



# **THE BAROQUE ORCHESTRA of NEW JERSEY**

**2018-2019 Annual Report**



## From Our President



I am pleased to share with you the 2018-2019 Annual Report of The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey. As we begin our 24th season of bringing affordable live music to the community, I want to thank our patrons, partners and sponsors for their support. Without you, we would not be where we are today.

Over the past few years, BONJ has continued to grow artistically, as can be discovered by a review of the programs offered, the artists involved and the quality of the performances (clips available on our website, YouTube, Cablevision, e.g.). The Pearl & Julius Young Music Competition, and The Cynthia Platt Scholarship offer young musicians the chance to continue their music education and to perform with the Orchestra.

I especially want to highlight two areas where our presence has expanded significantly:

**Locally:** we have performed at Fundraisers for several important organizations including the Madison Area YMCA, Loyola Jesuit Center, United Way of Northern New Jersey, and Life with Joy, Inc. In addition, we have partnered with Morris Arts, Madison Arts & Culture Alliance, Morris Arts and Culture Committee, US National Park Service, Morris Tourism Bureau, among others, to produce programs that combine music with other arts, culture and historical offerings available in our community.

**Internationally:** driven primarily by Maestro Robert W. Butts's growing recognition as a Conductor, Composer, Professor, and Musician, performances by Maestro Butts and BONJ musicians, and of his music have taken place in London, Venice, Korea, France, Italy, and Poland. In July, Maestro Butts was invited to conduct and teach Master Classes at the prestigious Alion Baltic Music Festival in Tallinn, Estonia.

I am so very proud of all of our Board members, musicians and volunteers who have worked so hard, along with our Maestro, to make BONJ the orchestra it is today. I hope that you will join us!

Jo Ann Bates, President

## From Our Artistic Director



*2018-2019 was an unforgettable year for me and for The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey.*

*Our four concert season and summer festival featured music from the 18th through the 21st centuries. We collaborated with The United States National Park Service, Morris Arts, Morris Tourism, The Madison Area YMCA, Loyola Jesuit Center, and other community organizations. In the orchestra and as guest soloist, we featured international artists from Korea, Italy, Poland, Denmark, and Japan. We continued our support of young artists through awards, competitions, and both solo and ensemble performance opportunities. We continued our commitment to new and old music, performing premieres of works by myself as well as by Vatican Composer Marco Frisina. Musicians of the orchestra joined me for three concerts in Venice and Padua, Italy. In collaboration with B&B Productions, we released our first documentary film: Scarlatti in New Jersey.*

*I cannot thank or give enough credit to the incredibly dedicated members of the BONJ Board of Directors and our wonderful volunteers. Their support, positive energy, and work helped the orchestra develop into New Jersey's most dynamic and innovative orchestra.*

*The musicians who have participated in all our orchestra events work extremely hard to produce music at a consistently high level whether it be a forgotten Baroque masterpiece, a popular concert favorite, or a brand new composition heard for the first time. I greatly look forward to working together to create even more unforgettable musical experiences.*

Maestro Robert W. Butts

*Maestro Butts, one of America's most impressive and charismatic conductors, founded the orchestra some twenty years ago -- performing a rich menu of classical music and opera from the Baroque period to the present. I don't live in NJ and yet I attend all the concerts.*

Stephen Young  
Patron/Competition Sponsor



# The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey

**Mission Statement:** The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey performs music of all periods and styles at affordable prices, supports young artists and audiences, and performs both in organized concert seasons and in special concerts in collaboration with artists and organizations throughout New Jersey.

