



Society for Universal Sacred Music

AUTUMN 2012

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Celebrating Creation at Carnegie Hall!



Roger Davidson
Founder and President

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With conjecture and speculation abounding about the alleged end of the world on Friday, Dec. 21, 2012, Society for Universal Sacred Music Founder and President Roger Davidson, along with Artistic Director Harold Rosenbaum, came up with a fitting way to refocus attention on what really matters: A celebration of the universal miracle that is the world we all share.

As a result, on Dec. 21, the day a few are convinced the world will end, SUSM will be celebrating life—past, present and future!—with Franz Joseph Haydn's *The Creation* in Carnegie Hall.

"I cannot imagine a better celebration of human life, or a better day to do it!" Rosenbaum said.

Rosenbaum will lead his New York Virtuoso Singers (expanded to 68 singers!) along with the acclaimed Orchestra of St. Luke's and soloists Christine Brandes, Benjamin Butterfield and Nathan Berg.

Join us as Harold Rosenbaum leads The New York Virtuoso Singers, the Orchestra of St. Luke's and special guest soloists on Dec. 21



New York Virtuoso Singers joined by special guest artists: The Orchestra of St. Luke's
Christine Brandes, soprano
Benjamin Butterfield, tenor
Nathan Berg, baritone

"Society for Universal Sacred Music's goal is to present and foster music that reflects the universal nature of God and of the eternal spiritual family to which we all belong," Davidson said. *The Creation*, rooted in the Book of Genesis and Milton's *Paradise Lost*, recounts the origin of our world through

a ubiquitous story including many unifying elements shared by spiritual communities across the Earth.

Tickets for Haydn's *The Creation* (\$17.50 - \$100) are on sale now! To order now call CarnegieCharge at (212) 247-7800 or visit universalsacredmusic.org.

Fostering music that reflects the unity and unconditional love of God

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A Scandinavian Success ... and a Stateside Reprise!

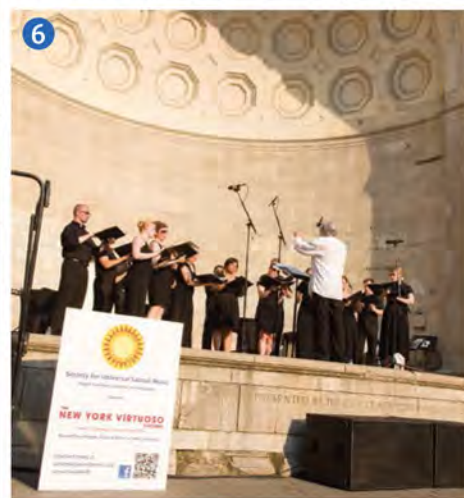


In June, Society for Universal Sacred Music took its first ever International Tour with SUSM Artistic Director and Conductor Harold Rosenbaum leading The New York Virtuoso Singers in performances in Denmark and Sweden! The program featured new American sacred works by Roger Davidson and others, as well as traditional American spirituals.

On June 21, SUSM brought the program back to the United States for a performance at the historic Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park as part of the daylong Make Music New York Festival. The event, a celebration tied to the summer solstice, was on the longest—and perhaps hottest!—day of the year. From *The New York Times*:



“Harold Rosenbaum and his New York Virtuoso Singers performed ‘Greetings to Denmark,’ a program they had sung in Denmark and Sweden a couple of weeks before, much of it skillfully composed by Roger Davidson, the founder and president of the Society for Universal Sacred Music, which presented the concert. ... Here the chorus proved heroic, holding forth in direct sunlight and blistering heat.”



Photos by the Numbers 1) The official tour poster from SUSM’s Danish performance. 2) A shot from the Danish performance in Malmö. 3) The official tour poster from SUSM’s Swedish performance. 4) A shot from the Swedish performance in Kobenhavn. 5) Harold Rosenbaum and The New York Virtuoso Singers just after performing in Central Park, NYC. 6) Harold and the choir in action in Central Park, singing right into the sun! *Photos 5 and 6 by Ed Cody.*

Meet New Office Manager Melissa Arnold-Perelson

Prior to her most recent career as a stay-at-home mom, Melissa worked for nearly 20 years in the animal industry. She managed a homeopathic and holistic pet supply store and grooming shop in NYC, and then managed two veterinary practices in Westchester County and Danbury, Conn.

Melissa, currently a resident of Putnam Valley, has been married for almost 19 years and is the proud mother of two beautiful young boys. They share their home with a menagerie of pets including a cat, two dogs, a tortoise and a tarantula.

