

Music in the Somerset Hills

PRESENTS

Bel Canto

AT THE MANSION AT NATIRAR

FEATURING

Fire and Grace

VIRTUOSO VIOLINIST EDWIN HUIZINGA
AND CELTIC GUITARIST WILLIAM COULTER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Music, Artistry, Community



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Music in the Somerset Hills

2018 - 2019 Concert Series

The *Bel Canto* gala, our annual fundraiser, featuring Fire and Grace *The Mansion at Natirar, September 23, 2018*

Virtuoso violin meets Celtic guitar—Edwin Huizinga and William Coulter present an astonishing exploration of the fire and grace which connect the elements of classical, folk and contemporary music.



An all-Bernstein program featuring the Somerset Hills Chorus, November 4, 2018

A joyful celebration of the 100th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's birth.



Michael Fabiano, January 4, 2019

The Metropolitan Opera's leading tenor in recital.



The King's Singers with the Somerset Hills Chorus, February 23, 2019

Fifty years after its foundation in Cambridge, England, the King's Singers is still one of the best known all-male a cappella groups in the world.



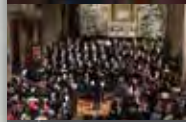
Diderot String Quartet, March 24, 2019

Four young American musicians from Oberlin and the Juilliard School who teamed up five years ago and have quickly made themselves an international reputation.



Downtown Voices, April 27, 2019

One of New York's newest and most exciting choral ensembles, fast gaining a major reputation.



Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, June 22, 2019

75 years ago, while staying at the Claremont Estate on the Bernardsville Mountain, Copland composed the orchestral version of this great American classic.



In Addition:

Outreach Concerts featuring Harpist, Merynda Adams

Early Childhood Music Classes, for ages 0-9 from September to June each year

College Scholarship Application, Applications due in April 2019

Summer Voices Camps, for grades 2-12 from July 29 - August 1, 2019

Adult Guitar Workshops, Tuesdays through July and August 2019

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or call 973.339.7719 for updates and tickets**

PROGRAM

Fire and Grace

Edwin Huizinga & William Coulter

Prelude from Cello Suite #1

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The Liquid Gold Suite

Allemande - from Partita #2

Bach

Marga's Moment

Brian Finnegan (b. 1969)

Courante

Bach

The Honeybee Jig

Traditional Irish

Sarabande

Bach

The Quarter Inch Wick

Kathleen Keane

Gigue

Bach

McLeod's Farewell

Traditional Irish

Intermission

Music from Riverdance

Bill Whelan (b. 1950)

Riverdance

Jig

excerpt from Corona

Chronos

Reel Around the Sun

Three Traditional Bulgarian Tunes

Traditional Bulgarian

Kopanitsa - Dance

Polognala e Todora - Love Song

Kopanitsa - Dance

L'inverno (Winter) from the Four Seasons

Antonio Vivaldi
(1678-1741)

Allegro Non Molto

Largo

Allegro

PROGRAM NOTES



Prelude from Cello Suite #1

As a classically trained guitarist I have loved and played the Bach Cello Suites for years. I always knew the Prelude from the first suite would make a great groovy, strummy, folk tune. The opening I-IV-V chord progression is so compelling and the driving rhythms of the arpeggios irresistible. After hearing a great version by The Piano Guys I was inspired to make my own arrangement. Here we have the Fire & Grace version of the prelude in the key of D.

Liquid Gold Suite

The evolution of this suite happened very organically. Edwin presented me with the idea of making a guitar arrangement of the piano accompaniment that Schumann composed for Bach's Partita #2 for solo violin. After looking at the score I said no thanks but Edwin persisted so I agreed to give it a go. We were on tour with A Celtic Christmas, had a day off, and started playing the jig. We realized that this Baroque dance shared an energy and groove with the Irish jigs that we were playing in the show. When we got to the last note of the jig we immediately segued into an Irish tune called Marga's Moment. This pairing of Baroque dance music with Irish tunes old and new evolved into this suite.