## **History Highlights**

- **1996**—November 3, founded as The Baroque Orchestra of Boonton with performances in the historic Darress Theatre.
- **1996-2002**—BONJ collaborated with community organizations throughout Morris County including New Jersey Foundation for the Blind, Birchwood School, Boonton School System, Franciscan Oaks, The Arts Council of the Morris Area, The Tibetan Society, The Princeton Shakespeare Theater, and The Boston Early Music Festival.
- **2000**—BONJ collaborated with The Little Opera Company and began a tradition of collaborations and opera production that continues. The first opera was Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, narrated by Celeste Holm. The second was Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'amore* narrated by Jerome Hines.
- **2002**—BONJ moved to Madison and performed at Grace Church in collaboration with Grace Community Music.
- **2004**—BONJ began a cycle of Beethoven's symphonies and concerti in collaboration with pianist Paul Zeigler.
- **2005**—June, BONJ presented inaugural concert at The Noh Theatre in Blairstown, New Jersey featuring Metropolitan Opera tenor Gary Pate, Korean pianist Sohyun Ahn, and the Masterwork Chorus for a program of The Mozart *Requiem* and music by Mendelssohn, Shostakovich, and Puccini.
- **2006**—August, BONJ presented first annual Summer Music Festival featuring orchestra, chamber, opera, early music, keyboard recitals, and symposia. Orchestra also began broadcasting programs through Cablevision.
- **2008**—BONJ began performing concerts at Dolan Hall, The Annunciation Center, The College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown; presented first modern day performance of Alessandro Scarlatti's *La Giuditta* at Dolan Hall and in New York; through the generosity of the Young Family, BONJ sponsored the Pearl & Julius Young Music Competition.
- **2009**—BONJ performed Acts 2 & 3 of *Siegfried*, becoming the only conductor and orchestra to have performed three Wagner operas in New Jersey.
- **2010**—BONJ was awarded the first of several awards for orchestra and conducting excellence from The American Prize.
- **2012**—BONJ performed at NJIT in Newark, New Jersey.
- **2014**—BONJ presented world premiere of Maestro Butts's *Symphony #1—The Joshua Symphony*, commissioned by the Plaut Family.
- **2015**—Maestro Butts and soprano Dominika Zamara performed Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona* in Crema, Italy and Rockaway, New Jersey; performed concert at DiMenna Center, New York City in collaboration with The New York Classical Music Society; performed two operas composed by Maestro Butts at The National Opera Center in New York.
- **2016**—Performed Telemann's *Concerto in re maggiore* with special guest French Hornist Robert Lee Watt from the Los Angeles Philharmonic; performed Scarlatti opera in collaboration with National Park Service 100th Anniversary.
- **2017**—Premiered works by Roman Composer Marco Frisina; performed chamber music concerts in Venice, Italy; collaborated with Light Opera of New Jersey.
- **2018**—Performed in collaboration with The Loyola Jesuit Center, The United Way, Madison Area YMCA, and Life With Joy, and began a collaboration with Morris Arts and Cultural Collective.
- **2019**—Began collaboration with LatinX ConeXiones and Keys 2 Success, featured on WQXR *Performance Today*, named one of the "Best Things To Do in Morristown" by *Discover New Jersey Arts*.



*Selecting a short passage, he began by having one section of the orchestra play its own simple part. Then he had a second section join in with its part, and so on, adding sections until the orchestra was playing an exquisite and intricate combination of melodies, countermelodies and harmonies. And then the four soloists came in with their parts, and the orchestra's beautiful passage became simply a background for the incredible solos. Insights like this provided by Maestro Butts are a special joy of BONJ concerts.*

*Sheila Abrams, njartsmaven.com*

# Maestro Robert W. Butts

## Conductor

- Studied conducting at Juilliard with Maestro Vincent La Selva; received DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) in conducting from The American Conservatory of Music in Chicago
- Has conducted in Romania, Czech Republic, Russia, and Italy
- Principal conductor of the 2018 Alion Baltic Festival Orchestra in Tallinn, Estonia
- Has served as Principal Conductor for Garden State Sinfonia, The Little Opera Company, New Jersey Concert Opera, Eastern Opera Company of New Jersey, Light Opera of New Jersey, and Opera Theatre of Montclair
- Has conducted concerts featuring The New Jersey Symphony, The Masterwork Chorus, The Plainfield Symphony, and Harmonium Choral Society
- Is only conductor to have conducted three Wagner operas (*Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*) and three Handel operas (*Acis and Galatea*, *Semele*, *Giulio Cesare*) in New Jersey
- Has taught conducting at Montclair State University and The College of Saint Elizabeth

## Composer

Maestro Butts has composed music since he was a teenager, alternating between writing songs and instrumental compositions. He often writes both lyrics and music for his songs and theater works.

