



LATEST NEWS FROM SDG • JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2016

## BACH is BACK!

On **Friday, March 11, 2016**, the Chicago Bach Project returns for its sixth presentation, with Bach's momentous **Mass in B Minor**. This work was Bach's final achievement, transcending the historical period and religious functions to become what many consider to be the greatest composition in Western classical music. Reviews of past Chicago Bach Project performances have been stunning:

*"Belongs among the concerts that will endure in memory."  
— Chicago on the Aisle*

If you haven't attended before, this is your chance to hear what everyone is talking about! This year's cast presents a fresh new roster of soloists, led by Grammy Award-winning conductor John Nelson.



*"Among the highlights of the classical music season."  
—Chicago Tribune*

*"At once thrilling, haunting, and deeply moving."  
—Chicago Sun Times*

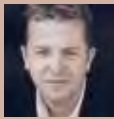
*"Sensitively sung and brilliantly played."  
—Chicago Classical Review*



**Kathryn Lewek**  
soprano



**Margaret Lattimore**  
mezzo-soprano



**Daniel Okulitch**  
bass-baritone



**John McVeigh**  
tenor

**TICKETS:** \$25-\$55

**Purchase online:** [HarrisTheaterChicago.org](http://HarrisTheaterChicago.org)

**Purchase by phone:** 312-334-7777

**Purchase at the Harris Box Office:**

Harris Theater for Music and Dance  
205 E. Randolph Dr., Chicago, IL 60601

INVITE YOUR CHOIR, SCHOOL, CHURCH, CLUB.  
10% discount for groups of 10 or more.  
For additional student and senior group discounts,  
call 630-984-4300.  
Students, Military, \$12.50 with valid I.D. at Box Office.

## Mass in B Minor

**Friday, March 11, 2016**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Harris Theater**

**John Nelson, conductor**

**Chicago Bach Choir & Orchestra**

**Donald Nally, chorus master**

[chicagobachproject.org](http://chicagobachproject.org)



# The inside scoop

In the weeks leading up to the Chicago Bach Project March 11 performance of the *Mass in B Minor*, SDG is offering two special pre-concert events.



**Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

**5:30-6:45 p.m.**

***"The Mass as a Musical Form:  
History and Debate"***  
**Panel Discussion**

Interesting questions lie behind Bach's *Mass in B Minor*. For starters, why would this most celebrated Lutheran composer set the Mass in Latin, instead

of the German vernacular of the Protestant Church of his day? Why did Bach never hear this work performed during his lifetime? How did the showpiece masses of the 16th century become resurrected in the 18th century, from devotional works to concert works? A panel of religion and music scholars will explore these issues as a prelude to a deeper understanding of this Bach masterpiece.



**Monday, March 7, 2016**

**5:30-6:45 p.m.**

***"A Bach Briefing"***  
**Conductor John Nelson**

Maestro Nelson will offer an inside look at how he approaches Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and provide the background story about how this compilation of pieces came to be the monumental

concert work performed today. Demonstrating excerpts from the piano, Nelson will also explore the underlying symbolism, as well as Bach's fascination with numbers, which he hid within the notes and musical structure of the piece.

**We hope you can join us for both events at:** **PianoForte Studios**  
**1335 S. Michigan Avenue**  
**Chicago, IL 60605**



These events are free and open to the public, but seating is limited. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Use the enclosed form to reserve seats, send us email (sdg@sdgmusic.org), or give us a call at 630-984-4300.

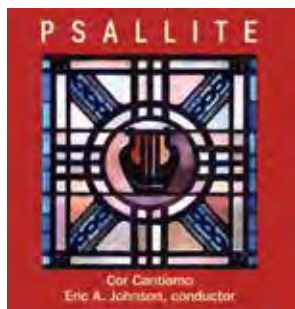
**If you can't attend in person, both events will be streamed live on YouTube!**

For the panel discussion, go to <https://youtu.be/EhHIL11HVVM>

For the Nelson briefing, go to <https://youtu.be/91KQavgq21Y>

Or simply go to YouTube and enter PIANOFORTE STUDIOS in the search box.

# Psallite CD launch event and pre-release sale



After months of production and anticipation, we're delighted to announce that our first Psalms Project CD, *Psallite*, is ready, and we're ready to celebrate.

You are invited to join us for a launch event in April !

## PSALLITE LAUNCH EVENT

**Saturday, April 9, 2016, 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

**7300 Division Street, River Forest, IL 60305**

The recording ensemble, Cor Cantiamo, will make a special appearance to preview selected tracks from the new *Psallite* CD. The choir's founder and conductor, Eric A. Johnson, will share his insights about the shared themes among the pieces, as well as his experiences working with the recording engineers from Abbey Road Studios. .

Stretching from the 16th century to the current decade, *Psallite* offers an hour-long feast of inspirational singing. Primarily a cappella, the works are based on Psalm texts or follow the tradition of the Psalms, and the selections include Renaissance motets, traditional spirituals, and five works commissioned for SDG's Psalms Project.

