



Edited by: B. Sculac Stern

November 2014

*Come join us for our upcoming concert:*

## **Sing With the Spirit**

Bach, Gabrieli, Harp and Brass

Friday, December 12, 2014 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 4 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street (at Lexington Avenue) [Map](#)

**[Learn More](#) or [Purchase your tickets now!](#)**

### **Concert Notes from our Music Director**

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### **Concert Notes from our Music Director**

*By: Clara Longstreth*

As I think about how to characterize the music in the upcoming December concerts by NAS, five words beginning with C come to mind: contrast, color, counterpoint, carols, and challenge. Let me explain.

This program has contrast on many levels starting with the heraldic sound of a brass quintet vs. the delicacy of a harp. Then the NAS women sing three interesting works, all new to our repertoire, that are totally different, one from another. First a simple, but passionate Baroque duet on an anticipatory Advent text, then a sprightly arrangement of a medieval tune with triangle, and next an Irish lullaby with a beguiling, memorable melody.



The best example of "color" may be the lush, impressionistic harmony of Poulenc in his four prayers for men's chorus. And of course, an all male chorus has a special sound of its own.

Counterpoint is what Bach's great motet, Singet dem Herrn, is all about. But don't let an image of a dry or scholarly work mislead you. Bach does have intellectual rigor, but he also has dancing feet. When he writes a fugue subject, it is an infectious, rhythmic, lilting line.

Carols are beloved by all audiences, and in Kirke Mechem's set of seven he balances the known and the unknown with ease. This classic Christmas work has sophisticated charm.

Challenge arises for any chorus singing eight part counterpoint with miles of sixteenth note runs and no place to breathe. Bach makes a joke at the conclusion of Singet dem Herrn; on the text "Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord" he writes a ferociously fast fugue in which each voice part has long lines and nowhere to breathe!

The audience will not find our program a challenge, but joyful music to satisfy the heart and soul. Come!



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## **Profile of: David Recca, Assistant Conductor**

*By: Jaime Leifer*

### **David, welcome to NAS! How did you find us, and what made you want to work with us?**

First of all, thanks for your words of welcome. It's great to be a part of NAS. Everyone has been incredibly welcoming and encouraging from the very first day, which is just one of the many reasons I look forward to Tuesday evenings. I first heard about the choir through the director of the conducting program at Yale, Marguerite Brooks. I am, as I have learned, the latest of a long line of Yalies to hold this position, the most recent being Max Blum. A big draw for me to the group was its diverse choice of repertoire. Never relying on only the same old "choral standards," NAS has a long-held reputation for performing a wide range of works, particularly new and under-performed compositions. NAS's founder and director, Clara Longstreth was also first described to me as "highly skilled, knowledgeable, and an all-around good person." It's hard to sum somebody up in only a few words, but I think that just about covers it.

### **Where are you from originally, and what brought you to New York?**

I'm originally from the great state of New Jersey a few miles west of Manhattan. Growing up, there was only one place in the world that could rightfully be called "the city," and seeing the Empire State Building off in the distance every day instilled in me a real love for all things New York. I'm happy to have finally taken the leap across the river. If you ever catch me outside the church smiling before rehearsal, now you'll know why.

### **NAS sings a wide variety of music, as you know. What are you most looking forward to working on with us?**

I'm crazy about Bach. There's just nothing better. All those intricate and nuanced Baroque lines, gestures, counterpoint, harmony...I couldn't have picked a better first experience with NAS than Singet dem Herrn. I sometimes try and imagine what it must have been like to walk into church one morning and hear a newly composed motet by Johann Sebastian himself. Gives me the chills. There are also a whole slew of hidden gems in store for us this year, some works by composers I've never heard of. I'm always up for a challenge and something new, and it looks like I will certainly get my wish soon enough.

### **You're clearly a skilled conductor, but do you have any other hidden talents that the choir might not yet know about?**

Well, I'm actually really good at impersonations, foreign accents and various animal noises included. Catch me in the right mood and I might be willing to give a demo. I've also been on this kick to learn to read Latin. All the different declensions and endings...each sentence is like an exciting (and sometimes frustrating) puzzle. I hope one day to be able to read Virgil or Ovid, but ask me in a year or two how that's going.

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## **Meet our new members!**

*By: Pam Haft*

### **Meet David Ortiz**

David just joined the Chorus in September. His sister, Berenice, has been a member for a few years. David is a classical guitarist, although he plays many other instruments as well. He graduated from Westminster Choir College and the College of

New Jersey. David lived in San Antonio for three years where he worked as a bartender. He plays sax and trombone, and played in a jazz band and orchestra in High School as well as in a rock band.

David freelances and plays for special events like weddings and private gatherings. He lives in South Brunswick, NJ and travels an hour to get to rehearsals. He loves to sing and is happy to be a member of NAS.

### **Meet Otto Guelich**

Otto just recently moved to New York (in April) from Germany where he lived in Cologne. His wife is a banker and was asked to transfer to the US by her bank. Otto played clarinet when he was 16, 17 and 18. He has been singing since 1998 in mixed choruses. Otto is a consultant and professional coach in business and sustainable development. He writes reports on city planning and impact studies. He also writes impact studies on managing natural resources. Otto learned about NAS on the internet.

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## **Tour in Greece: Sail away with NAS!**

*By: Nina Reiniger*

In July 2015, NAS will be revisiting its very first tour destination: Greece! It's been 30 years since this legendary tour, stories from which have been passed down through the years (skinny dipping anyone?) At least 5 of the original Greece tour group will be joining us next summer, including Steve Widerman & Linda Bookheim, whose relationship started on that very tour and led to marriage and 3 kids! For more stories, some of which might be unfit to print, you might need to talk directly to Dennis or Andre!

My first tour with NAS was the 2013 tour to South Africa. Not only was the destination incredibly interesting due to its tumultuous history, but the other participants on the tour lent their own expertise and educated discourse to the experience, one that I can only describe as rich and surpassing all expectations. Greece has such rich history and is home to many relics of ancient civilizations. This, coupled with the picturesque scenery, promises to make a very memorable tour. No marriages are promised but, hey, you never know!

Our intrepid travelers depart New York on July 2nd, arriving in Athens the following morning. We will be met by several current and former singers who will be joining us from such far flung locations as Hawaii, France and Germany. A day tour to Delphi awaits us the next day, including a visit to the Delphic oracle, possibly an exchange program with a local choir and our first concert of the trip! Our second concert, the next day, follows closely on the heels of the first. That day we will tour Athens, including a visit to the Acropolis.

On Monday, July 6th, we will embark on a four day cruise (an NAS first!) of the Greek islands, including Mykonos, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini and even a stop in Ephesus, Turkey! We return to Athens on Friday, July 10th for our final concert of the trip and a farewell dinner. Many people will travel home the following day while several have opted to stay for an extra day in Athens to see the city on their own.

Sail away with NAS and experience Greece for yourself! Spots are still available to join the Greece 2015 tour, so if you are interested, please contact Nina Reiniger at [nreiniger@gmail.com](mailto:nreiniger@gmail.com). Significant others and other eager travelers and choral enthusiasts welcome!

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### **Upcoming Revue - NAS Fundraiser**

In February, NAS Cabaret singers will once again sing to raise money at "*Don't Tell Mama*"

Details to come; do not miss out on this wonderful opportunity to hear NAS in a different way!

View our website for information, past articles, tickets, and more: <http://www.nasingers.org/>



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