- *Viola Concerto* featured in *Performance Today* Broadcast, WQXR New York—July 21, 2019
- Three concerts of Maestro Butts's music were performed in Venice, Italy in December 2017
- Guitarist Stanley Alexandrowicz premiered *Early Morning Suite* in London, England in 2015 and *Tombeau in Memoriam Vaclav Kucera* in Sicily in 2017
- *Symphony #1—The Joshua Symphony* was commissioned by the Plaut family, premiered in 2014
- Composed *The Triangle* as part of Atlanta Opera's 24 Hour Opera Project
- His operas have been performed by Eastern Opera Company and In Mid Air Productions and in Padua, Italy
- *Mark Twain and the General* and *The Cask of Amontillado* were performed at The National Opera Center in New York City—2015
- *Saturnalia Strings* was premiered in Crema, Italy—2015

## Educator/Lecturer/Scholar

- Has taught at The Casperson School of Graduate Studies at Drew University, Montclair State University, the College of Saint Elizabeth, and Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Has lectured for The New Jersey Council for the Humanities, the New Jersey Symphony, The New Jersey State Opera, Elderhostel, and New Jersey Continuing Education Programs
- Has presented papers at conferences of The American Musicological Society, The Sonneck Society, and The Country Music Conference

## Awards and Honors

- 2019 Artist of the Year—The New York Classical Music Society
- 2019 Exemplary Leader Award—Morris County Chamber of Commerce
- Included in World Top Musicians Directory—2018
- Tourism Appreciation Award—2017—Morris Tourism
- 2015 Honored Artist—2015—The American Prize
- Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award—2011—The American Prize
- Arts Professional of the Year—2003—Arts Council of the Morris Area



*Rarely has a more perfectly selected ensemble been so well directed, for anyone knows the most difficult of all productions is the musical, and for coordinating this large ensemble so well, Maestro Butts deserves our kudos!*

Arthur W. Ritchie, Courier News



## The 2018-2019 Season

The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey's Twenty-Third Season was marked by four concerts, one at Grace Church in Madison and three at The College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown. Music featured soloists from within the orchestra, guest artists from New Jersey, and soloists from around the world.

- **November 11, 2018**—*Salute to Veterans Day 100th Anniversary of Armistice* including works by Joplin, Cohan, and Glenn Miller, *Piano Concerto* (Edvard Grieg)
- **January 13, 2019**—*Overture to La Clemenza di Tito* (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart); *Viola Concerto* (Robert W. Butts, World Premiere); *Symphony #6* (Ludwig van Beethoven)
- **April 14, 2019**—*Water Music Suite* (George Frideric Handel); *Flute Concerto K314* (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart); *Violin Concerto* (Ludwig van Beethoven)
- **June 2, 2019**—*Variations on a Theme of Haydn* (Johannes Brahms); *Violin Concerto #3* (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart); *Piano Concerto* (George Gershwin)
- **BONJ soloists**—Alyson Whelan, Kevin Peters
- **New Jersey soloists**—Brett Deubner, Gary Pate,
- **International soloists**—Lisa Romain, Mei Stone, Paul Zeigler, Claudia Knafo
- Additional Concerts in Collaboration with Loyola Jesuit Center (Morristown), Madison Area YMCA (Madison), Keys 2 Success (Newark), Morristown National Historical Park (Morristown), LatinX ConneXiones (Morris County), and Madison Community Arts Center (Madison). First Night Morris (Morristown)

During the almost ten years that I have been a volunteer usher at the Baroque Orchestra's concerts, I have been amazed and excited by the diversity, innovation and talent displayed at every concert, cabaret, opera and chamber music performance. Every performance by the orchestra members and their leader is an uplifting and educational event that touches my heart.

