



Bellevue Chamber Chorus

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Bellevue Chamber Chorus presents *Haydn Fest*

Bellevue Chamber Chorus celebrates its 25th Anniversary Season finale with **Haydn Fest**, a program honoring the 200th anniversary year of the death of the great Classical master Franz Joseph Haydn. Performed at the Meydenbauer Center Theatre on Saturday, May 30th, 7:30 PM, under the direction of Dr. Fredrick Lokken, the concert will feature Haydn's *Mass in B^b (Maria Theresa Mass)* with chamber orchestra and guest soloists Holly Boaz, soprano, Melissa Plagemann, mezzo soprano, Stephen Rumpf, tenor, and Glenn Guhr, baritone. The program also includes selections from Haydn's marvelous oratorio *The Seasons* and from his charming *Part Songs*.

Although the *Maria Theresa Mass* is less well known than some of Haydn's other later masses, it is an extraordinary work that demonstrates choral, solo, and instrumental writing with all the variety, rhythmic energy, and musical skill of a composer at the height of his powers. It was named after the Empress Maria Theresa, the wife of Emperor Franz II of Austria-Hungary. The empress herself was the soprano soloist at the premieres of both of Haydn's oratorios: *The Creation* and *The Seasons*. The latter work depicts humanity's relationship with Nature throughout the four seasons with delightfully descriptive and dramatic music. The *Part Songs* are full of wit and clever insight, and deal with such diverse topics as romance and marriage, aging, and the pleasures and consequences of good wine!

Franz Joseph Haydn is considered the father of the Viennese Classical period: revered by Mozart, teacher of Beethoven, and a towering figure in 18th century music. His compositions are sparkling and energetic at times, serene and soothing other times, and full of balance, elegance, and intelligence---the perfect musical antidote to our turbulent times!

Join the Chorus for this grand finale performance of its 25th anniversary season on Saturday evening, May 30th, 2009, at 7:30 PM in the Meydenbauer Center Theatre, 11100 NE 6th Street in Bellevue. Tickets prices are \$18 for adults, \$14 for students/seniors, and \$9 for juniors (12 and under). Group sales are also available. To order tickets, or for more information, call (425) 881-0445. Tickets are also available through www.BrownPaperTickets.com. For more information on this program and the Chorus's 25th season, visit our website at www.BellevueChamberChorus.net.