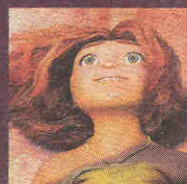


AWE ACCESS

YOUR PASS TO THE WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT



A POLYGLOT WEEKEND

Multi-lingual concert options abound Saturday & Sunday in Annadale & Stapleton

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The pre-Easter calendar always proffers multiple concert options, but two presentations this weekend on the Island represent rare opportunities. There's a rescheduled Hurricane Sandy benefit Saturday night in Annadale, and on Sunday afternoon, Wagner College's student ensembles will perform at Stapleton's Trinity Lutheran Church.

What's special about these programs? They are far more polyglot than usual.

TO S.I. WITH LOVE

The Saturday benefit, dubbed "To Staten Island With Love," combines genres that rarely coincide on the same playlist: Pop/Motown and semi-classical sections, doo-wop, theater music and Brazilian music. It represents the taste and skill set of a highly diverse 20-member assortment of musicians.

Similarly, the Wagner concert Sunday afternoon combines Austro-German repertoire with several varieties of American music (religious, pop, theatrical) before detouring to Zimbabwe and Youtube. It's a program that the participating ensembles presented on a recent tour of Germany, where it honored their hosts even as it introduced elements of their own heritage.

Originally scheduled early last month, the concert was postponed by snow. Organized by Island pianist Barbara Lee, it includes 10 singers from her parish, Messiah Lutheran Church, with vocalists Dorian Lake and Jeannine Otis, clarinetist Mark Vinci, a Juilliard faculty member; flutist Jan Vinci, a member of the Skidmore music faculty; Dani Fey, and guitarist Ben Sher (whose specialty is Brazilian music), bassist Gene Torres and drummer Jerrold



Jeannine Otis



Stretto, a chamber vocal ensemble, performs Sunday.

COURTESY THE ARTIST

Kavanagh.

Simply devising the program was great fun.

"We have had a blast coming up with things we can do all together," Lee said. Or separately, as audiences will see on Saturday.

The program includes modern classical music (Muczynski's Flute Sonata), a little Leonard Bernstein ("Cool" and "Something's Coming" from "West Side Story") some tango (Astor Piazzolla, "Oblivion") and Stevie

Wonder ("Golden Lady" from "Inner Visions"), Galt MacDermot's ("Easy to be Hard" from "Hair"), Bruce Springsteen ("My Ruined City") and a little doo-wop (Vito Picone's "Little Star").

The concert is being underwritten, in part, by a grant awarded to Lee by the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island (COAHSI).

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a carnival party. The music will begin at 7 and conclude with a cakewalk, as well as a graceful ambulatory dance from the pre-Civil War South — audience participation encouraged — followed by a cake-and-coffee reception.

Childcare will be available during the performance at Messiah Lutheran

Church, 205 Jefferson Blvd., Annadale. Donations will be converted into gift cards for distribution to Islanders in need following the hurricane.

WAGNER GETS VOCAL

Fresh from a tour of Heidelberg and Worms, Stuttgart, Schorndorff, Bregenz and Salzburg, the Wagner College Choir will sing Mozart, Brahms and Heinrich Schutz, Barber Ives and Pablo Casals, alongside folk hymns and spirituals ("Soar Away," the "Sacred Harp) Norman Dinnerstein and Leonard Bernstein ("Make Our Garden Grow" from "Candide."

An African/African-American segment will feature the Zimbabwean hymn "Uyai mose", and the spirituals, "Deep River" and "Ride on King Jesus."

At one point, singers will perform "Thunderstorm," a piece they learned from a Perpetuum Jazzile Youtube clip. Music faculty member Barbara Wesby is represented on the program with her setting of Psalm 100, "Make a Joyful Noise."

The choir and Stretto, a chamber vocal ensemble, will sing. Among the soloists are sopranos Kaitlyn Pinkos, Cassandra White and Elise Rockwell and tenor James Sheehan.

The admission-free concert takes place at 4 p.m. in Trinity Lutheran Church at St. Paul's and Cebra Avenue in Stapleton.