Carolyn Fagan



### 11. Entertainment



Illustration by John S. Dykes

Who needs Philadelphia or New York City to experience the best of live performance? Garden State audiences enjoy a steady stream of concerts—from superstars to newcomers—at a remarkable array of venues, from sold-out arenas to Atlantic City showrooms to NJPAC, meticulously restored theaters and local clubs. Some may think Jersey is lowbrow, but classical music thrives here too, thanks to world-class organizations like the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra. —JB

### A Reason to Love New Jersey

In the special 40th Anniversary Issue of *New Jersey Monthly*, BONJ was named one of “**40 Reasons to Love NJ.**” In category “11. Entertainment,” the orchestra was listed alongside The New Jersey Symphony and The Princeton Symphony Orchestra. As the issue states, “who needs Philadelphia or New York City to experience the best?”



# 2019 Summer Music Festival



The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey's 2019 Summer Festival was marked by an orchestra concert and staged opera at The College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, and a cabaret night, chamber music concert, and keyboard recitals at Grace Church in Madison.

- The orchestra concert featured pianist Vicky Griswold as soloist in Clara Schumann's *Piano Concerto*, and special guest artists Robert Watt, Eric Davis, Marshall Sealey, and Deryck Clark in music by Haydn and Agnesi.
- **BONJ Cabaret** featured The American Songbook sung by Timothy Maureen Cole, Kevin Peters, Teresa Giardina, Allie Arnold, and Don Sheasley
- **BONJ Chamber Music Celebration** featured young artist Keely Schmerber, The BONJ Wind Nonet, and premiere works by Maestro Butts and Margret Schaefer
- **BONJ Opera** was Gaetano Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* starring Kevin Peters, Timothy Maureen Cole, George Spitzer, Allie Arnold and Jason Adamo with the BONJ Opera Chorus.
- **Keyboard recitals** featured John Pivarnik, Rebecca Kate Moore, Michael Rosin, and Anne Matlack

*The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey has been a bright beacon for music over two decades, ranging from baroque to modern, from solo to symphony to opera. Maestro Robert Butts's extemporaneous introductions to performances of lesser-known works have been an education for me.*

Anthony Shashaty  
patron/volunteer



# BONJ and Young Artists/Young Listeners



The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey supports young artists and young listeners. Young artists are invited to play with the orchestra. Young listeners are provided opportunities to attend BONJ concerts.

## The Pearl & Julius Young Music Competition

- Through the generosity of the Young Family, the competition has been awarded annually since 2008
- Annual competition for instrumentalists ages 16-22
- Cash prizes plus opportunities to perform a concerto with the orchestra at the summer festival orchestra concert
- All finalists invited to be a member of the orchestra
- 2018 winners: flutist Mei Stone, pianist Sherwin Pan, and pianist Kelsey Lee
- Past winners have continued their careers in The United States and around the world (photos include several of these)
- Judges include principal musicians of the orchestra and professional musicians and educators from The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, The New Jersey Symphony, The New York Classical Music Society, and The Cali School of Music

## The Cynthia Platt Scholarship

- Awarded Annually in honor of Cynthia Platt, Morris County Musician
- Scholarship is awarded to help with music education
- Awarded since 2010
- 2018 recipients: violinist Avery Scott and cellist A. J. LaBarca

## Support of young listeners

- Concert tickets provided to students in high schools, colleges, and universities
- Young listeners are provided opportunities to meet and talk with soloists and musicians of BONJ during intermission or following the concert
- Tickets for students under 22 are only \$5.

