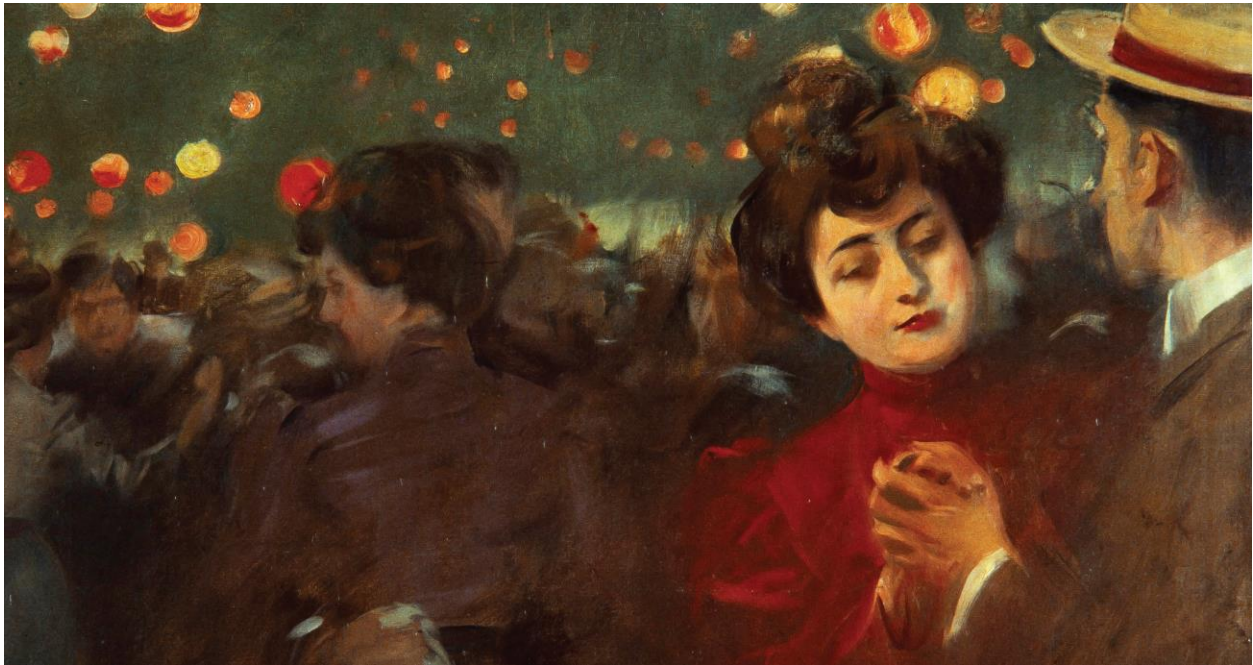


SPAIN: GRANADOS, DE FALLA & MODERNISME

FEB 9, 2017 AT 8PM Church of the Ascension 32 5th Avenue at 10th Street



Ramon Casas *The Open Air Party* (c. 1901-1902)

The turn of the 20th Century saw the flowering of the Modernisme movement in Barcelona and a flourishing of music across Spain. This concert comprises works from the period for chorus, soprano, violin, piano and organ. Many compositions will be entirely new to listeners, but they captivate the ear upon first hearing. **Pablo Casals** is renowned as a cellist, but he also wrote haunting, deeply spiritual choral music. Virtually unknown today, **Enric Morera**, **Manuel Blancafort**, and **Manuel Oltra** composed exceptional works for chorus. **De Falla's *El Amor Brujo*** for piano contrasts with **Granados's** works for violin, songs and an aria from **Goyescas**. **Granados's** long-lost ***Cant de les estrelles***, written in 1911 for three choirs, piano and organ, will be performed in New York for only the second time. VoA received a GRAMMY-nomination for the 2007 New York Premiere live concert recording with pianist Douglas Riva: ***Song of the Stars***.

