

# Master VOICES

FORMERLY  
THE COLLEGIATE CHORALE



**Ted Sperling**  
Artistic Director



2016 | 2017 SEASON

# MESSAGE FROM TED SPERLING

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

MasterVoices' 2016-17 season both honors our 75-year tradition of presenting compelling interpretations of diverse repertoire, including operas, musical theatre, choral classics, and new commissions, and also reflects our new name and our commitment to innovative musical storytelling. With the New York premiere of the new opera *27*, we reunite with our friends Ricky Ian Gordon, Royce Vavrek and Stephanie Blythe, in a lyrical work that portrays the special bond between Gertrude Stein and her wife, Alice B. Toklas, against the swirl of their artistic salon. Mr. Gordon has revised the work especially for MasterVoices, to enhance the choral aspect of the piece.



In our presentation of Bach's *St. John Passion*, we pay tribute to our founder Robert Shaw, who shared our belief that the Passions should speak directly to audiences in English, and that these concerts should be communal experiences. We hope you, our audience, will sing along with the chorales, filling Carnegie Hall with music from all directions. We are delighted to be working with tenor Michael Slattery, our Evangelist, on a new, modern translation, and invite you to join us in bringing this masterpiece to life.

We continue our tradition of resurrecting neglected masterpieces from the musical theater tradition with Victor Herbert's *Babes in Toyland*, which will be heard in its original glorious orchestration for the first time in nearly a century. Our signature casting will include stars from both the Broadway and opera stages in what is sure to be a night filled with gorgeous melodies and comic hijinks.

So whether you're a long-time fan of our group, or just getting introduced, I'm sure there is something for you to enjoy this season. I look forward to seeing you at our concerts!

Warmly,

Ted Sperling

# SEASON AT A GLANCE

by **Ricky Ian Gordon** and **Royce Vavrek**

*Featuring* Stephanie Blythe, Heidi Stober,  
Theo Lebow, Tobias Greenhalgh, and Daniel Brevik  
*Directed* by James Robinson  
*Conducted* by Ted Sperling  
with Orchestra of St. Luke's

# 27

**NEW YORK PREMIERE!**  
**October 20 & 21, 2016 at 8pm**  
NEW YORK CITY CENTER

by **Johann Sebastian Bach**

*Featuring* Michael Slattery, Jesse Blumberg,  
Latonia Moore, Tamara Mumford, and Ben Bliss  
*Conducted* by Ted Sperling  
with New York Baroque Incorporated

# St. John Passion

**February 9, 2017 at 7pm**  
Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage  
CARNEGIE HALL

by **Victor Herbert** and **Glen MacDonough**

*Featuring* Kelli O'Hara, Bill Irwin, Lauren Worsham,  
and Christopher Fitzgerald  
*Conducted* by Ted Sperling  
with Orchestra of St. Luke's

# Babes in Toyland

**April 27, 2017 at 7pm**  
Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage  
CARNEGIE HALL

# 75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



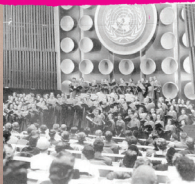
**1941**

Robert Shaw founds The Collegiate Choral Society with Gordon Berger at Marble Collegiate Church. Shaw becomes the first Music Director of The Choral Society and holds that position from 1941-1953.



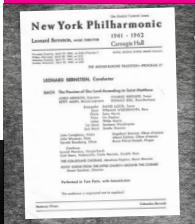
**1948**

The Collegiate Choral Society performs the Verdi Requiem under the baton of Arturo Toscanini with the NBC Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall.



**1952**

The Collegiate Choral Society performs at the opening of the United Nations.



**1962**

The Collegiate Choral Society performs Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Leonard Bernstein at Carnegie Hall.



**1981**

Mayor Koch issues an official proclamation declaring January 31, 1981 "Collegiate Choral Day" in honor of The Choral Society's 40 years of cultural service to New York City.



**1998**

Robert Bass institutes the "Opera-in-Concert" series as an annual component of each season's programming, beginning with Verdi's *Nabucco*. The series continues to this day and has featured many world-class artists including: Deborah Voigt, Eric Owens, Salvatore Licitra, Dolora Zajick, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Angela Meade, and Nathan Gunn.



**2002**

Roger Rees narrates Weber's *Oberon* for The Choral Society and is named Artistic Associate, working with The Choral Society to develop the "American Masters" series exploring works of musical theater and their origins. This popular series continues to the present day and has featured works of Leonard Bernstein, Scott Joplin, Philip Glass, Kurt Weill, Ricky Ian Gordon and others.



