The German Society of Pennsylvania presents
Mélomanie
Harpsichord Quintet

Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Calendar of Events

April 2015
Fri. Apr. 17 Friday FilmFest presents "Die Wand", 6.30 pm

May 2015
Sat. May 2 Women’s Auxiliary 115th Anniversary Luncheon, 12.00pm
Sun. May 10 “Wister and More!” presents The Wister Quartet, 3.00pm
Wed. May 13 Konversationsabend: Theater Scene in Berlin, Fall 2014, 6.00pm
Fri. May 15 Friday FilmFest presents “Der ganz große Traum”, 6.30pm
Sun. May 31 “Wister and More!” jointly with the Delius Society presents Michael Djupstrom & Ayana Kozasa, 3.00 pm

June 2015
Sat. June 6 Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
Sat. June 6 Konversationsabend: Wandertag
Sun. June 7 Annual Member’s Meeting and Election, 3.00pm

...Our 2015/16 Concert Series will begin in September 2015

September 27: The Montage Trio
October 25: The Hamburg Church Choir
November 22: The Delius Society and the German Society present the Wister Quartet feat. Marcantonio Barone
December 13: EStrella Piano Duo
Mélomanie
Harpsichord Quintet

PROGRAM

Sonata I in A Major, Op. 9, No. 1
for violin, viola da gamba, and basso continuo
Moderato
Vivace

Carl Friedrich Abel
(1723-1787)

Suite for Harpsichord and Flute
Airily
Energetically
Keeping the Blues in mind

Alec Wilder
(1907-1980)

Sonata III in D Minor, Op. 12, No. 3
for flute, violin, viola da gamba, and basso continuo
Allegro
Larghetto
Aria: Grazioso
Allegro

Louis-Gabriel Guillemain
(1705-1770)

::Intermission::

Suite in G Major for unaccompanied cello, BWV 1007
Prélude
Arioso
Courante
Sarabande
Menuet 1 and 2
Gigue

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Aegean Airs (2013)
Philadelphia Premiere

Robert Maggio

There will be one 15-minute intermission. We offer refreshments from our bar during that time. Your ticket to our concert also invites you to a complimentary reception with the artists in the Ratskeller (downstairs) following the performance.
 Founded in 1993 by co-artistic directors and ensemble members, Tracy Richardson and Kimberly Reighley, Mélomanie has delighted audiences throughout the Delaware Valley in its presentation of provocative pairings of early and contemporary works. Their innovative chamber music collaborations feature both guest performers and composers. Currently Ensemble-in-Residence at Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware, the ensemble’s programs reflect its mission to connect the music of the Baroque with contemporary invention. The ensemble’s contemporary repertoire includes World Premieres of compositions written especially for Mélomanie by such composers as Ingrid Arauco, Chris Braddock, Chuck Holdeman, Sergio Roberto de Oliveira, Mark Rimple, and Mark Hagerty.

Mélomanie is Kimberly Reighley, flutes; Tracy Richardson, harpsichord; Donna Fournier, viola da gamba; Douglas McNames, cellos and Christof Richter, violins.

These Mélomanie artists also appear as soloists and with various orchestras and ensembles in the region, including the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, Reading Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, OperaDelaware, Tempesta di Mare, Philomel, and Le Triomphe de l’Amour. The group was also invited to Rio de Janeiro to perform in a series devoted to new music.

Mélomanie has recorded works of Telemann on Lyrichord Discs and can be heard on Winterthur’s Playing in the Garden: Musical Inspirations from the Winterthur Garden, a benefit CD released in 2008. Their newest CD, Florescence, was released in 2011 and features original compositions written for the ensemble.
Sonata in A Major for violin, gamba and basso continuo.

German composer and gambist, Carl Friedrich Abel, established a concert series with J.C. Bach in London during the second half of the 18th century. Through this concert series, he became well known as a virtuoso performer of the viol, particularly noted for his expressive slow movements. It was said there were no difficult passages his hand could not manage. Abel wrote primarily instrumental music, most including the gamba. His music is described as gracious, lively, and light-hearted. Such is the case in his Sonata in A Major for violin, gamba and basso continuo.

Suite for Harpsichord and Flute

Alec Wilder's music has been described as a unique blend of American musical traditions, including jazz and the American popular song, with "classical" European forms and techniques. His music defies labeling and is remarkably original. His many forms include orchestral works, operas, ballets, art songs, chamber music, and popular songs (in the hundreds). Wilder studied privately at the Eastman School of Music but as a composer was largely self-taught. He said he wrote music because it was the only thing that could content his spirit. He enjoyed a close musical relationship with classical musicians, jazz musicians, and popular singers, including a rare friendship with Frank Sinatra. In the early 1950's, Wilder became increasingly drawn to writing concert music for soloists, chamber ensembles, and orchestras. Written in 1976, his Suite for Harpsichord and Flute includes three brief vignettes, drawing to mind a melancholy ballad, a laid-back jazz number, and a bluesy song.

