



The Society for Universal Sacred Music

WINTER 2012



Roger Davidson
Founder and President

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2012!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Society, I welcome you to a new and inspiring year!

We continue to work hard to bring works of universal sacred music to audiences far and wide, in person and through the internet, to help us all move toward unity of spirit — and therefore lasting peace.

May the unconditional love of God be with each of us as we carry on our work to create a better world through music.

Latest Festival A Roaring Success!

On Nov. 12, 2011, the Society for Universal Sacred Music hosted its Fifth Festival of Universal Sacred Music, its largest and most-attended Festival to date. The festival, a daylong series of sets by renowned artists of myriad genres was a free event in Symphony Space on Manhattan's Upper West Side, and ran as a marathon of music from 2 p.m. to 10:40 p.m., in the style of the venue's Wall to Wall concerts.

"The audience was over three times what we've had at our past Festivals," said Edie Rosenbaum, Festival Director and Executive Director for The Society. "We were so thrilled to share and celebrate



Photo by Fran Kaufman

Artists from myriad genres and from around the world came together on Nov. 12, 2011, for our daylong festival of Universal Sacred Music! [For more photos see Page 2. >>](#)

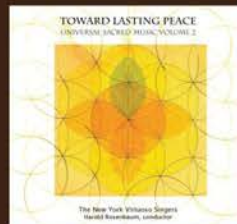
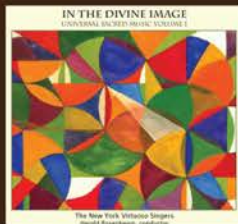
Universal Sacred Music with so many people throughout the day."

The festival featured artists from around the world, including Anonymous 4, Deepak Kumar Pareek, The New York Virtuoso Singers with James Adams on organ, The Riverside Church Inspirational Choir, Maya Raviv, The Canticum Novum Youth Choir, The Western Wind,

Catherine Russell, Society President Roger Davidson, David Newman, Thomas McCargar with Brent Funderburk on piano, and the music of Sharon Farber with Omar Faruk Tekbilek, David Kontesz and Freddy Schifftan.

In addition to the work of the performing artists, the Festival showcased photography about the nature of light by Aicha Skandrani, a highly inspired Tunisian-born artist who currently lives in France. The Fifth Festival of Universal Sacred Music was co-sponsored by the United Nations Association, USA Southern New York State Division.

Hear Music from Our Festivals!



See Page 3 for info on our CDs of Universal Sacred Music!

Fostering music that reflects the unity and unconditional love of God

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Photos and Thoughts from the Fifth Festival

Did you have a favorite moment or performance at the 5th Festival?

"What I really liked about the Festival was the variety. From the Jazz Ensemble, featuring Roger Davidson's work, to Harold Rosenbaum's conducting the New York Virtuoso Singers and Brass Ensemble, to the heartfelt performance of Maya Raviv ... It was all wonderful."

**- Sr. Dorothy Steinfeld
SUSM Board of Directors**

Can you define why music is spiritual, or is that concept indefinable?

"Music transcends belief, and often the filters of the mind. It therefore has the potential to touch the heart ... the place of love where everyone can meet ... beyond borders, beyond differences. Music points to the spiritual truth that ... we are all one!"

**- David Newman
Festival Performer**

How does the Festival fulfill SUSM's mission?

"I feel that the festival brings together a unique diversity of musicians and that gives the audience an opportunity to experience music from many cultures, ...songs that those cultures have considered sacred,.... and may be experienced by the audience for the first time."

**- Sue Graves, Vice President
SUSM Board of Directors**



Thanks to the variety of artists in The Fifth Festival, there was always something new and different going on on stage throughout the day. Harold Rosenbaum conducted multiple times during the day.

Roger Davidson and Catherine Russell presented a set of Davidson's jazz works. David Newman and accompanying musicians spread out on stage, and Deepak Kumar Pareek's set included traditional and contemporary dance.

Photos by Fran Kaufman.