CONCERT PROGRAM:

Rosarium Beatae Virginis Mariae

Pater noster

Ave Maria, Ave Maria, Ave Maria

Gloria Patri

Panem nostrum

Sancta Maria, Sancta Maria

Sicut erat

Pablo Casals

1876-1973

Voices of Ascension chorus & Mark Kruczek, organ
Dennis Keene, Conductor and Artistic Director

Voices of Ascension Chorus & Orchestra
Dennis Keene, Conductor & Artistic Director

212-358-1469
voicesofascension.org

Romanza
Escena religiosa

Enric Granados
1867-1916

Francesca dePasquale, violin, Douglas Riva, piano & Mark Kruczek, organ

Ave Maria
El Rossinyol

Enric Morera
1865-1942

Voices of Ascension chorus & Mark Kruczek, organ
Dennis Keene, Conductor and Artistic Director

El Amor Brujo Suite for Piano

Manuel de Falla
1876-1946

Pantomima (Pantomime)

Cancion del fuego fatuo (Song of the Will o' the Wisp)

Danza del terror (Dance of Terror)

El Circulo magico (The Magic Circle)

Minuit

Danza del ritual del fuego fatuo (Ritual Fire Dance)

Vanessa Perez, piano

Intermission

Recordare, Virgo Mater
Nigra Sum

Casals

Voices of Ascension chorus & Mark Kruczek, organ
Dennis Keene, Conductor and Artistic Director

La maja y el ruiseñor from *Goyescas*
Elegia eterna
Gracia mia

Granados

Vanessa Vasquez, soprano

Cant d'amor

Manuel Blancafort
1897-1987

Eco
Preludio

Manuel Oltra
(1922-2015)

Voices of Ascension Chorus
Dennis Keene, Conductor and Artistic Director

Cant de les estrelles

Granados

Voices of Ascension chorus & Mark Kruczek, organ
Dennis Keene, Conductor and Artistic Director
Douglas Riva, piano

COLLABORATING ARTISTS



Vanessa Vasquez, originally from Scottsdale, Arizona is a second-year Resident Artist of The Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. She earned a B.A. in Vocal Performance from The Catholic University of America and M.M. in Opera Performance from the University of Los Angeles, California (UCLA). Last season, she made her AVA debut as Mimi in *La Boheme*. This past November she sang the role of Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at AVA. Earlier this year, Vanessa won the James Parkinson Opera Foundation First Prize and the Walter and Alice Strine, Esqs. Audience Prize in the Giargiari Bel Canto Competition. In addition, she won First Prize in the Vocal Arts DC art song competition and was a Grant Award recipient in both The Giulio Gari Foundation and Puccini Albanese Vocal competitions.



Described by critics as “scintillating” and celebrated for her “rich, expressive playing” (*MusicalAmerica*), violinist **Francesca dePasquale** leads a dynamic career of performance, pedagogy, and community engagement. Francesca is the First Prize winner of the 2010 Irving M. Klein International String Competition and recipient of the prestigious 2014-2016 career grant from the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund for the Performing and Visual Arts. Earning her the 2015 Classical Recording Foundation Young Artist Award, her self-titled debut album released in March of 2016 encompasses works that scope from Bach to a new commission from composer Paola Prestini for violin and electronics. For the album and accompanying recital tour, Francesca was praised for “sincerity, intensity” and “individual voice” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*) and received acclaim from *Strings* magazine, *Strad* magazine, and on SiriusXM, WNYC, WRTI (Philadelphia), and WFMT (Chicago).



Vanessa Perez — an intense yet sensitive Venezuelan-American pianist — recently released a new album, *Spain*, on the Steinway & Sons label. “Like many South Americans, my family has roots in Spain, but Spanish music was only a small part of what I would play. Three experiences drew me into it: Traveling throughout Spain for several years, collaborating with the renowned soprano Isabel Rey, and having lessons with Falla's friend, pianist Luis Galvé. These were not postcard experiences of Spain; I was bewitched by the true daily atmosphere of Spain, its rhythms, its dance, and its music.”

