



Dear friends of Nota Bene Players & Singers,

Here we are in the early autumn. The summer, which turned out not to be quite as ordinary as we had hoped, is behind us, schools are open (permanently, we hope), and concert life is slowly reawakening after an unwanted 2 year slumber. I hope this finds all of you well, fully vaccinated and anticipating a gradual return to some kind of "normal" in these all but unprecedented times.



I'm happy to report that NBPS is alive and well. We are thrilled to announce our first performance of the 21/22 season, which also happens to inaugurate our 20th season. It will take place on October 24th at First United Church and will feature 4 regular members of our NBPS ensemble: Anthea Conway-White (flute), Rona Goldensher (violin), Heather Carruthers (bassoon), and Borys Medicky (harpsichord). They're calling their fascinating programme "Kaleidoscope" because of the myriad colour combinations made possible by those 4 instruments. Stylistically too, the concert will cut a broad swath: there's some early-to-mid Baroque repertoire (Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow and Johann Michael Nikolai), the High Baroque is well represented by Antonio Vivaldi, Georg Phillip Telemann, and, of course, Johann Sebastian Bach, plus there's one somewhat later composer (Giuseppe Maria Cambini) who was a contemporary of Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven, so he fits neatly into the Classical period. The players are very, very excited to be playing again following the forced silencing of their musical voices for almost 2 years.

The performing arts world is a different place from what it was less than 2 years ago. Online presentation has become a *de rigueur* reality for many ensembles and NBPS is no exception. Our October 24th concert will be available online, so you can enjoy this extraordinary presentation from the safety and comfort of your own home. On the other hand, you may choose to venture out and experience the concert live at First United Church. We will be observing all the protocols which you have come to expect, so your personal safety will be assured. We will have more specific information closer to the date. Be sure to mark October 24 in your calendars.

And while you're taking note of that date, why not also flag December 5; that's when we'll be presenting "Contemplation and Celebration - Music for Advent and Christmas". I'm already salivating at the thought of working this repertoire with our players and singers. Just 2 works from the High Baroque make up this concert: Bach's Advent Cantata 36 "Schwingt freudig euch empor", and Vivaldi's exuberant "Gloria". December 5 is the 2nd Sunday of Advent, so here is a programme which will surely set you up for a splendid Yuletide season. Much more about that concert will follow in a later Newsletter.

And finally, looking 1 year ahead to the next season, you may be interested to know that 2022 is the 350th anniversary of the death of the great German early Baroque composer Heinrich Schütz. I'm part of a group planning SchützFest 350, a festival featuring a number of works by this towering musical genius. The live weekend events in November of next year will be complemented by online concerts featuring early music ensembles from across Canada. NBPS will also be playing a major role in this significant festival. Indeed, our concert will be presented in Waterloo as well as in Toronto. I'll have lots more to share with you about Schütz and his time throughout the coming year.

We are deeply grateful to all of you for your continuing support of and interest in Nota Bene Players & Singers. It's been a difficult time for you and for all of us, but I think we're coming through it, energized and eager to resume making music. I do hope you will join us in whatever way you can.

In the meantime, be well and stay safe!

Warm regards,

Howard Dyck, C.M., LL.D.
Artistic Director, Nota Bene Players & Singers

Greetings from Marc Paré, NBPS Chair

20th Anniversary Season 2021-2022



Organizational news.

Our ongoing efforts resulting to our return to the concert stage are leading to fruition. I would like to thank the enormous help we have had from artistic director Howard Dyck as well as our board of directors who have worked countless hours at preparing for the inevitable change in our concert formats. Such as it is, the move to the dissemination of our music to electronic stream options has been a learning process for all, but, equally gratifying to know that in-person performances will still occur where possible. No amount of electronic performances can replace that of performing to a live audience.

Thanks also go out to our musicians who have waited patiently for this return. Time to dust off the instruments and to get back to musik-making. I am certainly looking forward to hearing them all again in concert.

Additionally, the NBPS would like to thank and recognize **Studio Locale (Studio Locale)** who helped in the design of our new logo which you will have no-doubt noticed at the topmost part of our newsletter. The design process was painless and the result iconifying. Expect growing use and implementation of our new logo into our upcoming website's new theme. Our gratitude go out to the Studio Locale team.

Finally, as we are approaching the date of our first event in October, for those of you who may find online streaming challenging, the NBPS will offer its help in trouble-shooting technological issues where possible, contact Marc Paré for this particular help¹. At the moment we are still working on the final details of this upcoming streamed event and will inform you of both in-person capacity (as per provincial guidelines) and of the streamed process.

A reminder that you may find local Waterloo-Wellington classical music news articles and events calendar/ads in **The Music Times bi-monthly journal. You may find hard copies in various locations throughout both regions, and, online at www.TheMusicTimes.info. Help spread the word regarding this worthy resource.*

Feel free to email should you have any questions re: the organization or any of this newsletter content.

Be Safe and Kind Regards,

Marc Paré
NBPS Chair
Email: marc.pare@notabeneplayersandsingers.ca
Website: www.NotaBenePlayersAndSingers.ca
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NotaBenePlayersAndSingers>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NBPlyrsAndSngrs>

1. Note that offer to help for those audience members within the region of Waterloo. Those outside of the Region of Waterloo may contact Marc Paré where attempts to facilitate may or not be provided on a per case basis at Marc Paré's discretion.

NBPS would like to gratefully acknowledge the following for their continued support

Jackman Foundation



Pollock Family Fund



The NBPS gratefully acknowledges the kind support of the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund



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www.NotaBenePlayersAndSingers.ca
nbps.office@notabeneplayersandsingers.ca

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