

RE^Sound!
Ecumenical Chamber Choir
presents

Sacred Silliness



**Sunday,
May 27, 2007
7:30 pm**
Crescent Fort Rouge
United Church

*Suppose we've chosen the wrong God?
Every time we go to church we're just
making him madder and madder.*

- Homer Simpson

Welcome,

Tonight is all about having fun. It's about taking a humorous look at our sacred selves. ReSound! values all forms of sacred music, so how could we possibly leave out humour? The choir, soloists and musicians have had a real challenge on their hands with this repertoire, but what a hoot we've had preparing!

Tonight's guest musicians and soloists add a delightful twist to an already twisted program. We are truly blessed and grateful to have such a talented group to work with. We can't forget to thank all our volunteers and audience members, specially Sheldon Chartier, our tireless stage manager (we've really put him to work tonight). ReSound! also thanks Crescent-Fort Rouge United Church for providing this glorious space and the intermission refreshments tonight (a UCW fundraiser).

If anyone would like to join our little group, we are currently looking for a lead soprano, tenors and a low bass. If you are interested in auditioning please talk to us after the concert, check out our website at www.resoundchoir.ca, fill out the form on the back of this program, or call me at **256-3718**. Being involved with a choir who's simple mission is to sing sacred music for all to hear can be a lot of fun. Just ask us.

Hope you enjoy tonight's concert...
SMILE!

Barbara Hicks
President of ReSound!

Sacred Silliness

Stephen Sondheim, arr. J. Vanderput

Something familiar, something peculiar,
something for everyone,
some silliness tonight!

Something familiar, something peculiar,
we're singing sacred songs,
some silliness tonight!

Who'll be a witness?
Praise God with cymbals?
something for everyone,
some silliness tonight!

Nothing with death, nothing with frowns.
Bring on the prophets, dancers and clowns!

The Ten Commandments,
we'll do our penance,
But now we'll have some fun tonight:
We will pray tomorrow, we will laugh tonight!

Go Down With Moses,
whaling with Jonah,
we're singing sacred songs,
some silliness tonight!

Something aesthetic, something frenetic,
something for everyone,
there's silliness tonight!

Nothing of martyrs, nothing of Fate.
Weighty affairs will just have to wait!

Nothing that's formal, nothing that's normal,
No heavy songs we have to sing!

Open up the Bible, there is lots of humour!
Open up your programs
SILLINESS TONIGHT!

Sacred Silliness

Sacred Silliness

Stephen Sondheim, arr. J. Vanderput

Go Down Moses

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

Soloist: *Larry Strachan*

Witness

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Jack Halloran

Soloists: *Tim Frieson, Kathy Tang,
Aubrey Hemminger*

Jonah In The Belly

Rollo Dillworth

Soloists: *Aubrey Hemminger, Gerri Cooper*

Three Minute Messiah

Peter Gritton

O Rest In The Lord

**American Folk Melody,
arr. Dr. Harriman Percival Puuton (1899-2006)**

Sister Act Medley

arr. Mac Huff

Soloists: *Mélanie Gagnon, Roberta Mclean*

Deconstructing Johann

Daryl Runswick

Shut De Do

Randy Stonehill, arr. Mark Hayes

Soloist: *Roberta Mclean*

INTERMISSION

Refreshments are available for purchase during the intermission. Coffee, tea or juice and cookies for \$1.00

Praise God With Cymbals

Allen Pote

Soloist: *Joseph Backstrom*

Requiem Insectus

J. Vanderput (b.1971)

Working With Joy

Larry Nickel

Missa Hilarious

P.D.Q. Bach (1807-1742)?

Soloists: *Bargain Countertenor: PJBucan*

Basso-Blotto: Bryan Lopuck

Angels: Gerri Cooper, Barb Hicks

Requiem Insectus J. Vanderput (b.1971)

*Insectus copulatus rummin
Julius flippitouttus rummin
copulatus interruptus
insectus copulatus flatus
Pie Jesu Domine, Jesu Christe,
dona eis requiem. A-men*

Translation

*Insects are copulating in the room
Julian "flips out" in the room
The copulation is interrupted
the copulatin insects are flattened
Merciful Lord Jesus, Jesus Christ,
Grant them rest. Amen.*

Sacred Silliness

Program Notes

Julian Vanderput

Does God laugh?

Well, God created laughter in us, so why wouldn't he? Often, church and religion is a very serious subject. Sometimes I feel we frequently take ourselves too seriously. Seeing things in a wider context can often help us put things into perspective. I personally believe that God has a sense of humour. God has all good qualities, and a sense of humour is a good quality.

A Bible scholar said that the fact God has a sense of humour is reflected in His creation. The scholar went ahead to give the example of the Albatross along with other examples. The Albatross is the bird with the largest wing span. It is very graceful when it is flying. But when it lands, it falls all over itself, which is very funny to watch. He stated that watching the Albatross land is enough to see that God has a sense of humour (Disney also thought so!). So while I acknowledge that our faith is serious, I have to ask: what was God thinking when he made mosquitoes? If God ever made anything close to something with no purpose, mosquitoes must top the list (and certainly, the creation of birds that cannot fly like the Ostrich or animals like the duck-billed Platypus must have given the Evolutionist's a run for their money!).