Join us April 15 for our Gala Benefit!



This April, The Society for Universal Sacred Music returns to the elegant Le Château Restaurant Français in South Salem, N.Y., for a benefit gala dinner and auction. This year, our silent auction will also be available to preview and bid online at www.biddingforgood.com/SUSM starting April 1!

For more information about our Gala or to RSVP now contact Edie Rosenbaum, Executive Director, at (914) 241-0303 or e.rosenbaum@susm.org.

Summer CD Release to Include Danish Tour, Free Concert in NYC

Last June, The New York Virtuoso Singers, Harold Rosenbaum, conductor, completed a recording project on Soundbrush Records of music set to Hilsen Til Danmark — “Greetings to Denmark” — a collection of 15 poems by prominent Danish poets who lived primarily in the 19th Century.

In 1988, the Roger Davidson began setting all fifteen poems to music, a project which he completed in 1996.

A concert tour to promote the release of the CD will be held in Copenhagen and elsewhere in Denmark from June 5-9. On June 21, the choir will give a repeat

Join us in
Central Park on
June 21 at the
Pilgrim Statue
on Pilgrim Hill
for a free
performance
of these works!



performance in front of the Pilgrim Statue in Central Park (East Side between 72nd and 73rd Streets on Pilgrim Hill) as part of Make Music New York, a city-wide event. For more information visit universalsacredmusic.org.

Presenting Haydn's Creation in Dec.

On Dec. 21, 2012—the day a few are convinced will be the end of the world because of an old Mesoamerican calendar—The Society for Universal Sacred Music celebrates life with a performance of Haydn's Creation in Carnegie Hall.

The concert will feature The New York Virtuoso Singers under the baton of Society Artistic Director and Conductor Harold Rosenbaum.

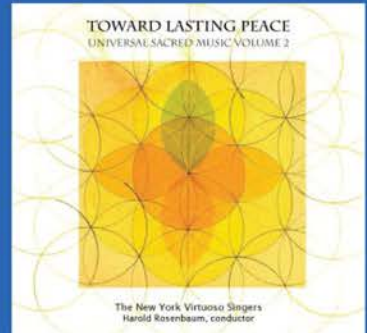
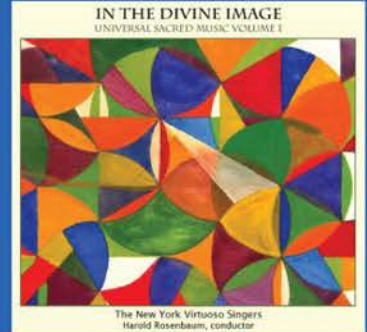
CARNEGIE HALL
SAVE THE DATE! DEC. 21, 2012

“I cannot imagine a better celebration of human life, or a better day to do it!”

- HAROLD ROSENBAUM

Stay tuned for more information including ticketing details in future newsletters and online at universalsacredmusic.org.

Check out these great SUSM CDs!



Universal Sacred Music
Vols. 1 & 2

In The Divine Image
and Toward Lasting Peace

Recorded at the 2008 and 2010 Festivals of Universal Sacred Music. Produced by Soundbrush Records.

Harold Rosenbaum is a leading choral conductor, renowned worldwide for his exacting performances of a wide variety of choral repertoire. He leads The New York Virtuoso Singers, a crack ensemble featuring some of New York's best professional singers.

To learn more and to hear tracks from the CDs visit universalsacredmusic.org

To purchase these and other recordings visit soundbrush.com

Save the Dates for these upcoming SUSM Events!



April 15

**Gala Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction
Le Château Restaurant Français
South Salem, NY**



June 21

**FREE Public Performance in Central Park
of Roger Davidson's "Hilsen Til Danmark"
featuring The New York Virtuoso Singers
Harold Rosenbaum, conductor**



December 21

**Haydn's Creation in Carnegie Hall
featuring The New York Virtuoso Singers
Harold Rosenbaum, conductor**