

## KENT TRITLE'S SPRING 2016:

- Mahler's "Symphony of a Thousand" with Oratorio Society of New York and Manhattan School of Music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
- World Premiere of Evan Fein's *Deborah* with Musica Sacra, and New York Premiere of Marjorie Merryman's *Jonah* with Oratorio Society of New York
- Just-Completed Residency at Sibelius Academy in Helsinki – Meeting Einojuhani Rautavaara



*Kent Tritle conducting Verdi's Requiem at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, March 26, 2015, photo by Brian Hatton*

Kent Tritle, called "New York's leading choral conductor" by *The New Yorker*, launches his spring season with two performances of Mahler's massive "Symphony of a Thousand" – and then leads premieres of two new works for chorus and orchestra. And these performances by Tritle's four organizations (sometimes in combination with one another) take place in a range of esteemed locations; from his home base of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Morningside Heights, to Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Tritle is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Music Director of Musica Sacra and the Oratorio Society of New York, and Director of Choral Activities and newly-named Chair of the Organ Department at the Manhattan School of Music.

In March of 2015, in an event emblematic of his multiple roles in the city's choral life, Tritle led a sweeping, sold-out performance of Verdi's Requiem by the combined forces (numbering more than 350) of the Oratorio Society of New York and the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Raising the bar for the most ambitious event yet on his *Great Music in a Great Space* series at the Cathedral, in 2016 Tritle will lead the same groups in two performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 8, "Symphony of a Thousand," a work for eight soloists, double choir, children's choir, orchestra, and organ; in all, more than 450 performers.

And in the realm of the new: Tritle leads the world premiere of Evan Fein's *Deborah* with Musica Sacra and the New York premiere of Marjorie Merryman's *Jonah* with the Oratorio Society of New York. (The complete schedule follows below.)

### **January's Residency at Helsinki's Sibelius Academy: Meeting Einojuhani Rautavaara**

In the last week of January, Kent traveled to Finland for a residency at Helsinki's Sibelius Academy, teaching choral conducting and organ performance. While there, he met with the noted Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara about presenting the New York premiere of Rautavaara's work *Vigilia* at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in the fall of this year. "It was wonderful to meet Einojuhani, who knew Sibelius personally, and is part of that great Finnish lineage," said Tritle. "I am looking forward to bringing this wonderful piece to the Cathedral and to New York."

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

Kent leads the fifth season of the revived *Great Music in a Great Space* series at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, whose choral events often feature the acclaimed Cathedral Choir:

- **Mahler's Symphony No. 8, "Symphony of a Thousand,"** one of choral music's grandest works both in scope and theme, calls for eight soloists, double choir, children's choir, orchestra, and organ. Following their performance in March 2015 of Verdi's Requiem at the Cathedral, the **Oratorio Society of New York** and the **Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus, Women's Chorus, and Orchestra** will collaborate once again in an exploration of monumental music for the monumental space of the Cathedral. In the symphony, Mahler uses both the medieval sequence for Pentecost "Veni creator spiritus" and the final scene from Goethe's *Faust* to create a paean to the eternal power of the human spirit. The soloists include Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano; John Tiranno, tenor; and Adam Lau, bass; along with graduate students from the Manhattan School of Music, and also featured are the Cathedral Choristers (children's choir) of St. John the Divine. (Wednesday & Thursday, February 24 & 25, 2016) In a related event, Kent will also lead **the world premiere of an arrangement of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 for chorus, soloists, and organ by organist David Briggs**, with Briggs as organ soloist and with the same vocal soloists, on the Cathedral's "Great Organ" series, a performance that will be recorded for future release. (Thursday, April 7, 2016)

- In anticipation of Holy Week and Easter, the **Cathedral Choir and Orchestra** perform J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 4, "Christ lag in Todesbanden" ("Christ lay in the bonds of death") along with Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien* and Vivaldi's *Stabat Mater*. (Tuesday, March 15, 2016)

### Oratorio Society of New York

The 143<sup>rd</sup> season of the Oratorio Society of New York, the city's exponent of the grand choral tradition, is Kent Tritle's 11<sup>th</sup> as its music director. After the Mahler concert, their 2015-16 season concludes with a Carnegie Hall concert of a classic and a New York premiere:

- For the season finale, Kent leads **Haydn's** towering *Lord Nelson Mass* paired with the **New York premiere of Marjorie Merryman's *Jonah***, a 1995 oratorio based on the biblical story, that the Washington Post called "an artistic treasure." The concert's soloists are Rachel Rosales, soprano; Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano; John Matthew Myers, tenor; and Philip Cutlip, baritone. (Monday, May 9, 2016)

### Musica Sacra

Kent marks his ninth season as Music Director of Musica Sacra in 2015-16. After having led the acclaimed professional chorus in Tallis's *Spem in Alium*, Strauss's *Deutsche Motette*, and Handel's *Messiah* in the first half of the season, he follows up in the spring with a world premiere:

- The ensemble's spring concert at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall is highlighted by the **world premiere of *Deborah***, a cantata-oratorio by American composer [Evan Fein](#), that tells the dramatic story of the prophet Deborah, the only female judge of Israel mentioned in the Bible, who led a battle against the king of Canaan. Fein says about his new work, "*Deborah* tells the story of one of the most powerful and enigmatic women in the Bible. Derived from the Book of Judges, this tale has remarkably contemporary overtones, with its meditations on the role of female leaders, interfaith competition in Israel, and what constitutes a 'just war.'" The program also features Mozart's Solemn Vespers, K.339. The soloists are Lianne Coble, soprano; Helen Karloski, mezzo-soprano; Marc Day, tenor; and Kevin Deas, bass. Kent talks with Evan and Lianne about the new piece, which was made possible by the Tikkun Olam Foundation, Inc., in a Musica Sacra [video](#). (Wednesday, March 9, 2016)

### Summer 2016: Here and Abroad

**Amherst Early Music Festival Choral Workshop** – After leading last summer the inaugural choral workshop for the largest early music festival in the U.S., Kent returns for a week-long workshop July 10-16, 2016, in New London, Connecticut.