**2003**

The Collegiate Choral Society launches its "Side-by-Side" Education program allowing a select group of high school students the opportunity to rehearse and perform with The Collegiate Choral Society in New York and abroad.



**2005**

The Collegiate Choral Society makes its Verbier Festival (Switzerland) debut in the Verdi Requiem under the baton of James Levine.



**2010**

The Collegiate Choral Society presents the New York Premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon and Michael Korie's *The Grapes of Wrath* at Carnegie Hall with Nathan Gunn, Victoria Clark, Christine Ebersole, Jane Fonda (Narrator), and Ted Sperling (Conductor).



**2014**

The Collegiate Choral Society presents the New York Premiere of David Lang's *battle hymns*, conducted by James Bagwell, at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.



**2015**

The Collegiate Choral Society, under the Artistic Direction of Ted Sperling, announces its new name MasterVoices and a new series at New York City Center.

# 27

By Ricky Ian Gordon and Royce Vavrek

OCTOBER 20 & 21, 2016 at 8PM | NEW YORK CITY CENTER



Stephanie Blythe



Heidi Stober



Theo Lebow



Tobias Greenhalgh



Daniel Brevik

**MasterVoices** | Orchestra of St. Luke's  
James Robinson, Director | Ted Spering, Conductor

27 explores the relationship between Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, who hosted regular salon evenings at their Paris home at 27 Rue de Fleurus, with such guests as Pablo Picasso, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Man Ray, Henri Matisse and Ernest Hemingway. Commissioned by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, 27 received its world premiere in June 2014. For the New York Premiere, Ricky Ian Gordon has specially added new sections for the MasterVoices chorus.

Single tickets ranging from **\$30** to **\$150** are on sale at City Center.

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[MASTEROICES.ORG](http://MASTEROICES.ORG)

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## FALL GALA | Thursday, October 20

Join us at MasterVoices' Annual Fall Gala! Tickets include pre-concert cocktails and dinner at the University Club, as well as preferred seating for 27. Call 646-435-9052 to learn more and reserve your ticket.

Cast Photos: Kabin van Bredburg (Blythe), Simon Pauly (Stober), Matthew Murphy (Greenhalgh)



Artwork by Esther Wu

# ST. JOHN PASSION

By Johann Sebastian Bach

**FEBRUARY 9, 2017** at **7PM** | CARNEGIE HALL



Michael Slattery



Jesse Blumberg



Latonia Moore



Tamara Mumford



Ben Bliss

**MasterVoices** | New York Baroque Incorporated  
**Ted Sperling**, Conductor

Bach's *St. John Passion* is considered by many to be more dramatic and expressive than his popular *St. Matthew Passion*. Based on text from the Gospel of St. John, Bach's choral masterpiece reflects on the last days of Christ. To pay tribute to MasterVoices' founder Robert Shaw, who held the belief that the Passions should speak directly to audiences in English, and that these concerts should be communal experiences, the performance will be given in a modern-day English translation, and MasterVoices will invite the audience to sing along with the chorales, filling Carnegie Hall with music from all directions.

Single tickets ranging from **\$20** to **\$130** go on sale November 14 at Carnegie Hall. This performance will be held at Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall.

[CARNEGIEHALL.ORG](http://CARNEGIEHALL.ORG)  
[MASTERSVOICES.ORG](http://MASTERSVOICES.ORG)

[CARNEGIE CHARGE](http://CARNEGIECHARGE)  
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57th and Seventh

Cast Photos: Fadi Barthe (Slattery), Anika Downson (Blumberg), Susan Genie (Moore), Daro Acosta (Mumford)



Artwork by Esther Wu

# BABES IN TOYLAND

By Victor Herbert and Glen MacDonough  
APRIL 27, 2017 at 7PM | CARNEGIE HALL



Kelli O'Hara



Bill Irwin



Lauren Worsham



Christopher Fitzgerald

MasterVoices | Orchestra of St. Luke's | Ted Sperling, Conductor

A huge hit when it premiered in New York in 1903, Victor Herbert's *Babes in Toyland* hasn't seen a major revival in New York City in over 85 years. Full of glorious melodies, *Babes in Toyland* tells a story that is both amusing and scary: villainous Uncle Barnaby plots the deaths of his young niece and nephew, Alan and Jane, in order to gain their inheritance. After many twists and turns, the siblings, with the help of several Mother Goose characters, thwart his efforts and bring happiness back to Toyland. MasterVoices will present the original score in its full orchestration, giving the audience a rare chance to experience this musical extravaganza afresh.

Single tickets ranging from \$20 to \$150 go on sale November 14 at Carnegie Hall. This performance will be held at Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall.