Much of the humour in the Bible is found in the Old Testament. One of my favourites is the Elijah Baal Showdown. The whole incident can be seen in I Kings 18:20-40. But most particularly in verse 27: *"And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy or he is on vacation, or perhaps he is over-sleeping."* An impatient Elijah watched with a smile on his lips when the 450 men of Baal did all kinds of stupid things like jumping up and down and shouting around the alter to get Baal's attention. As this show continued on, Elijah's smile became a snicker and finally at noon he started throwing comments at them. He was not afraid because he knew what was going to happen. We further see that God did not mind Elijah's jesting as He hears Elijah's plea and sends fire from heaven as His signature to everything that happened on that day. We can see from this that God does not mind jokes!

Or what about the story of the loud high-pitched trumpets that brought down the mighty stone and brick walls of Jericho? (Is that similar to sopranos hitting a really high note and glass breaks?) Or what about Moses being commissioned by God through a burning bush? ***"Go Down Moses,*** and set my people free!" ***Jonah In The Belly*** of a whale for three days? (Okay, maybe that's more gross

than funny, but it makes you wonder - what in the world was God thinking?). Or in **Witness** where Samson loses his hair and then his strength as a result? God obviously has a sense of humour!

Some of the songs we are singing tonight are humorous or silly, while others are just fun, like **Working With Joy** and **Shut De Do**. One of my favourites is when the conductor gets to have some fun playing with cymbals in **Praise God With Cymbals**.

Bach and Handel are two of Classical music's heavyweights (they both clocked in at over 250lbs!), especially where sacred music is concerned. There are of course others in the heavyweight division, but we can't sing everything in one concert. We must live to laugh another day. In **Deconstructing Johann**, poor old Johann is under a deadline, has "writer's block" and cannot finish his composition in time. His wife steps in with some suggestions, and Bach's temper flares. Can we say "married couple"? As for Handel, we all love his **Messiah**, but the whole oratorio can get up to well over 3 hours in length. Many conductors do the recommended "cuts" bringing it back to about two hours, but we think that's even too long for today's audiences. In **Three Minute Messiah**, we provide a "readers digest" version, while realizing it is NOT an easy sing!!

The main work on the program is **Missa Hilarious** by P.D.Q. Bach. "resurrected" by Prof. Peter Schickele on December 18, 1975, this piece takes us to new heights (or depths, as the case may be) of sacred silliness! It is based on the five parts of the liturgical Mass.

P.D.Q. employs the use of mimicking other songs, very much in a parody style, as well as musical styles, and even other religions - nothing is sacred here! Some of the pieces Missa Hilarious references are: "k-k-k-Katy", "Banana Boat Song", "Maria" from West Side Story, the Hare Krishnas, Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" and his "Bridal Chorus" from Lohengrin, Beethoven's 5th Symphony, Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" and the Theme from the Batman TV show. Like the **Sister Act Medley**, it needs to be experienced live and not read about!

I could go on and on about the different kinds of humour mentioned in the Bible, where God laughs at those who mock Him and His people (especially in the Old Testament), or some of the witty one-liner come-backs Jesus uses to fend off the pompousness and arrogance of the Pharisees trying to trap him (some of them are priceless!), but I don't really have time here. Suffice it to say, that if we can't laugh at ourselves, then we really are sad indeed. There is much hurt and pain in the world, and while these are serious things that require serious solutions, God is also a God of New Beginnings, and Glory, and Wonder, and Joy.

With this comes laughter too. So everyone - make sure you have a little fun and laugh at least once every day. And don't forget to pray twice.



Julian Vanderput

Artistic Director **Julian Vanderput** has been involved in church music all his life and has served in many denominations. He sings with *All the King's Men* (Wpg) and toured with them in England in the summer of '04. He also sang with the world-renowned *Nathaniel Dett Chorale* on their tour of B.C. in October '04. After beginning his formal musical training at the University of Manitoba, Julian studied briefly at the BachAkademie in Stuttgart, Germany, and then completed his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Winnipeg, and Bachelor of Church Music at Concord College (now C.M.U.).

Julian is currently Music Director of John Black Memorial United Church, Artistic Director of ReSound!, and Artistic Director of Baroque Life Ensemble. Julian is also the Music Director for the North Kildonan Community Players.

ReSound!

ReSound! is a mixed-adult choral ensemble dedicated to sacred music from an ecumenical perspective, singing all styles including renaissance, classical, spiritual, gospel, jazz, folk, rock, and blues. ReSound! is interested in building bridges of understanding between peoples of different cultures and faiths through original sacred works. We take our music seriously, but we have a great time doing it.

Aware of our roots, we often perform music by Manitoba and Canadian choral composers, past, present and future and promote local musicians, singers, dancers, and other performing artists.