*Personally, I am more of a rap fan and attend rap concerts frequently but this orchestral concert was a profoundly great and fun experience...[Dr. Butts] gave the audience an opportunity to get involved throughout the program. I was touched when he allowed volunteers, preferably children, to interact with each other in the playing of Toy Symphony by Leopold Mozart... I went out of my comfort zone and experienced an unusual form of music to me that I discovered that I enjoyed.*

—Mohammad Abdelaziz, Montclair State University student



# The Pearl & Julius Young Music Competition

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Chairperson of the Pearl & Julius Young Music Competition for the last ten years.

The Competition is open to the finest young instrumental musicians between the ages of 16-22. Our finalists come from the finest music conservatories, universities and high schools on the East coast, and are selected after a review of the auditions they submit, their resumes and letters of recommendation. From a very competitive field of applicants 10-12 are chosen to compete live before a three judge panel of outstanding professional musicians in our area. Winners receive cash awards to further their education, and are invited to play as a soloist with the full orchestra at our concerts.

We at BONJ are proud to provide this opportunity for these young musicians to showcase their talent in a challenging and supportive environment. Winners of the Pearl & Julius Young Music Competition have then gone on to become superb professional musicians themselves. Thus, the Pearl & Julius Young Music Competition fulfills its function of helping to educate the next generation of professional musicians.

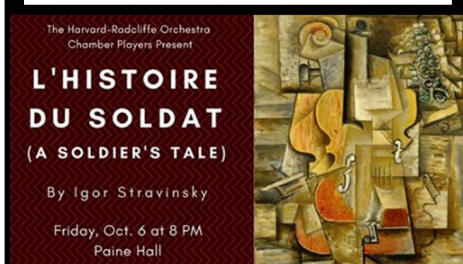
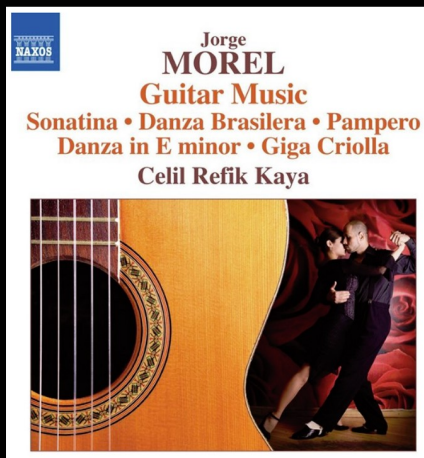
One of the missions of the BONJ is to musically nurture young musicians, whether as musicians or audience members through our Young Musicians Outreach Programs. The Competition is part of this larger program. In addition to the Competition, outstanding young musicians play with our orchestra in all of our concerts, operas and other musician programs alongside our professional orchestra members, and under the guidance of our Maestro, Dr Robert Butts. We at The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey are continually committed to expanding music education and opportunity in our community. I am proud to have a small part in fulfilling that mission.



Lisa Young, BONJ Vice-President, Competition Chairperson

Our competition winners have continued to develop and grow as artists.

Violinist Miranda Liu is principal player in the Central European String Quartet as and concertmaster with Concerto Budapest. Guitarist Celil Refik Kaya has performed with major orchestras and released several CDs. Violinist NaYoung Yang was President of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra. Pianist Vincent Ip has starred in Holiday on Ice.





# BONJ—Seniors and Outreach Concerts

The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey remains active in bringing music to the community. Orchestra and chamber music programs are developed and performed at retirement communities, schools, foundations, colleges, health facilities, and in collaboration with historical organizations. During the 2017-2018 Season, BONJ reached over one thousand listeners who might not otherwise have had a chance to experience the music.