Sonata in D Minor

Louis-Gabriel Guillemain displayed talent as a violinist at an early age, eventually travelling to Italy to study with the renowned violinist, Somis. Upon his return to Paris, he was appointed musician ordinaire at Louis XV's court in 1737. He was one of the most popular and highest paid musicians at the court, however his passion for tapestries and an extravagant lifestyle kept him in debt. Many of his works were frequently performed at the famous concert series, the Concert Spirituel, although he himself would never perform there because he was too nervous to play in front of a large audience. Published in 1743, Guillemain's Six Sonates en quatuors, ou conversations galantes for flute, violin, gamba, and basso continuo recall the instrumentation of Telemann's Paris Quartets. They contain some of Guillemain's most charming music and are conversational in nature, with melodic material passed between the flute, violin, and gamba. Sonata in D Minor is the third piece in the publication.

Suite in D Minor for Unaccompanied Cello

J.S. Bach's Six Suites for unaccompanied cello were most likely composed between 1717 and 1723 in Cöthen, where Bach served as Music Director at the court. The background of these works remains a mystery, but we do know that Bach came into contact with two extraordinary musicians at Cöthen, cellist and gamba player Christian Ferdinand Abel (father of Carl Friedrich Abel) and
cellist Christian Bernard Linike. Either of these virtuoso musicians may have been responsible for the cello suites, all of which challenge the technical facility and musical prowess of the performer. The original manuscript of the cello suites has been lost. Contemporary performances are based on facsimiles by Bach’s wife Anna Magdalena and his student Kellner. These copied manuscripts often omit bowings, tempo markings, and ornaments, leaving the performer much responsibility with respect to interpretation. Distinguished cellist and teacher Janos Starker believes that “all observable changes (from Bach’s time) whether they involve notes, ornaments, phrases, dynamics, or tempi should be attributed to the personal expressive desire of each player, and the validity of each approach will rest solely on the communicative power of its deliverer.” Today, another distinguished cellist brings Bach’s wonderful Suite in D Minor for Unaccompanied Cello to life.

Robert Maggio writes about Aegean Airs...

Aegean Airs was inspired by the extraordinary beauty and sense of wonder I experienced in Greece, where the ancient world feels very much alive in the spirit of the modern day. The Hymn movements are based on the First Delphic Hymn to Apollo dating back to 128 B.C., while the music of the 2nd, 4th, and 6th movements echoes more recent traditional Greek music.

About Robert Maggio, composer
Robert Maggio has created an unusually diverse and substantial body of work that has been performed around the world. Rob is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Pew Fellowships in the Arts, the American Composers Forum, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, ASCAP, BMI, New Music USA and Meet the Composer. A graduate of Yale and the University of Pennsylvania, Rob lives with his family in Lambertville, New Jersey. He is a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Music Theory, History and Composition at West Chester University’s School of Music.

Acknowledgements by Mélomanie’s concert season is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.

This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.
History of the German Society of Pennsylvania

In 1683 thirteen families from Krefeld under the leadership of Frankfurt lawyer, Franz Daniel Pastorius, founded the first German colony in America: Germantown — today part of Philadelphia. Many of these immigrants formed clubs that enabled them to preserve their cultural heritage. They also formed clubs that emphasized a specific geographic area, such as the Swabians, Bavarians, Saxons, Danube Swabians, Plattdeutsche, Tyroleans, and many others.

The German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764, is the oldest German organization in the United States. It was founded to protect German immigrants from unscrupulous shipping agents and to ensure just treatment on their arrival here.

Since that time, the German Society has dedicated its efforts to preserving German heritage. This it does, for instance, by offering a full-fledged German language program as well as scholarships and prizes to students of German. In addition, the Society is a source of cultural programs, lectures, film series, and seminars. These events build bridges and strengthens relations among individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments.

The fine arts program also includes presentations that feature European music and literature as well as access to the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library for education and research. The newly restored Library, holding over 70,000 volumes, is the largest private German library outside the Federal Republic of Germany.

In serving its members and the community, and in all its undertakings, the Society strives to benefit anyone in need of its resources.
Benefactors of the 2014 / 2015 Classical Concert Series

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We also wish to acknowledge with thanks the generous support received from The Arcadia Foundation & The Albert & Hete Barthelmes Foundation, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund and Styron LLC for this season of our music program.