



VOX 3
a vocal music collective

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VOX 3 PRESENTS ONLY MIDWEST CONCERT TO CELEBRATE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE

*****FREE PERFORMANCE TO INAUGURATE NEW CHICAGO VOCAL COLLECTIVE*****

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(Chicago, IL) VOX 3, a new Chicago-based vocal music collective, presents a free concert to celebrate the works of early German Baroque composer, Dietrich Buxtehude. The performance occurs at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on May 9, 2007, the 300th anniversary of Buxtehude's death, and is the only Midwest acknowledgement of the anniversary. The evening includes both an Abendmusik program of sacred cantatas and organ music, and a pre-concert lecture by eminent performer and scholar, David Schrader. Featured vocalists are sopranos Kimberly Beasley, Ashlee Hardgrave and Angela Zawada; and baritones Brian von Rueden and Brad Jungwirth. Organists Andrew Fredel and Paul Nicholson lead a chamber ensemble, with Agnieszka Kozłowska and Ayako Kikuchi, violins, Gregory Zinkl, viola, and Shara Long, cello.

"I am pleased that the inaugural concert of VOX 3 is dedicated to the music of such an influential German composer," said Artistic Director Brian von Rueden. "A major part of the mission of VOX 3 is education, so when we discovered that very little was being done nationally to acknowledge the Buxtehude anniversary—and virtually nothing in the Midwest—we knew this was a perfect opportunity."

May 9 marks the 300th anniversary of the death of **Dietrich Buxtehude**, an early Baroque composer who greatly influenced J.S. Bach, Telemann and Handel. In 1705, Bach traveled 220 miles on foot from Arnstadt, staying nearly three months to hear Buxtehude's Abendmusik series, meet the pre-eminent Lübeck organist, hear him play, and as Bach explained "to comprehend one thing and another about his art." Many of Buxtehude's larger-scale vocal works have been lost, but over 100 cantatas remain, varying in style from simple chorale-type settings to livelier pieces with an improvisatory feel to formal structures alternating recitative and aria. Many of Buxtehude's pieces brim with great energy and imagination, treading a fine line between learned contrapuntal traditions and freer, more fanciful styles.

Equally at home in front of a harpsichord, organ, piano, or fortepiano, **David Schrader** is "truly an extraordinary musician ... (who) brings not only the unfailing right technical approach to each of these different instruments, but always an imaginative, fascinating musicality to all of them" (Norman Pelligrini, WFMT, Chicago). A performer of wide ranging accomplishments and interests, he has appeared as a soloist on organ and on harpsichord with many orchestras throughout the United States and Canada including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Sir Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim, and Pierre Boulez. Mr. Schrader is on the faculty of Roosevelt University, Chicago College of Performing Arts - Music Conservatory for performance and academic studies where he has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses since 1986. For 20

years, he has been the organist of the Church of the Ascension, whose liturgies command a national reputation for musical integrity. Mr. Schrader received a Doctor of Music degree in organ from Indiana University as well as the coveted Performer's Certificate. He received a Bachelor of Music in piano and a Bachelor of Music in organ from the University of Colorado. His principal teachers have been Storm Bull, Abbey Simon, Oswald Ragatz, Anthony Newman and Everett Jay Hilty.

Soprano **Kimberly Beasley** holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado, a Master of Music from Valparaiso University, Indiana, and a Certificate of Vocal Performance from Northwestern University. Her stage credits include *Into the Woods*, *Suor Angelica*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Tartuffe*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *Carmen* in addition to being the musical director for productions of *A...My Name is Alice*, *West Side Story*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *Children of Eden*, *Hello Dolly*, and *The Last Five Years*. Beasley has taught university courses in applied theory, opera scenes, vocal pedagogy, and opera history. She has performed as a soloist with the Southwest Michigan Symphony, Elmhurst Symphony, the Northwest Indiana Symphony, DuPage Opera Theatre, New Philharmonic, Light Opera Works, and in the chorus of Lyric Opera of Chicago and Grant Park Symphony Chorus. She serves on the voice faculties of Midwest Young Artists and the Voice and Opera Academy. Soprano **Ashlee Hardgrave** holds a Master of Music in Voice Performance from Roosevelt University and the Bachelor of Arts in Music from Arkansas Tech University. Recent opera roles include work with Intimate Opera Chicago and Chicago College of Performing Arts. Recent concert projects include collaboration with ATU alumni and *Night Dances*. She has created two one-woman shows, *Ain't It Grand?* in 2002 and *Five Alive!* in 2006. Baritone **Brad Jungwirth**, a native of Rochester, MN, earned his Master's degree in Vocal Performance at the Chicago College of the Performing Arts of Roosevelt University, and currently studies with renowned baritone Richard Stilwell. Previous opera credits *The Mikado*, *The Student Prince*, *The Bear*, *L'infedeltà fedele*, *La Bohème*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Impresario* and *Amelia Goes to the Ball*. He has been heard as soloist in Dvorak's *Te Deum*, Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, Beethoven's Mass in C, and in numerous masses and cantatas of J.S. Bach. Jungwirth is also avid performer of contemporary music, and has performed Aaron Jay Kernis' *Brilliant Sky*, *Infinite Sky* and Peter Maxwell Davies' *8 Songs for a Mad King*. Baritone **Brian von Rueden**, originally from Wausau, Wisconsin, holds a Master of Music from Roosevelt University and a Bachelor of Music from Valparaiso University. His most recent credits include *Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Wandering Scholar*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, Tom Stoppard's English version of *Prokofiev's Love for Three Oranges* and *L'infedeltà fedele* in Anghiari, Italy. Other opera credits include *The Scarf*, *Face on the Barroom Floor*, *The Impresario* and *The Mikado*. Von Rueden has appeared as the bass soloist for several Bach cantatas and masses, most notably with Ars Musica Chicago. As a director, he has staged the rarely seen American operas *A Childhood Miracle* and *The Scarf*. Von Rueden has studied with Mark Crayton, Richard Stilwell, Ralph Klapis, Rändel Wolfe, and Barbara Lattimer. Soprano **Angela Zawada** is a Chicagoland native. She holds a Master of Music degree from Roosevelt University and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame. Zawada's opera credits include *The Old Maid and The Thief*, *The Magic Flute*, *Le nozze di Figaro* *L'infedeltà fedele* and the title role in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. In addition to opera, Zawada has been the soprano soloist in various oratorios, such as Handel's *Messiah* and Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*.

VOX 3 is a collective of artists who educate both performers and audience through varied presentations of vocal music. The group's members perform music, execute administrative functions in the organization and educate the public about vocal music through concerts and quarterly publications of original articles.

Tickets to *Buxtehude Abendmusik* are free, although donations are welcome. The pre-concert lecture begins at 8pm, with the concert immediately following at 8:15pm on Wednesday, May 9, 2007. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 1218 West Addison Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60613.

April 9, 2007