## Seniors

- BONJ concert and lecture programs have been presented at senior centers and retirement communities throughout New Jersey
- BONJ invites accomplished seniors to perform with the orchestra, whose musicians currently range in age from 17 to 86.
- BONJ has performed regularly for Winchester Gardens in Maplewood, Crane's Mill in West Caldwell, Franciscan Oaks in Denville, and Heath Village in Hackettstown

## Health Facilities

- BONJ has worked with organizations such as The New Jersey Foundation for the Blind
- BONJ has performed at Morristown Medical Center and Overlook Hospitals in collaboration with Atlantic Health Systems

## Historical/Cultural organizations

- BONJ has provided concerts to Ramsaysburg Homestead in Knowlton
- BONJ has provided programs in collaboration with Morris Tourism
- BONJ has performed concerts with The National Park System in Morristown
- BONJ has collaborated with The United Way, Loyola Jesuit Center, Morris Arts Alliance

*Dr. Butts and the orchestra are at the forefront of bringing forgotten masterpieces—such as Scarlatti's La Giuditta—back from extinction for a new age of listeners. If Baroque and Classical music can be said to "rock," then Dr. Butts is the "quarrymaster."*

Dr. Jude M. Pfister  
Chief of Cultural Resources, Morristown National Historical Park

### Revenue

Program Income, Direct Public Support and Local Grants	\$81,512.00
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### Expenses

Program*	\$76,458.00
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General and Administrative	\$ 6,950.00
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Total Expenses	\$83,408.00
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\*Fundraising appeals are subsumed in our program communications.

## Thank you to our family of Donors

### Foundations

AMN Foundation

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Exxon Mobil Foundation

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### Visionaries—\$5,000 and above

Jo Ann Bates

In Memory of Cynthia Platt

Lisa Young and Stephen Young

### Angels—\$2,500-\$4,999

Molly Ball

### Benefactors—\$1,000-2,499

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Anne Plaut

(in memory of Jonathan Plaut)

Anthony & Joy Shashaty

### Patrons—\$500-\$999

Douglas C. Anderson

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Robert Butts & Judith Tiernan

Marion J. Kennedy

Margret Schaefer

Dan Vinod

### Champions—\$250-\$499

Marilyn Jaeger

Marilyn & Monroe Markovitz

Andrew & Rebecca Moody

Jane E. Moore

Clare Roth

Adele Russell

Edwin West (in memory of C. J. Willis)

### Enthusiasts—\$100-\$249

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Kathy & Bill Barretti

Mrs. Nancy L. Basford

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Diane M. Close

Leonard A. & Janet Dell

Carylmead Eggleston (in honor of  
Geri & Raymond Helou)

Chuck & Ruth Fegley

Frank & Sarah Flaherty

# The BONJ Community

*The music lives through your generosity.*

The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey thanks all  
our supporters and volunteers.



## BONJ Volunteers

Carolyn Fagan

Guy Brennert

Jane Duval

Ron Duval

Dianne Feula

Arnold Finkel

Sara Finkel

Tina Gerson

Lidija Kampa

Ed Lewis

Jane Moore

Dave Ouimet

Tom Roberts

Clare Roth

Judith Tiernan



Anna Ganitsch

Bedtte & Lonnie Hanauer (in honor of  
Anne Plaut's birthday)

Katherine Kehoe

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### Friends—under \$100

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David Ouimet

Mary Pedicini

Jeff Plaut & Amy Karas

(in honor of Anne Plaut)

Joanne Williams

### In Memory of Al Jorgensen

Jane Komssi

SHS Class of 1960



## BONJ and Old/New Music



The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey was founded primarily to perform music of the 17th and 18th centuries. The commitment to bringing old music from The Baroque and Classical Periods to life remains a vital part of the orchestra's mission. Popular Baroque composers have included Monteverdi, Purcell, Vivaldi, Handel, Telemann, and Bach. The orchestra has, however, also performed music of their contemporaries—often presenting the first modern day performance from manuscripts edited by Maestro Robert W. Butts. These composers have included Pachelbel, Lully, Albinoni, and Scarlatti. In addition to the popular works of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven, the orchestra has brought to life music by their contemporaries: The Chevalier de Saint George, Carl von Dittersdorf, Josef Reicha, Antonio Salieri, and Joseph Mysliveček.