Artistic Director

Julian Vanderput

Stage Manager

Sheldon Chartier

Board of Directors

Barbara Hicks

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Duane Basanta

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Mark Havens

Member at Large

Anthony Niiganii

Member at Large

Tanis Kolisnyk

Assistant

Artistic Director

Sopranos

Roberta McLean

Barbara Hicks

Gerri Cooper

Kathy Tang

Jewel Reimer

Altos

Margaret Ciekiewicz

Tanis Kolisnyk

Karen Mallory

Kathleen Singh

Mélanie Gagnon

Gela Stach

Claire Fast

Tenors

Jonathon Neufeld

Anthony Niiganii

Timothy Reimer

Chris Bouvier

Josh Bouchard

Joel Simard

Basses

Larry Strachan

Aubrey Hemminger

Joseph Backstrom

Don Palmer



Photo Credit: Ian McCausland

Guest Musicians

Piano

Rob Lindey

Missa Hillarious "Orchestra"

Diverse Flute I:	Chantal Vincent
Diverse Flute II:	Megan Gagnon
French Horn I:	Ryan Wehrle
French Horn II:	Evan Wiens
Trumpet I:	Chad Wiebe
Trumpet II:	Samara Desrochers
Trombone:	Kevin Maclean
Violin I:	Heather Stewart
Violin II:	its a mystery?
Viola:	Katherine Bonness
Cello:	Jonathan Bauch
Double Bass:	Jim Limberatos
Timpani:	Scott Jenken
Percussion:	another mystery...

PJ Buchan

Bargain Countertenor **PJ Buchan** began his choral career by joining the men and boys choir at All Saint's in 1979. He has since appeared as chorister and soloist with Winnipeg's foremost choirs, *Winnipeg Singers*, *Renaissance Voices*, *Camerata Nova*, *Knox United* and *Apogee Vocal Jazz* ensemble. His choral work has taken him on many tours, most recently attending the *Taipei International Choral Festival* and *World Choral Symposium* in Kyoto in 2005.

The bulk of PJ's solo training was at the Reykjavik School of Singing from 1995-98. He has competed in the Rose Bowl and Tudor Bowl at the Winnipeg Music Festival, appeared as a soloist in London's Millennium Centre and Prague's St Vitus's Cathedral, and was guest soloist at the February 2005 *Reykjavik Winter Festival*. Lately, PJ has been involved in opera productions of Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*. In April 2007 he played a lead role in the premiere of Quesnel's *Colas et Colinette*; Canada's first opera, composed in 1795. This is PJ's first appearance with ReSound! He'd like to thank Julian for giving him a chance to relive his childhood as a boy soprano.

Bryan Lopuck

Contrary to popular belief, Basso-Blotto **Bryan Lopuck** is not always blotto. In fact, during the course of his vocal studies, he has been the recipient of various scholarships and awards, notably from the University of Manitoba Preparatory Division and the Wednesday Morning Musicale. He has also been a long-time participant in the Winnipeg Music Festival and has been a Rose Bowl finalist on several occasions.

Bryan is currently a soloist and choir member at *All Saints' Church* and sings with the ensemble *Camerata Nova*. Bryan has also performed with the *Winnipeg Singers*, the *Manitoba Opera Chorus*, the *Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre* and the *Choir of the University of Trier* in Germany.

This is Bryan's second performance with ReSound!



Next Season's Line-up!

Buy a season ticket package now for all three of next season's concerts.

The Da Vinci Project:

Musical Masterpieces of Mystery

Sunday, November 18, 2007, 7:30p.m.

Crescent Fort Rouge United

This concert will feature ReSound! exploring various acoustical areas of the church, so singers will be everywhere! The repertoire includes spirituals with a special covert significance including the famous *Children, Go Where I Send Thee* and *Mary Was The Queen of Galilee*, melding with renaissance music from Da Vinci's time, including the *Missa Maria Magdalena* by Orlando di Lasso used in the film *The Da Vinci Code*. There will be mystery prizes and mystery music. *Will you be able to figure it out?*

ReSound! Rivals:

Mozart vs. Salieri

Sunday, February 24, 2008, 7:30p.m.

Crescent Fort Rouge United

And now for something completely different...

ReSound! will feature a guest conductor for the first time, posing as Salieri in a performance of his *Mass No. 1 in D Major*. Our artistic director will pose as Mozart in a performance of his famous *Solemn Vesperae de Confessore, K.339*. *Who will win tonight's music duel?*

Sacred Showtunes III:

The Last Supper

Sunday, May 25, 2008, 7:30p.m.

Crescent Fort Rouge United

This marks the conclusion to the trilogy of ReSound!'s most popular series of sacred music from Broadway, TV and Movies. Expect to hear music from *The Passion of The Christ*; *Saving Private Ryan*; *The King of Kings*; *Exodus*; *We Were Soldiers*; *The Mission*; *Amadeus*; *Chicken Run*; *Touched By An Angel*; and *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. *Always a crowd pleaser.*

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Receipts issued for donations \$10 and over.

Make all cheques payable to ReSound!. Either mail this form with your cheque to the address below, or hand to a volunteer/choir member tonight. Season tickets and/or tax receipts will be sent by mail by end of August.

Mail or contact us at...

ReSound!

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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 1R4

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Barbara Hicks: 256-3718