Melissa is a Vice-President of the Putnam Valley PTA, and the commissioner of her



fantasy football league. She is a major hockey fan—especially when her children are playing—as well as a party planner, an enthusiastic cook, an avid reader, and a burgeoning yoga student! Her life has always been full of music as an active member of her church choir, and the daughter of a passionate soprano! Now, much of the music in her home is her son Fox practicing piano.

Melissa is looking forward to a new adventure bringing her organization, creativity, and humor to the SUSM office.

To contact Melissa Arnold-Perelson, email M.Perelson@susm.org

CALL FOR SCORES

Society for Universal Sacred Music announces an ongoing Call for Scores.

PDFs can be sent to: Edie Rosenbaum, Executive Director, at e.rosenbaum@susm.org, along with MP3s and midi files, although only scores are required.

We are primarily seeking works for choir, soloists with choir, or solo songs with or without accompaniment. However, purely instrumental pieces with a clear intent to convey universal and eternal love are also of interest!

DURATION: Generally no more than 20 minutes

INSTRUMENTATION: Generally no more than 10 players

TEXTS: must convey God's unconditional love for all human beings, and must contain no doctrine that divides the world into the saved and the damned, as this belief does not reflect the unconditional nature of God's love; may not contain language which focuses on one traditional faith, except where a scriptural text may reflect the unity and unconditional love of God; may not portray God as having been incarnated on Earth, but should rather express the nature of God as the Creator of the universe and of our eternal spirits, and the Source of love itself; may use existing texts (modified if necessary) or new, original texts, provided the words are based upon a general understanding of universal love, reverence for the divine (including in nature), responsibility for one's own thoughts and actions (and the seeking of forgiveness for transgressions), and an awareness of our fundamental unity as children of God; and if a composer does not wish to mention God, the text should in some way reflect the universal spirituality in all life, spiritual light itself, eternal and unconditional love, or the presence of divinity in nature.

Respectful examination will be accorded all submissions.

Thanks for making our latest Gala a hit!

Friends and singers came together at the elegant Le Château Restaurant in South Salem, New York, on Sunday, April 15, to celebrate and support the Society's mission during our Second Annual Gala Benefit and Silent Auction! Our Honoree was Chris Farrell, the first Executive Director and current Archivist/Librarian for the Society. The night was a smashing success! The warm, sunny spring evening provided a great break between bouts of bidding during the cocktail hour, and an array of entertainment which included The New York Virtuoso Singers, Harold Rosenbaum, conductor, David Finck, Pablo Aslan, Roger Davidson and Grammy winning bandoneonist Raúl Jaurena.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the evening! And if you missed it this year, **save the date for 2013's Auction Benefit: Sunday, April 14, 2013!**



Shots from our Soirée

Top: Chris Farrell with Roger Davidson.

Bottom-right: Bandoneonist Raúl Jaurena

Bottom-left: Sister Dorothy Steinfeld from SUSM's Board with Deepak Pareek and Harold Rosenbaum.





Society for Universal Sacred Music | Autumn 2012



**Like a Sunflower,
Always Follow The Light!
See inside for shots and notes
from our Gala, our recent
International Tour and more!**

Upcoming Events

The Creation at Carnegie Hall

Friday, Dec. 21, 2012 at 8 p.m.

The New York Virtuoso Singers, Harold Rosenbaum, conductor

See article on front page for details

Tickets: \$17.50 - \$100 at (212) 247-7800 and universalsacredmusic.org

Roger Davidson's Unispace—Free and open to the public!

Saturday, Feb, 9 at 8 p.m.

The New York Virtuoso Singers, Harold Rosenbaum, conductor

St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church 87th St. between Broadway and West End Ave.

NYVS (32 singers) along with an organist, pianist and two percussionists perform

Davidson's Unispace with a multimedia display in the background.

New York Virtuoso Singers 25th Anniversary Season

Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012, and Sunday, March 3, 2013, at 3 p.m.

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center, 129 W. 67th St. btw Broadway & Amsterdam Ave.

Harold Rosenbaum and The New York Virtuoso Singers celebrate 25 years with 25 World Premieres.

Oct. 21 features works by Jennifer Higdon, George Tsontakis, John Corigliano, David Del Tredici, Shulamit Ran, John Harbison, Steven Stucky, Stephen Hartke, Fred Lerdahl, Chen Yi, Bruce Adolphe and Yehudi Wyner.

March 3 features works by Richard Wernick, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, Aaron Jay Kernis, David Lang, Mark Adamo, Richard Danielpour, Augusta Read Thomas, Thea Musgrave, Joseph Schwantner, William Bolcom, David Felder, Joan Tower and Roger Davidson.

These concerts are being recorded for Soundbrush Records.

Tickets: \$25 (\$15 students) at (212) 501-3330 and nyvirtuoso.org