

Choral Festival at Brookhaven

Our Twenty-fourth Year!

7/17/2018

Edition 1, Volume 4

THE BERNSTEIN *MASS*

This *Mass* was commissioned by none other than Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, to celebrate the opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The maestro and the former First Lady were friends, and for such an auspicious occasion, you would expect nothing less than a spectacle. Which is exactly what Bernstein delivered.

Marin Alsop, who currently serves as the artistic director of the Baltimore Symphony, was a protégé of Bernstein's. She writes, "Provocative and innovative to some, appalling to others, *Mass* is first and foremost a celebration of human faith, but it also questions the relevance of ceremonial rituals and immutable "truths" in an increasingly faithless modern world. Audiences leapt to their feet at the premiere, reacting to a work that felt so anti-establishment and so real.

"To me, *Mass* contains the essence of Bernstein as a complex man and artist. Sure, the music is intoxicating, but beneath the showiness on the surface is a profound statement of faith. Bernstein was a nimble composer. He moved comfortably between high art and pop culture, not confined by stylistic boundaries. This was long before "crossover" became trendy."

The music embraces Broadway and opera, rock ballads and blues, with a narrative that blends Hebrew and Latin texts. So hang on! And enjoy the ride.

We are also performing a Bernstein work which is more familiar – some selections from *West Side Story*. It is inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and initially was to be about an Irish Catholic family and a Jewish family on the Lower East Side. It turned out to be about Puerto Ricans vs. whites, becoming one of the most beloved shows in American Musical Theater.

Schedule

Festival Chorus

Monday 7/16 6:30p
check-in

Rehearsal from 7 to
9:30pm

Tuesday 7/17 7-
9:30pm

Wednesday 7/18 7-
9:30pm

Thursday 7/19 7-
9:30pm

Ice Cream Social to
follow!

Friday 7/20 7-9:30pm

Saturday 7/21 12-4pm,
with orchestra in the
afternoon

Sunday 7/22 Dress

Rehearsal 2-5p

Bayport United
Methodist Church

Dinner at 5p

Choral Festival
Performance 7pm,
Bayport United
Methodist Church

Reception to follow

TONIGHT, TONIGHT...

We are taking orders at the registration desk for tee shirts and golf shirts. Tee shirts are \$15, golf shirts are \$20. We need to get the order to the printer by Wednesday, so we will close orders tonight. Make sure you get this year's edition!

Have you sold any raffle tickets? We will be taking your hard-earned proceeds right up until concert time, but the sooner you sell them, the more tickets we can get to you! We will take the money and stubs at the registration desk.

CHORUS NEWS

The North Shore Chamber Choir needs singers! Auditions are before the first rehearsal, Tuesday, September 4th, 7pm at the Caroline Church in Setauket. Auditioning singers are asked to sing the first 28 bars of Handel's Messiah's "And the Glory of the Lord" (please provide your own music). Singers are needed in all sections. For more information, contact artistic director Jeffrey Schneider at artisticdirector@nschamberchoir.org.

The Long Island Gay Men's Chorus invites singers to join them for their 2018 holiday performances. Rehearsals start on Wednesday, September 5th, at the HL Dennison Building, 100 Veterans Memorial Highway in Hauppauge. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7-9pm, no auditions required. Email boardpresident@ligmc.org for details.

The Long Island Symphonic Choral Society starts rehearsals for its fall season on Tuesday, September 11th. Membership is by audition, with rehearsals on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Three Village Church in Setauket. For information on auditions, visit their website at www.lisca.org.

Have chorus news for us? Please contact Paulette Brinka at pbrinka@aol.com

All this week, we will share information on both the concert and the music on which we are working. These newsletters will be available in hard copy, and will also be posted on our website, www.brookhavenchoral.org.

