



The Cathedral  
Church of **Saint John**  
**the Divine**

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**RELEASE**

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**MUSICA SACRA PRESENTS *SCHÜTZ, BACH, BRAHMS, AND BRUCKNER*  
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

*Performance Opens The 2017-2018 Season of Great Music In A Great Space Concert Series*  
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**New York (October XX, 2017)** – Musica Sacra, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City, inaugurates the 2017–2018 season of *Great Music in a Great Space* at St. John the Divine with a performance of works by Schütz, Bach, Brahms, and Bruckner on **Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan.** Prior to the performance, the Concert Chorus of the Newark Boys Chorus School will present a pre-concert recital at 7 p.m.

J.S. Bach's motets are signature works of Musica Sacra; this concert features two of his most exuberant works, *Fürchte dich nicht*, BWV 228, and *Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf*, BWV 226. These works are quintessential Baroque motets, and joyful dances permeate the rich choral textures. Heinrich Schütz, one of Bach's predecessors, composed marvelous psalms for double choir, and these show the influence of the Dresden court on the works of Bach. Brahms' motet *Ich aber bin elend* is written in the Venetian Baroque style, echoing Schütz's own Venetian influences. Rounding out the program are two sumptuous motets by Anton Bruckner – musical jewels of the Romantic era.

The 2017-2018 season of *Great Music in a Great Space* continues with a broad spectrum of choral and instrumental music in the Cathedral's grand and inspiring Gothic interior. Adding to a full season of choral, organ, and holiday performances, Musica Sacra will return to the Cathedral in the spring with a concert contrasting Franco-Flemish ancient works with those of contemporary American composers.

Tickets are \$25, \$45, and \$75. For more information, please visit this website.



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**PROGRAM**

Johann Sebastian Bach  
*Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf*, BWV 226  
*Fürchte dich nicht*, BWV 228

Heinrich Schütz  
Two selections from *Psalmen Davids*, Op. 2  
*Die mit Tränen säen*, SWV 42  
*Jauchzet dem Herren*, SWV 36  
*Selig sind die Toten*, Op.11, No. 23

Johannes Brahms  
*Fest und Gedenksprüche*, Op.109  
*Ich aber bin elend*, Op.110, No.1

Anton Bruckner  
*Ave Maria*  
*Virga Jesse*

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**About Great Music in a Great Space**

Revived in 2011 under the leadership of Kent Tritle, *Great Music in a Great Space* reprises the legendary concert series first held at the Cathedral in the 1980s. Highlights of the 2016–2017 season included choral/orchestral concerts, organ recitals and the Cathedral’s signature holiday concerts. Most recently, the acclaimed Cathedral Choir and Choristers were joined by the Manhattan School of Music Symphony and Symphonic Chorus and the Oratorio Society of New York for an epic performance of the War Requiem, Benjamin Britten’s musical invocation of the perils of war.

**About Musica Sacra**

Since its founding in 1964 by conductor Richard Westenburg, the mission of Musica Sacra has been to create definitive, professional, choral performances of the highest caliber for the widest possible audience. It supports its mission by presenting concerts, recording, commissioning and performing new choral works, and educating audiences, students, and the general public in the appreciation and history of choral music.

**About The Cathedral**

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and



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leadership. People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Adults and Children in Trust, the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.