a concert featuring the Choir with Rose of the Compass, an ensemble featuring recorder, oud, kanun, and percussion (*May 1, 2013*).
- Kent leads the **Oratorio Society of New York**, the acclaimed 200-voice volunteer chorus marking its 140th anniversary in 2012-13, in two landmark programs. On *March 5, 2013*, he leads the event that was originally scheduled to take place on November 5 but postponed by Hurricane Sandy: a program featuring the **New York premiere of Paul Moravec's oratorio *The Blizzard Voices***, a work based on poetry by former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser about the Great Plains blizzard of 1888, with soloists including sopranos Susanna Phillips and Maeve Höglund and bass Kevin Deas. And on *April 22, 2013*, Kent leads his first performance of **Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem***—in the composer's centennial year—with soloists Emalie Savoy, soprano; John Matthew Myers, tenor; and Jesse Blumberg, baritone.
- Kent's season with **Musica Sacra**, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City, concludes with a program at 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*) Under Kent's direction, Musica Sacra also performs Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with the Orchestra of St. Luke's and conductor Ivan Fischer at Carnegie Hall (*March 28, 2013*).
- 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 both broadened the scope of the vocal ensembles' activities so that they are increasingly integrated into New York's professional concert scene, and taken the MSM Chamber Choir to perform at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage.  
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*). He will also lead the MSM Chamber Choir in performance at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage on *February 15, 2013*; and the MSM Symphonic Chorus performs in the New York City Opera's production of **Rossini's *Moses in Egypt*** at City Center in April.
- 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 Choral Mix with Kent Tritle"** continues on WQXR (Sundays at 7:00 AM and 11:00 PM and on demand at [www.wqxr.org/programs/choral/](http://www.wqxr.org/programs/choral/)); upcoming programs will focus on subjects including historically black college choirs (February); tributes to women composers including Dame Ethyl Smythe, and "Out of the Bach's" (Out of the Box), a look at the Bach family.

### **Carnegie Hall's National High School Choral Festival 2012-13**

Carnegie Hall's National High School Choral Festival unites top high school choruses from across the country, selected by audition, for a one-of-a-kind yearlong program, this year focusing on Mozart's Requiem. The project is being guided by Kent Tritle, who selected choruses from Arlington High School (Texas); Blue Valley Northwest High School (Overland Park, Kansas); and North Jersey Homeschoolers' High School for the project.

The choruses' directors came to New York in the fall for a professional development weekend with Kent, who in February and March travels to each high school for a one-day preparatory session: Kansas on February 4, New Jersey on March 14, and Texas on March 18. 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 and additional works by Bach, Byrd, Whitacre, and others with the Orchestra of St. Luke's conducted by Nelson (*April 20, 2013*).

### **New York Choral Consortium**

Kent Tritle is co-chair, with Deborah King, of the New York Choral Consortium (NYCC), a membership organization composed of more than 50 choruses that call New York City home, representing a diverse community of singers and choral organizations. Kent will prepare Members of the New York Choral Consortium, comprised of singers representing 14 ensembles and one music conservatory, for four performances of Ives's Symphony No. 4 with the New York Philharmonic *April 17-20, 2013*.

**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](http://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](http://www.kenttritle.com)

**Kent Tritle on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/kenttritle](http://www.facebook.com/kenttritle)

**Kent Tritle on Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/kenttritle](http://www.twitter.com/kenttritle)

**"The Choral Mix" on WQXR:** [www.wqxr.org/programs/choral](http://www.wqxr.org/programs/choral)

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## KENT TRITLE SPRING 2013 SEASON

**Monday, February 4, 2013**

Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

[National High School Choral Festival](#) Preparation Session

**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"

**Friday, February 15, 2013, AT 6:00 PM**

[Kennedy Center Millennium Stage](#)

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHAMBER CHOIR**

**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

Chanae Curtis, Soprano

Helena Brown, Mezzo-soprano

Michael Anderson, Tenor

Chad Sonka, Bass (Elijah)

MENDELSSOHN *Elijah*

**Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 8:00 PM**

Carnegie Hall

**[ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK](#)**

Kent Tritle, Music Director and Conductor

David Rosenmeyer, Associate Conductor

Susanna Phillips, Soprano

Maeve Höglund, Soprano

Malena Dayen, Mezzo-soprano (2012 Lyndon Woodside Oratorio Solo Competition Fourth Place Winner)

John Tiranno, Tenor

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

Kevin Deas, Bass

“American Voices”

COPLAND *Old American Songs* – selections

“Simple Gifts”

“The Little Horses”

“Zion's Walls”

“At the River”

“Ching-a-ring Chaw”

IVES “General William Booth Enters into Heaven”

“The Circus Band”

“They Are There”

MORAVEC *The Blizzard Voices* (New York Premiere)

COPLAND “The Promise of Living” from *The Tender Land*

**Thursday, March 14, 2013**

Hawthorne, New Jersey

**[National High School Choral Festival](#) Preparation Session with the North Jersey Homeschoolers' High School Chorale**

**Monday, March 18, 2013**

Arlington High School, Arlington, Texas

**[National High School Choral Festival](#) Preparation Session**

**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, at 8:00 PM**

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

Tamara Rusque, Soprano

Raehann Bryce-Davis, Mezzo-soprano

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, at 8:00 PM**

Carnegie Hall

**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL CONCERT**

Orchestra of St. Luke's

John Nelson, Conductor

Kent Tritle, Choral Director

Nicole Cabell, Soprano

Jamie Barton, Mezzo-Soprano

Russell Thomas, Tenor

John Relyea, Bass-Baritone

Blue Valley Northwest High School Chorale

Arlington High Chamber Singers

North Jersey Homeschool Association Chorale

ERIC WHITACRE "Water Night"

TRAD. "Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down" (arr. Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory)

MORTEN LAURIDSEN "En une seule fleur" from *Les Chansons des Roses*

CARDOSO "Introitus" from Requiem for Six Voices

ERIC WHITACRE "With a Lily in Your Hand" from Three Flower Songs

READ "Windham" (arr. Brad Holmes)

BACH "Come Sweet Death" (arr. Rhonda Sanberg)

BYRD "Sing Joyfully"

TRAD. "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord" (arr. Moses Hogan)

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 Matthew Myers, Tenor

Jesse Blumberg, Baritone

BRITTEN *War Requiem*

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

**Church of St. Ignatius Loyola**

**CELEBRATION OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> 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, 60<sup>th</sup> 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 TRITLE, Organ**

*February 4, 2013*