A frequent performer throughout the Americas, Perez has performed in the cultural capitals of Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, and in Argentina's famed Teatro Colon. In Europe, venues such as the Palau de la Música in Barcelona, the Montpellier Festival in France, Beethoven-Haus in Germany, Wigmore Hall in England and the Gothic Hall in Belgium. Actively involved in contemporary music, Perez has collaborated with and performed works by such composers as Paul Moravec, Lowell Liebermann, Suzanne Farrin and Paul Desenne. Perez has been featured playing on such radio stations as WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, WGBG Boston among others, and most recently on Minnesota Public Radio, Texas Public radio, NPR's "All things Considered", and American Public Media "Performance Today". Pianist Vanessa Perez is a Steinway Artist.



The American pianist **Douglas Riva** has gained international recognition for his profound knowledge of Spanish music, and no less an authority than the distinguished Spanish composer Xavier Montsalvatge has described him as an exceptional pianist. Douglas Riva's interpretations of the works of Enrique Granados, in particular, have earned him a place as one of this composer's leading exponents worldwide, praised in the Spanish press and elsewhere. His recordings for Naxos of the complete piano works of Granados have won critical acclaim, notably in Spain, the United Kingdom, Japan and the United States. Douglas Riva is the Assistant Director of the eighteen-volume critical edition of the Complete Works for Piano of Enrique Granados, directed by Alicia de Larrocha and published by Editorial Boileau, Barcelona. An active recitalist, he has performed at the White House and at Carnegie Hall and has recorded numerous programs for television and radio in Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Holland, and the United States. He gave the first American performance of a newly discovered Scarlatti sonata at the National Gallery of Art and the world première of *Gazebo Dances* by John Corigliano in Barcelona. Granados's long-lost masterpiece *Cant de les estrelles* for piano solo, organ and choruses was performed for only the second time in history by Douglas Riva and the Voices of Ascension, directed by Dennis Keene in 2007. The Naxos recording of the première performance, *Song of the Stars*, was nominated for a GRAMMY award.



VOICES OF ASCENSION CHORUS & ORCHESTRA

Voices of Ascension Chorus & Orchestra, founded in 1990 and directed by conductor Dennis Keene, is one of the world's premier professional choral ensembles. Over the course of its 26 year history, Voices of Ascension has produced an annual concert series, released GRAMMY-nominated recordings, and engaged in artistic collaborations with the San Francisco Symphony, Mostly Mozart Festival, José Limón Dance, the Mark Morris Dance Group, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and others. These performances have won acclaim for their "sheer musical excellence" (NY Times), the chorus for being the "finest in American choral music" (Stereophile), and Dr. Keene as the "leader most widely touted to pick up the mantle of Robert Shaw" (NY Times).



DENNIS KEENE, Artistic Director and Conductor of Voices of Ascension, is an internationally renowned conductor. Through his concerts and recordings with Voices of Ascension, regular guest appearances as conductor and clinician, and his work as Artistic Director of the Dennis Keene Choral Festival, he has emerged as one of the preeminent figures in choral music today. Recognized early as an exceptional organist, he earned a doctorate at The Juilliard School and won its coveted Dethier Prize. Dr. Keene went on to study conducting at the Pierre Monteux School, as well as organ in Paris with Marie-Madeleine Duruflé, wife of the composer Maurice Duruflé. Maestro Keene's complete retrospective of Duruflé's works in 1989 spurred the creation of Voices of Ascension. His many recordings of choral works on Delos International and Naxos have become the standard for first-ranked ensembles worldwide. He has served on the board of Chorus America, which awarded him its first Louis Botto Award for "innovative action and entrepreneurial zeal in developing a professional ensemble of exceptional artistic quality."

Voices of Ascension Chorus & Orchestra
Dennis Keene, Conductor & Artistic Director

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Collaborating Organizations (as of August 1, 2016)

The Hispanic Society of America
<http://hispanicsociety.org/>

CUNY Foundation for Iberian Music
<http://brookcenter.gc.cuny.edu/projects/foundation-for-iberian-music/>

The Sorel Organization
<http://www.sorelmusic.org>