

Sacred Music in a Sacred Space begins its 2014-15 season with the Polydora Ensemble, 9/16

This exciting new chamber ensemble will perform on SMSS' first-ever Caritas Concert, a benefit concert with all proceeds directed toward the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

Inspired by the elegance and intimacy of the salon concerts of the 19th century, **Sacred Music in a Sacred Space** introduces its Caritas Concerts. As the name suggests, Caritas Concerts are benefits, with all proceeds directed toward charities that address social justice concerns. The very first Caritas performance will feature the New York-based Polydora Ensemble, specializing in repertoire for vocal quartet and piano. Held in Wallace Hall at the **Church of St. Ignatius Loyola** (980 Park Avenue), the evenings begin and end with light refreshments and a chance to mingle with the performers. This concert will take place on **Tuesday, September 16 at 6:30pm**; tickets are \$50 and all proceeds will be donated to the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Purchase tickets at smssconcerts.org or call **212-288-2520**.

For this Caritas Concert, the Polydora Ensemble will perform several lesser-known gems of the chamber music repertoire, featuring works by Brahms and Schumann and a newly commissioned work by American composer Scott Wheeler. The pieces on the program, including Brahms' *Neue Liebeslieder Walzer Op. 65* and *Vier Quartette Op. 92*; Schumann's *Spanisches Liederspiel*; and Wheeler's *New Love Song Waltzes* all allow the members of the ensemble to shine as both soloists and collaborative partners. Kate Maroney of the Polydora Ensemble says of this program, "It strikes me that each composer aims for a directness, an immediacy in expressing the "vivid moments" of being in love. Polydora Ensemble is thrilled to share and explore these pieces as part of the Caritas Concert series at St. Ignatius Loyola—it is an honor to be part of an initiative that will help spread love through a charitable organization."

For this first Caritas Concert, SMSS has chosen to support the **Jesuit Volunteer Corps**. This worthwhile organization enhances the capacity of local organizations to serve their communities by providing Jesuit Volunteers to directly serve the poor and marginalized in the U.S. and developing countries. These volunteers bring energy and hope to the individuals and organizations they serve and gain valuable life skills, insights, and connections. SMSS is proud to support this organization in their mission of promoting social justice and spiritual living throughout the world.

About the Polydora Ensemble

With a focus on German repertoire of the 19th century, the Polydora Ensemble also includes Italian, French, English, and American works in their programming, spanning from the Renaissance to works of contemporary composers. The ensemble grew out of several concerts during the 2013-2014 season that featured Brahms' Liebeslieder-Waltzes paired with duets and solo lieder by Brahms and Schumann. The Polydora Ensemble's members are Sarah Brailey, soprano; Kate Maroney, mezzo-soprano; Nils Neubert, tenor; Jesse Blumberg, baritone; Yuri Kim and David Oei, piano.

About Sacred Music in a Sacred Space

Sacred Music in a Sacred Space at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City is committed to presenting the finest sacred choral and organ repertoire spanning over 1,000 years of music history. Known for their artistic excellence, the renowned Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola present exhilarating performances of large-scale choral masterpieces as well as more intimate and reflective settings by lesser-known composers.

Organist, pianist, conductor, and composer K. Scott Warren was named Director of Music Ministries and Artistic Director of Sacred Music in a Sacred Space concerts at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in 2012. In this capacity he directs a department of six who plan and provide music at over 400 liturgies per year and produce the renowned Sacred Music in a Sacred Concert series and N.P. Mander Organ Recital series. He is conductor of the professional 16-voice Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola in addition to overseeing a program of six volunteer and children's choirs.

Before assuming his post as Director of Music Ministries, Scott was Associate Musician at St. Ignatius from 2001 to 2007 and Associate Director of Music from 2011-2012. As a liturgical musician in Manhattan, he has also served as Music Director or Interim Director at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Park Avenue United Methodist Church and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

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