In recent years, the orchestra has become New Jersey's leading ensemble for new music, including two world premieres of works composed by famed Roman composer Marco Frisina. Other contemporary composers whose works have been premiered include Paul Zeigler, Amy Reich, John Ivor Alexander, Ting Ho, Derwyn Holder, John Franek, and Richard Russell. Maestro Butts has had several of his works premiered by BONJ as well as in Korea, France, Scotland, England, Poland, and Italy. His *Symphony #1—The Joshua Symphony* was commissioned by the Plaut Family in 2014. *Mark Twain and the General*, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, and *The Cask of Amontillado*, have been performed by BONJ at the National Opera Center in New York City.



## Discovered Baroque Masterpiece *La Giuditta* performed at Washington's Headquarters Museum for the 100th Anniversary of the United States National Park Service.



Alessandro Scarlatti, a major Baroque composer, composed the opera/oratorio *La Giuditta*, in 1693. The original manuscript lay undiscovered for over 300 years until found by Dr. Jude Pfister in the collection at the Washington's Headquarters in Morristown National Historical Park in Morristown, New Jersey.

Maestro Butts created a modern edition from the manuscript. Having performed it first in 2008 in New York City and at

The College of Saint Elizabeth, he and the orchestra felt it was time to perform in collaboration with the National Park Service—jointly celebrating the orchestra's 20th Anniversary and the National Park Service's 100th Anniversary.

The Standing Room Only Performance was presented May 1, 2016 at the restored Washington's Headquarters Museum Auditorium.

Featured in the cast were soprano Timothy Maureen Cole, mezzo-soprano Teresa Giardina, tenor Dmitri Zigrino, bass Don Kalbach, and countertenor Daniel Schuetz. Musicians of The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey performed in Baroque style, conducted by Maestro Butts. The manuscript was on display for the audience to view.

The discovery of the manuscript as well as the edition and performance are the subject of a film/documentary *Scarlatti in New Jersey*.



# BONJ on Film And Television



Maestro Robert W. Butts and The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey are greatly involved in mass media in film, television, internet streaming, educational programs, and CD/DVD production.

Collaborating with Brian Foran and B&B Productions, Maestro Butts and the orchestra produced *Scarlatti in New Jersey*, a 55 minute documentary on the discovery of the Scarlatti dramatic oratorio manuscript in Morristown and the first modern day performances of the complete work. Interviews with members of the Morristown arts and cultural community as well as the artists who performed the work tell the story complete with excerpts from the 2016 performance at Washington's Headquarters Museum.

Maestro Butts developed the educational series *Concerts and Conversations*, also working with Brian Foran and B&B Productions. In each episode, Maestro Butts discusses the history of the piece as well as what makes the music work. Excerpts from the work are played to demonstrate and the entire work is played at the conclusion. Works so far filmed have included Rossini's *Overture to La Gazza Ladra*, Mendelssohn's *Piano Concerto #1*, Wagner's *Siegfried*, Beethoven's *Symphony #8*, Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto*, and Maestro Butts's own composition *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey has collaborated with Cablevision since 2007. In addition to the episodes of *Concerts and Conversations*, the orchestra has created feature length concert videos. Among the more popular have been *Opera Passions* (featuring arias from several operas by various guest artists); *Fresh Breezes* (featuring winners of the Pearl & Julius Young Music Competition); *Going Baroque* (featuring music of Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Telemann, and Scarlatti); *From Vienna to the Vatican* (featuring music of Mozart, Paisiello, Mendelssohn, and Marco Frisina); and most recently *Die Fledermaus* (summer 2018 performance of Strauss's operetta, in English); and *Classical Vienna* (music of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven from 2018 concerts).