Music from Riverdance

It's certain that when Irish composer Bill Whelan composed music for the original production of Riverdance he had no idea how far and wide his music and the show would travel. Seeing the show certainly had a strong influence on my interest in Irish music, and for a long time now I have wanted to arrange and perform some of the tunes. Twenty years after the show opened I found a willing collaborator who brings an unbridled and fearless enthusiasm to this music.

Three Bulgarian Tunes

I first heard traditional Bulgarian dance music and singing in the early 1990's, from a local band in Santa Cruz called Medna Usta, and then from a recording called *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*, *The Mystery of the Bulgarian Voice*. I instantly fell in love with the odd rhythms and polyphonic singing. This medley of tunes starts and finishes with an 11/8 dance called a kopanitsa. Thanks to Shelley Phillips for the first kopanitsa and to the internet for the second. I googled kopanitsa pdf and it was the first tune that popped up. The middle movement is our instrumental arrangement of my favorite song from *Le My Mystère* called Polgnala e Todora.

Fire and Grace

Fire & Grace is a unique collaboration between guitarist William Coulter and violinist Edwin Huizinga. This duo explores the connective musical elements of classical, folk and contemporary traditions from around the world. Fire & Grace's repertoire is vast, ranging from Bach to Vivaldi, tango to Celtic tunes, traditional Bulgarian to American fiddle tunes and waltzes, all played with a sense of discovery and commitment to the elements of passion and virtuosity—fire and grace—found in these diverse traditions.

Recent and upcoming performances have included engagements at Carmel Bach Festival (CA), St. Bonaventure University's Quick Center for the Arts (NY), Music in the Somerset Hills (NJ), Five Boroughs Music Festival (NY), Mozaic Festival (CA), University of British Columbia (BC), Riverside Fine Arts (NJ), Santa Cruz Baroque Festival, Caledon Chamber Concerts (ON), Electric Earth Concerts (NH), Monterey Museum of Art, and touring with Tomaseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas. In Spring 2017, Fire & Grace toured to New Zealand with appearances at the UPSURGE Festival, the Festival of Colour, and the New Zealand School of Music. Fall 2017 brought appearances in Ireland alongside County Kerry singer Éilís Kennedy, including the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre and a variety of pubs and traditional settings. Fire & Grace's self-titled debut album combines melodies from Argentina, Bulgaria, and Western Europe with dance elements from baroque and folk musical traditions. Forthcoming projects include an album with mandolin virtuoso Ashley Broder.

Fire & Grace will be releasing *Fire & Grace* in Ireland in the Fall of 2018. This film captures live performances of *The Liquid Gold Suite*, filmed in eight different venues in Ireland, ranging from chapels to pubs to cathedrals to the glorious seaside vistas of Sleah Head, all filmed live in County Kerry.

Performing both baroque and modern repertoire, Canadian violinist **Edwin Huizinga** has appeared alongside Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Renée Fleming, Mike Marshall, and Stevie Wonder, and has been

featured as a soloist with the San Bernardino Symphony, the Sweetwater Music Festival, the Trinity Alps Chamber Music Festival, and the Banff Summer Arts Festival. Edwin is a founding member of the baroque ensemble ACRONYM which has released six full-length albums of previously unknown and unrecorded baroque music. Edwin also performs worldwide with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra. As a modern violinist, Edwin has performed in the US and Germany with The Knights NYC, and occasionally works with A Far Cry. Edwin is also a member of the Juno-nominated indie rock band The Wooden Sky, and was commissioned to write a piece for Canada's 150th anniversary. He is a founding member of the Classical Revolution—an organization dedicated to shaping the future of concerts and jam sessions in alternative locations around the world—and serves as Artistic Director of the Big Sur Music Camp.