**Great Mountains Music Festival, PyeongChong, South Korea** – Kent leads a performance of Beethoven's Mass in C Major featuring the National Chorus of Korea on July 30, 2016.

**Residencies with Cathedral of St. John the Divine Music Program** – Christ Church, Dublin, August 19-21, 2016; Westminster Abbey, London, August 22-28, 2016.

**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; Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the acclaimed 200-voice avocational chorus; and 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. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic, and in the fall of 2015 was named Chair of the Organ Department of the Manhattan School of Music.

Kent Tritle has made more than 15 recordings on the Telarc, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, VAI and MSR Classics labels; his most recent is *Eternal Reflections: Choral Music of Robert Paterson* with Musica Sacra. CDBaby recently made available his 2013 recording of Juraj Filas' Requiem, *Oratio Spei* dedicated to the victims of 9/11, with the Prague Symphony Orchestra, vocal soloists Ana María Martínez, Matthew Plenk, Filip Bandzak, and the Kühn Choir. His discography, including the recent *Messages to Myself*, an acclaimed recording with Musica Sacra of five new works; and two releases 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* with Schnittke's Concerto for Choir, have been praised by Gramophone, the American Record Guide, Audiophile Audition, and The Choral Journal.

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 New York's The Desoff Choirs. Kent hosted "The Choral Mix with Kent Tritle," a weekly program devoted to the vibrant world of choral music on New York's WQXR, from 2010 to 2014.

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

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

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

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## KENT TRITLE'S SPRING 2016

**Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 7:30 pm**

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

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONIC CHORUS, WOMEN'S CHORUS, AND ORCHESTRA**

**ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK**

Kent Tritle, conductor

Angel Azzarra, soprano

Bryn Holdsworth, soprano

Janet Todd, soprano

Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano

Lisa Barone, mezzo-soprano

John Tiranno, tenor

Timothy Murray, baritone

Adam Lau, bass

Cathedral Choristers of St. John the Divine

MAHLER Symphony No. 8, "Symphony of a Thousand"

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**Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 7:30 pm**

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

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONIC CHORUS, WOMEN'S CHORUS, AND ORCHESTRA**

**ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK**

Kent Tritle, conductor

Angel Azzarra, soprano

Bryn Holdsworth, soprano

Jana McIntyre, soprano

Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano

Noragh Devlin, mezzo-soprano

John Tiranno, tenor

Timothy Murray, baritone

Adam Lau, bass

Cathedral Choristers of St. John the Divine

MAHLER Symphony No. 8, "Symphony of a Thousand"

(In a related event, organist David Briggs presents the world premiere of his arrangement of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 for chorus, soloists, and organ on the Cathedral's "Great Organ" series on [April 7, 2016](#))

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**Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 7:30 pm**

**Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center**

**MUSICA SACRA**

Kent Tritle, conductor

Lianne Coble, soprano

Helen Karloski, mezzo-soprano

Marc Day, tenor

Kevin Deas, bass

EVAN FEIN *Deborah* (World Premiere)

MOZART *Solemn Vespers*, K.339

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**Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 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, conductor

Amy Justman & Michele Kennedy, sopranos

Katie Geissinger & Kirsten Sollek, mezzo-sopranos

Michael Steinberger & Marc Day, tenors

Malcolm J. Merriweather & Peter Stewart, baritones

J.S. BACH *Cantata No. 4, "Christ lag in Todesbanden"*

SCHÜTZ *Musikalische Exequien*

VIVALDI *Stabat Mater*

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**Thursday, April 7, 2016, at 7:30 pm**

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

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONIC CHORUS & WOMEN'S CHORUS**

**ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK**

**DAVID BRIGGS, organ**

Kent Tritle, conductor

Angel Azzarra, soprano

Bryn Holdsworth, soprano

Jana McIntyre, soprano

Sara Murphy, mezzo-soprano

Noragh Devlin, mezzo-soprano

John Tiranno, tenor

Timothy Murray, baritone

Adam Lau, bass

Cathedral Choristers of St. John the Divine

MAHLER *Symphony No. 8, "Symphony of a Thousand"*

Arrangement by David Briggs for chorus, soloists, and organ – World premiere

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**Monday, May 9, 2016, at 8:00 pm**  
**Carnegie Hall**

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

Kent Tritle, conductor

Rachel Rosales, soprano

Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano

John Matthew Myers, tenor

Philip Cutlip, baritone

MERRYMAN *Jonah* (New York Premiere)

HAYDN *Nelson Mass – Missa in Angustiis*

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*As of February 9, 2016*