

# Georgetown Bach Chorale begins 10th anniversary season

**LYNNE BAILLIE**  
Georgetown Bach Chorale

Georgetown Bach Chorale celebrates a decade of music-making with an outstanding series of concerts. Under the direction of artistic director Ron Greidanus, and often conducted by him from the harpsichord, the Chorale offers a unique combination of choral, orchestral and solo works in a variety of settings. The group specialized in Baroque repertoire and is often accompanied by musicians on period instruments.

The Chorale was formed 10 years ago by a group of local singers wishing to perform challenging choral music, beginning with J.S.Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. This year the Chorale will come full circle, offering a Good Friday performance of that same piece. This time the performance will be considerably more elaborate with full chamber orchestra, soloists, double choir and children's choir.

This season starts with a Concert for Violin and Piano. Ron Greidanus, on piano, will be joined by guest Conrad Chow for an evening of music ranging from Franck's towering *Sonata in A major* to the *Carmen Fantasy* by Bizet. Chow proceeds from the concert in Georgetown to China where he has been invited to compete in an international violin competition.



The Georgetown Bach Chorale performs Mozart's *Requiem* last spring with Ron Greidanus conducting.

In November the choir will be performing Handel's best known and much loved oratorio *Messiah* again this year. The Chorale will be the first local choir to perform in the breathtaking new Catholic Church at the Croatian Centre in Norval. Accompanied by musicians on period instruments and coupled with the amazing acoustics in the new structure this performance promises to be a memorable one.

As usual the choir will round out the Christmas season in late

December with concerts at 157 Main Street South. The theme for Christmas this year is *Black Tie and Tails*. Two grand pianos, wonderful voices surrounded by the warm ambience of a private home decked out in seasonal finery, the performance followed by a lavish reception— tickets for the Christmas concert are always in high demand. The Chorale will again be adding an extra performance this year, bringing the total to three nights.

The choir will start the new year with an evening of *Early Music* at the Norval Presbyterian Church in February. The lovely acoustics will allow audiences to appreciate the full effect of works such as Allegri's *Miserere*, Byrd's *Ave Verum Corpus* and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

Back at 157 Main St. in March will be two evenings with violinist Phoebe Tsang, cellist Mary-Katherine Finch and pianist Ron Greidanus. Audiences will be treated to chamber music as it was meant to be heard—in an intimate environment. There will be an opportunity to meet with the artists at the reception.

The Chorale finishes the 2008/09 season with Bach's dramatic setting of the *Passion* according to St. Matthew on Good Friday, April 10.

Tickets are available at The Freckled Lion Bookstore and Foodstuffs in downtown Georgetown. Further information, concert dates and times at [www.georgetownbachchorale.com](http://www.georgetownbachchorale.com).

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