\* *Psalm 96*, Peter Bannister

\* *Psalm 141*, Gavin Bryars

\* *Psalm 67*, Eriks Ešņvalds

\* *Bless the Lord, o my soul*,

Galina Grigorjeva

\* *Preserve Me, O God*, Daniel Kellogg



Cor Cantiamo, conducted by Eric A. Johnson

**To hear CD excerpts, visit [sdgmusic.org/PSALLITE](http://sdgmusic.org/PSALLITE)**

## PRE-RELEASE DISCOUNT - ONLY \$13.50!

We know that you will want to add the *Psallite* CD to your music library and grab a few extras for gifts. Take advantage of our **pre-release discount of 10%** on all orders received before April 9 or purchased at the April 9 launch event. **List price \$15; pre-release price, \$13.50.** Reserve your copies today, using the enclosed order form or by ordering online.

**TO ORDER ONLINE:**  
[sdgmusic.org/PSALLITECD](http://sdgmusic.org/PSALLITECD)

**Use promo code**  
**PSALLITE10**

## PSALLITE II UNDERWAY

We've already begun production of the second *Psallite* CD, which will include the remaining 10 SDG Psalms Project commissions. We could use your help to cover the recording costs. Please consider a special gift to make *Psallite II* possible.

*The Psallite cover image is from the Magnificat window at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City, created by Hildreth Meière (1892-1961). Photo © by Hildreth Meière Dunn.*

# A warm, enthusiastic Gala on a cold, snowy night

The second Annual SDG Fall Gala, to benefit The Anita Nelson Fund, was held on November 21, 2015, at The Cliff Dwellers in Chicago. Despite the day bringing Chicago the snowiest November storm in over 100 years, most registrants were able to attend, and the evening was a lively and convivial gathering of old and new friends.



The city lights outside The Cliff Dwellers windows high above Michigan Avenue were gorgeous, and the inside view was enhanced by an around-the-room

display of all fifteen of SDG's Psalms Project scores. Gala attendees enjoyed reading about each piece and composer, and we noticed many flipping through the scores.



Spirited conversations peppered the room, and dinner was excellent. The sixteenth/seventeenth century English and Scottish lute songs performed by soprano Kayleen Sánchez and lutenist Laudon Schuett added a graceful elegance to the evening.

Gala co-chairs David and Ann Ward pulled out all the stops to make the evening special, with extra touches of chocolates, SDG sampler CDs, and warm welcomes. All in all, the Gala was a delight, and SDG is grateful to all who supported this event benefiting The Anita Nelson Fund, with both donations and attendance.



## PSALLITE CD - Register for launch event, purchase CDs, support

- Please reserve seats for \_\_\_\_\_ people at the *Psallite* launch event on April 9, 2016.
- Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ *Psallite* CDS at the pre-release discount of \$13.50 each \* \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Illinois residents add 8.25% sales tax: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. shipping & handling, \$5 for first item, \$3 each add'l \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to support the recording of the forthcoming *Psallite II* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\* If you're going to attend the Psallite Launch Event, there is no need to pre-order. We'll have plenty of CDs at the event, at the \$13.50 discounted price. Pre-orders will be shipped the week of April 11th.*

## PRE-CONCERT EVENTS - Reserve now. Seating is limited.

- Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats for the following people for the **MARCH 1 Panel Discussion:**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats for the following people for the **MARCH 7 Nelson Bach Briefing:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

## DONATE - Keep the music flowing!

- I would like to support the work of SDG in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_General Fund \_\_Chicago Bach Fund \_\_Anita Nelson Fund \_\_Commission Fund
- My gift is in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name(s) as you wish to be acknowledged: \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like this donation to remain anonymous

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- CHECK** Please make your check payable to SDG Music Foundation
- CREDIT CARD** Please indicate:  VISA  MasterCard  Amex  Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: SDG Music Foundation, 800 Roosevelt Rd, A100 Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

**If you prefer, you may register, purchase, or donate**

**BY PHONE: call 630-984-4300**

**BY EMAIL: send email to [sdg@SDGmusic.org](mailto:sdg@SDGmusic.org)**

**ONLINE: visit [SDGmusic.org](http://SDGmusic.org)**

*THANK YOU! All donations are tax deductible as provided by law. SDG Music Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization as recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Your receipt will be mailed to the postal address you provide.*

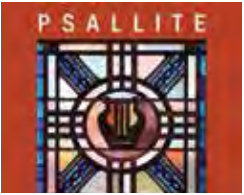
## Newsletter highlights



Ticket and discount information for March 11, 2016, *Mass in B Minor*, Harris Theater, Chicago



Pre-concert event registration for March 1 and March 7  
PianoForte Studio presentations



Announcement of April 9, 2016, launch event and pre-release sale of *Psallite* CD



Photos from SDG Fall Gala for The Anita Nelson Fund

"To strip human nature until its divine attributes are made clear, to inform ordinary activities with spiritual fervor, to give wings of eternity to that which is most ephemeral; to make divine things human and human things divine; such is Bach, the greatest and purest moment in music of all time."  
—Pablo Casals



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