Guitarist **William Coulter** has been performing and recording traditional guitar music for over twenty years. His most recent solo recording, *The Road Home* (Gourd Music), was met with critical acclaim and in 2005 he received a Grammy for his contribution to *The Pink Guitar*, a collection of solo guitar arrangements of Henry Mancini's music. Musical collaborations have been a mainstay of William's career and have included many tours and recordings including *Song for Our Ancestors* with classical guitar virtuoso Benjamin Verdery, *Time to Sail*, *One Sweet Kiss* and *Westward* with Kerry-born Irish singer Eilis Kennedy, *Simple Gifts - Music of the Shakers* with cellist Barry Phillips, and *Celtic Requiem* with Irish vocalist Mary McLaughlin. His book of transcriptions, *Celtic Crossing*, published by Mel Bay, includes music from his recording of the same name. William maintains a classical guitar studio at the University of California at Santa Cruz at teaches at various summer music camps.



MUSIC IN THE SOMERSET HILLS



Stephen Sands, Music in the Somerset Hills founder and Artistic Director is highly sought after as a soloist, conductor, music educator and ensemble member. He holds his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Westminster Choir College. Stephen is the director of Downtown Voices, a semi-pro choral group that is part of the Trinity Wall Street Music program, focused on bringing the best volunteer and professional singers in the NYC area together for high level performances. He has taught choral music to

thousands of students in grades 3-12 in the Somerset Hills School District for more than 20 years, and is a founding member and executive director of the internationally acclaimed Antioch Chamber Ensemble. Stephen sings with the Grammy-nominated Trinity Choir in New York. He has been praised as a "crystalline tenor" (Backstage) and "a tenor with a focused, powerful tone" who sings with "subtlety" and "poignancy" by the New York Times. Stephen has been heard as the Evangelist and tenor soloist in numerous performances of Bach's sacred oratorios, most recently with the Trinity Choir and Baroque Orchestra in the *St. John Passion* of J.S. Bach. StephenSands.net

Richard Somerset-Ward, President, was, for 21 years, on the staff of the British Broadcasting Corporation, latterly as Head of Music & Arts Programming. He has lived in the United States since 1984 and is the author of *The Story of Opera* (Abrams 1998) and *Angels & Monsters: Male and Female Sopranos in the Story of Opera* (Yale 2004).





Billy Webster, General Manager, earned his BA in Literature and Theater Arts at Hunter College in Manhattan and his Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary. For seven years he served as Director of Admissions at The General Theological Seminary in New York City. He has also released seven albums of original music, including a rock opera based on The Lord's Prayer entitled "Bold Enough To Say", which held its live debut in Brooklyn in October 2014.

Pamela L. Nardone, Chair of Development, has been a part of Music in the Somerset Hills, almost from the beginning, as a member of its Community Chorus. Her singing and performing go all the way back to her early school years and have never stopped, simply for the pure joy it brings her. In addition to the Somerset Hills Chorus, she also sings in the choir of St. Luke's, Gladstone, and rings in their Bell Choir. She has day jobs, too: she owns and operates Hibernate Bedding in Bernardsville and helps to manage BORREGAARD of Gladstone. Pamela brings her love and passion for music and this organization along with her many years of experience chairing fundraising events to her development role with Music in the Somerset Hills.



Catherine Pane, Treasurer

Cathy has been with Music in the Somerset Hills since its inception as bookkeeper. These days as Treasurer, she continues to maintain the financial records and reporting for the organization as well as assisting with concert check-in. Her full time employment is with the USET Foundation as Director of Accounting & Office Manager but she keeps busy volunteering with a few local organizations. Cathy also owns CP Business

Management where she works part-time for several local companies assisting with records management and various projects.

Music in the Somerset Hills (MISH) is a musical community whose mission is to create musical experiences of the highest quality for those who live and work in the Somerset Hills and the surrounding area. Founded in 2010 by Artistic Director Stephen Sands, MISH's primary focus is the Somerset Hills Community Chorus, The Concert Series and Music Education.

The Somerset Hills Chorus is open to anyone aged 14 and upwards, with or without expertise, and enables young performers to sing extraordinary repertoire alongside more seasoned professionals in fine venues within and around the community.

