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APPEARANCE AT TANGLEWOOD TO KICK OFF ASTON MAGNA'S 40TH SEASON IN THE BERKSHIRES

Aston Magna's 2012 season marks its 40th year in the Berkshires, and to celebrate we are launching the season at Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood in Lenox, MA, with a concert on Saturday June 9 at 6:00 p.m. The concert will feature a handful of the many musical highlights beheld over the years including madrigals by Monteverdi, excerpts from Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Handel's *The triumph of Time and Truth*, and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no. 1. Vocal soloists will include sopranos Kristen Watson and Roberta Anderson, mezzo soprano Deborah Rentz-Moore, alto Lynn Torgove, tenors Frank Kelley and William Hite, and baritone David Ripley. Artistic Director and violinist Daniel Stepner will lead a full baroque orchestra.

This 40th Anniversary Gala Concert will be followed by a celebratory reception for the Aston Magna Festival at Cranwell Resort in Lenox, MA. Tickets for this event may only be acquired in conjunction with concert tickets, and by calling 413-528-3595, out of area 800-875-7156

A preview of this concert will take place at the Slosberg Auditorium at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA on Friday, June 8 at 8:00 p.m.

This summer, the Aston Magna Festival is presenting a summer concert series devoted to music spanning from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Following the Anniversary Gala, the first two programs in the series will be performed at Slosberg Auditorium at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA, on Thursday evenings, June 14 and 21 with concerts beginning at 8 p.m. All four concerts may be heard on Fridays evenings, June 15, 22, 29, and July 6 at 8:00 p.m. in the air-conditioned auditorium of the Olin Humanities Building on the Main Campus of Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York; and on Saturdays June 16, 23, 30 and, July 7 at the Daniel Arts Center at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, MA, at 6 p.m. A pre-concert lecture will be featured one hour before all concerts.

The celebratory theme will continue into the regular season, which begins the following weekend, on June 14, 15, and 16, with "Music of Three Bachs and Villa Lobos". Works by Johann Sebastian, Johann Christoph, and Wilhelm Friedemann will all be performed, featuring Dominique Labelle, soprano; Mr. Stepner and Nancy Wilson, violin; David Miller, viola; Loretta O'Sullivan, violoncello; Anne Trout, bass; and Catherine Liddell, theorbo.

The concert will be performed at the Slosberg Auditorium at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA (June 14 at 8:00 p.m.); Olin Auditorium on the Main Campus of Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson (June 15

at 8:00 p.m.); and The Daniel Arts Center at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington (June 16 at 6:00 p.m.).

The second concert, entitled "Gran Partita", will take place on June 21, 22, and 23. Clarinetist Eric Hoeprich will be featured in a program devoted to Viennese classicism. Works of Mozart will begin and end the program: the Kegelstatt Trio and an arrangement of the Gran Partita. Along more eclectic lines, a clarinet quartet by the highly successful Czech composer Franz Krommer will also be performed. Oboist Stephen Hammer will also join Mr. Stepner and ensemble.

A workshop will be offered at Brandeis leading up to these two concerts: Mr. Stepner will offer sessions on Bach's works for unaccompanied violin to both modern and baroque violinists, June 11-15. Sessions will also be offered by Mr. Hammer, oboe, and Mr. Hoeprich, clarinet, on Mozart's wind instruments, June 18-22. For more information, please consult the website, www.brandeis.edu/summer/music/.

"Baroque à l'Italienne: The ubiquitous Italian spirit" is the title of the third program, exploring the Italian Baroque and its wide influence. Music by two transplanted Italians, Antonio Bertali and Domenico Scarlatti begins the concert. It continues with music by Henry Purcell and concludes with an Italian comedy by Georg Philipp Telemann. Soprano Nancy Armstrong and baritone David Ripley will be accompanied by an ensemble led by Mr. Stepner.

To close this extraordinary season, the Festival will turn its attention to two extraordinary masters in a "Violin Extravaganza". For this dazzling event, Mr. Stepner will be joined by Stanley Ritchie, a founding violinist of Aston Magna. Three concertos by Antonio Vivaldi will be followed with three by Johann Sebastian Bach. Two concertos from Vivaldi's *L'estro armonico* will be featured, including one for two violins and cello and another for four violins. The other concerto will be for one violin and two cellos. Bach's A minor solo violin concerto and the D major concerto for three violins will bracket the energetic Brandenburg no. 3 in G major.

For information or to order tickets to the concerts at the Olin Auditorium on the Main Campus of Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, NY, please phone 845-758-7425. Tickets to concerts at The Olin Auditorium at Bard College are not available on-line.

Subscriptions to the Festival are available at multiple levels. All three concerts at the Slosberg are available for \$60, any two concerts are available for \$45. Individual tickets are \$25, \$15 for seniors. Subscriptions to The Daniel Arts Center concerts only (excluding the Gala Reception) begin at \$65 for two concerts, \$97.50 for three concerts and \$130 for four concerts. The Ozawa Hall concert may also be included in a subscription for an additional \$15: \$80 for two concerts, \$112.50 for three concerts, and \$145 for four concerts. All five concerts in The Daniel Arts Center and Ozawa Hall may be had for \$165. Individual tickets for Ozawa Hall are \$50, and \$35 for concerts at the Daniel Arts Center at Bard College at Simon's Rock, with senior tickets available for \$25, and \$10 student tickets available at the door.

Tickets to concerts at the Daniel Arts Center at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, MA may be ordered by calling 413-528-3595, out of area 800-875-7156; sending a check or money order with a self-addressed, stamped return envelope to Aston Magna, P.O. Box 28, Great Barrington, MA 01230 or online at www.astonmagna.org. For further information, call 413-528-3595, out of area phone 800-875-7156; go to www.astonmagna.org or visit us on Facebook.

This season, Aston Magna continues its program to bring more young people to its concerts. Up to two children, ages 6 to 16, may attend the Great Barrington concerts free with each paid adult ticket.

The Aston Magna Festival is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Music from Aston Magna concerts at Bard are made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts.

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