The orchestra has also created special programs for HTTV (Home Town Television, Summit, New Jersey). These have included several 30 minute programs including *A Night at the Symphony: Beethoven*, *A Night at the Symphony: Mendelssohn*, *A Night at the Symphony: Mozart*, *A Night at the Opera: Verdi*, *A Night at the Opera: Handel*.

Since 2011, the orchestra's concerts have been regularly filmed and broadcast over VilleTV in Somerville, New Jersey.

Maestro Butts has been interviewed on various radio and television shows, during which excerpts from BONJ concerts have been featured. These include "Ask the Expert: WMTR Morristown; Comcast Newsmakers in New Jersey; Classical Discoveries WPRB Princeton; Cremona Today, Radio Saiuz, Focus su Rete; and on the special video *Dominika Zamara, Pride of Poland* produced by Worlds Top Musicians.

Maestro Butts and The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey are featured in the film (in progress) *Marco Frisina: The Power and Glory of Music*.





# BONJ: International And Legendary Guest Artists



The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey has welcomed internationally famous artists to perform in concert.

- 2018—Korean soprano YuJung Bae sang at the Festival cabaret; Soprano Dominika Zamara sang at the Festival Orchestra concert
- 2017—Violist Brett Deubner returned to play Hoffmeister's *Viola Concerto*; French Hornist Robert Lee Watt returned to play a Hubler concerto; Korean pianist Lynn Czae returned to play Mozart's *Piano Concerto #23*; Korean violinist Sungsic Yang played the Brahms *Violin Concerto*
- 2016—French Hornist Robert Lee Watt of the Los Angeles Philharmonic was joined by recording artists Jeff Scott and Marshall Sealy playing Telemann; Kathleen Nester, flutist with The New Jersey Symphony and on Broadway, played Vivaldi
- 2015—Korean pianist Lynn Czae, President of The New York Classical Music Society played concerti of Beethoven; Chinese violinist Simon Hu, currently of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra played Mozart; American violist Brett Deubner of the New Jersey Symphony debuted with BONJ playing concertos of Hindemith
- 2014/2015—Roman composer Marco Frisina had two of his compositions premiered by BONJ; Soprano Dominika Zamara sang with BONJ in New Jersey and with Maestro Butts in Italy
- 2014/2006/2005—Pianist Sohyun Ahn played concertos by Shostakovich, Mozart, Chopin
- 2012—Turkish guitarist Celil Refik Kaya premiered Derwyn Holder's concerto, later recorded with the Buffalo Philharmonic; Chinese pianists Beatrice and Christina Long performed Bach double-keyboard concerti
- 2011/2010—Danish mezzo Hanne Ladefoged Dollase sang Mahler song cycles
- 2010—Harry Searing—guest artist with The New York Philharmonic, the New Jersey Symphony, and The Metropolitan Opera—played Weber *Bassoon Concerto*; Steinway Pianist Julian Gargiulo played Rachmaninoff
- 2008—Performed Alessandro Scarlatti's *La Giuditte* for first time in New York City and Morristown, New Jersey
- 2006—Amit Peled, Israeli cellist performed one of his first concerto appearances
- 2005—Clarinetist David Singer, principal with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra played Krommer *Double Concerto*
- 2002—Broadway tenor Juan Pineda, star of *Miss Saigon* sang in opera collaborations
- 2001—Metropolitan Opera star Jerome Hines narrated *L'Elisir d'amore*
- 2000—Film Star Celeste Holm narrated *Le Nozze di Figaro*

## BONJ Collaborations

The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey is proud to share our music with New Jersey and Morris County's leading community organizations: The United States National Park Service, Morris Arts, Morris County Tourism Bureau, Madison Arts and Culture Alliance, The Morris County Chamber of Commerce, Madison Rotary, The New York Classical Music Society, Discover Jersey Arts, and The Friends of the Livingston Public Library.





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