The Concert Series brings accomplished professional musicians to perform with the Chorus in local venues. Since 2010, performances have included the Vivaldi *Gloria*, Handel's *Semele* and *Messiah*, a centenary concert of works by Benjamin Britten, a jazz concert of George Shearing works, the Fauré *Requiem*, Bach's *St. John Passion* and, in 2016, *Music of the Movies* with Peter Dinklage. The Concert Series also includes performances by distinguished visitors - Christmas concerts by Chanticleer (2016) and Canadian Brass (2017), as well as occasional, outdoor concerts in the summer, including Handel's *Water Music* on the Lake at Far Hills in 2017.

Music Education centers on an **Early Childhood Music Program**, which runs classes for children up to 8-years old. MISH also runs **Summer Music Camps** for children, including the very popular Summer Voices camp for children and teens in August each year. A guitar workshop is available for adult participation. And MISH offers scholarships to high school seniors who demonstrate musical excellence.

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Funding has been made possible, in part, by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State through the State/County Partnership Local Arts Program Grant, administered for Somerset County by the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission.



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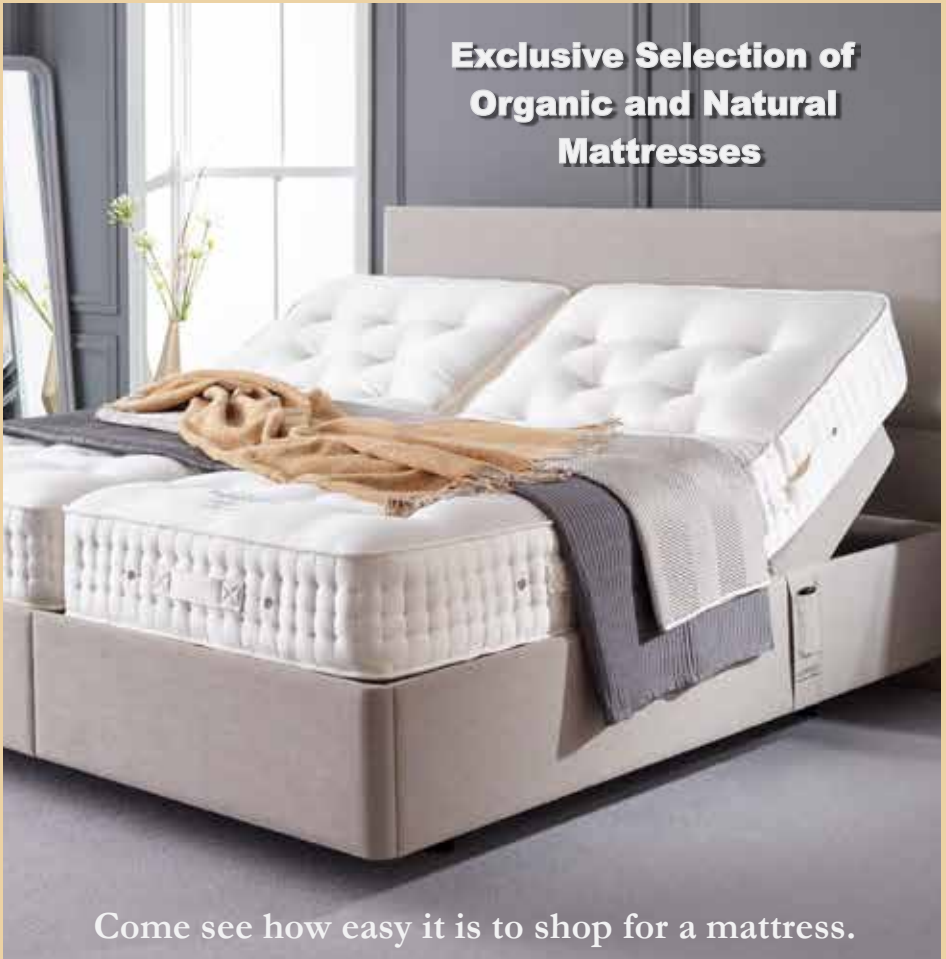
Pictured: Devin Conway in *The Bungalow*. Photo credit: Jerry Dalia, 2017.