CARNEGIEHALL.ORG  
MASTERSVOICES.ORG

CARNEGIE CHARGE  
212-247-7800

BOX OFFICE  
57th and Seventh

Cast Photos: Laura Maria Duncan (O'Hara), Kristin Hoobemann (Worsham), Tina Tyrill (Fitzgerald)

## Babes in Toyland



Artwork by Esther Wu



# MASTEROICES ABOUT TOWN

*MasterVoices will collaborate with American Lyric Theater and Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post for additional appearances in the 2016-17 season.*

## THE HALLOWEEN TREE

*A concert of a new opera in development*

Music by Theo Popov and libretto by Tony Asaro

Based on the novel by Ray Bradbury

Presented by American Lyric Theater and Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center

**OCTOBER 30, 2016**

MERKIN CONCERT HALL

*For more information and tickets, visit [altnyc.org](http://altnyc.org)*

## THE LIFE AND DEATH(S) OF ALAN TURING

*A concert of a new opera in development*

Music by Justine F. Chen and libretto by David Simpatico

Presented by American Lyric Theater

**JANUARY 12, 2017**

MERKIN CONCERT HALL

*For more information and tickets, visit [altnyc.org](http://altnyc.org)*

## BABES IN TOYLAND AT TILLES CENTER

*MasterVoices will reprise Babes in Toyland*

**APRIL 29, 2017**

TILLES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
AT LIU POST, BROOKVILLE, NY

*For more information and tickets, visit [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org)*



Photos of MasterVoices at the 2014 Webber Festival by Alina Palay

*The MasterVoices' 2016-17 season is made possible by The Geier Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.*



# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

**SIDE-BY-SIDE** annually offers high school students, many from underserved communities, the opportunity to sing “side-by-side” our experienced chorus members, receiving mentorship, musical training, and invaluable performance opportunities both in New York City and on international tours.

**THE COMPLIMENTARY TICKET PROGRAM** brings hundreds of students and seniors from New York schools and community programs to MasterVoices’ concert programs each year.

**THE FAITH GEIER ARTIST INITIATIVE** offers transformational opportunities for young and developing soloists to perform at top venues with internationally-renowned artists.

**BRIDGES** is MasterVoices’ new outreach initiative aimed at bringing people in a community together to make music, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds.

**“I still can’t believe that the first time I went to Carnegie Hall was not to see a performance, but to sing. The fact that I got to sing with a group of music lovers, a wonderful and talented orchestra, and a crew of amazing and impressive soloists left me speechless. It was an experience I will never forget.”**

*Elena, Side-by-Side student 2014-16*





# SUPPORT MASTEROICES

## Join our MasterVoices family!

We rely on the tremendous generosity of our donors to bring you the exceptional programming that has defined MasterVoices for 75 years. Please join our MasterVoices family of supporters. Gifts of all sizes make a difference.

FRIENDS  
**\$250 - \$999**  
donation

### Benefits include:

- Invitations to rehearsals
- Opportunities to purchase tickets in advance of public sale
- Recognition in MasterVoices programs at City Center and Carnegie Hall

PATRONS  
**\$1,000 - \$4,999**  
donation

### Benefits include all of the above, plus:

- Invitations to exclusive Patron events and musicales with Artistic Director, Ted Sperling
- Invitations to dress rehearsals
- Opportunities to travel with the company on tour (when available)

MAESTRO'S CIRCLE  
**\$5,000 +**  
donation

### Benefits include all of the above, plus:

- Annual Maestro's Circle Dinner with Artistic Director, Ted Sperling
- Priority access to house seats for every performance
- Special recognition opportunities throughout the season

For a full list of benefits, visit our website at [mastervoices.org](http://mastervoices.org).

## MAKE A DONATION TODAY

visit [mastervoices.org](http://mastervoices.org) | call 646-202-9623

mail 115 E. 57th Street, Suite 1121, New York, NY 10022

(checks made out to MasterVoices)

# SPECIAL EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING



## Join Us for a Special Event

Each season, MasterVoices invites its patrons to a Fall Gala where guests enjoy a seated dinner and premium concert tickets, and to a Spring Benefit, which features a vastly entertaining live auction. These events allow MasterVoices to continue offering its unique programming and to raise support for its educational activities.

## Become a Volunteer

Give the gift of your time by joining our dynamic group of volunteers.

For more information, call 646-202-9623 or email [info@mastervoices.org](mailto:info@mastervoices.org).

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# LIMITED TIME OFFER

Become a **MasterVoices Member**  
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## PERKS OF MEMBERSHIP

**15% off full price tickets**

**Priority on-sale access**  
for **27, St. John Passion, Babes in Toyland**

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**\$50**  
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