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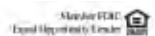
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Music in the Somerset Hills' Young Musicians Scholarship

Two scholarships of \$1,000 each are awarded to high school seniors in New Jersey who demonstrate exemplary musicianship and have been accepted into an accredited college to pursue a music major.

Congratulations to our 2018 Scholarship Winners



HyeJin (Helen) Cho




Sophia Oehlers

This year's winners are HyeJin (Helen) Cho, a flautist from Bridgewater-Raritan High School, and Sophia Oehlers, an oboist from Collingswood High School. Helen and Sophia emerged from an outstanding field of young musicians who once again demonstrated the high quality of music teaching in our region. Helen Cho, who has been playing the flute since she was ten, is currently a pupil of Soo-Kyung Park at Manhattan School of Music (Pre-College) and will be attending the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University in the fall. Sophia Oehlers will be attending the University of Colorado, where she will study with Peter Cooper. Congratulations Helen and Sophia!!



The deadline for receipt of materials is April 12, 2019. For more information, please contact scholarship@musicsh.org



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Choral Society

Anne Matlack, Artistic Director

2018-2019 Concert Season

Navidad Nuestra

Christmas works from South and Central America, including the charming title piece by Ariel Ramirez with percussion, violin, and Darren O'Neill on guitar. New works by women composers Sarah Rimkus, Tawnie Olson, and Stephanie Martin.

Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 3 p.m.

Morristown United Methodist Church, 50 South Park Place, Morristown

Swan Songs

A full program by the Harmonium Chamber Singers, with works by Gibbons, Arcadelt, Kevin Puts, Sarah Rimkus, Michael Rosin and more, plus Hindemith's Six Chansons.

Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 8 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church, 4 Madison Avenue at Kings Road, Madison

Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 3 p.m.

Christ Church, 66 Highland Avenue, Short Hills

Bach's St. Matthew Passion

One special performance only! With double baroque orchestra The Sebastians, professional soloists, supertitles, and Dann Coakwell, Evangelist.

Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

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A Thousand Beautiful Things

Eclectic and uplifting selections from Annie Lennox to Palestrina, including Ešenvalds's Only in Sleep, Gjeilo's Unicornis Captivatur, and the winner of the 22nd annual High School Student Composition Contest.

Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church, 4 Madison Avenue at Kings Road, Madison

**For more Harmonium Happenings,
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Funding has been made possible in part by funds from Morris Arts through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**WINTER
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Sunday, December 16, 2018



**SPRING
CONCERT**
Saturday, May 18, 2019

The **New Jersey Youth Chorus**, based in Chatham, offers exceptional choral music education in a warm, inviting atmosphere, and outstanding performance opportunities of the highest caliber.

OUR CHOIRS

Primo Coro: Girls Grades 4-5
Sola Voce: Girls Grades 6-8
Coriste: Young Women Grades 9-12
Coro Vivo: Boys Grades 4-7
Camerata: Young Men Grades 7-12
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The **NJ Youth Chorus** rehearses on Mondays during the school year. Our choirs participate in national and international tours, and sponsor annual *Kids for Kids* Concerts to benefit charitable organizations.

For more details, including Performance & Audition information:

njyouthchorus.org • 973-998-5670 • admin@njyouthchorus.org





Light Opera of New Jersey is a premier operetta, opera, and musical theater company founded in 1995. LONJ is a registered, non-profit performing arts ensemble based in Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

A sneak peek at our 24th Season!

Gian Carlo Menotti's

Amahl and the Night Visitors

November 30 and December 1, 2018

performances both days at 5 pm and 7:30 pm

stage direction by Joanna Hoty Russell

music direction by Lois Buesser

in collaboration with the New Jersey Youth Chorus

directed by Tara Postigo

St Mark's Episcopal Church

140 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's

Così fan tutte

April 12 and 13, 2019

stage direction by Dorothy Danner

music direction by Jason Tramm

St Mark's Episcopal Church

140 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Summer 2019

Musical Theater Production to be announced

For more information and other upcoming events, visit our website:

www.lightoperaofnewjersey.org

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