

*Stabat Mater
Pergolesi*

*&
A Collection of Other Fine Sacred Works*

The Brasiles Ensemble

*Sunday, March 25, 2018 ~ 4:00 pm
Benefit Concert for
St. Mary's Episcopal Church in the Highlands
Cold Spring NY*

The Brasiles Ensemble
Stabat Mater
&
A Collection of Other Fine Sacred Works
Program

The Hills

John Ireland

A Legend

Peter Illyitch Tchaikovsky

Laura Danilov ~ soprano

Confitemini Domino

Alessandro Costantini

Kimberly Hiss ~ soprano I

Madeleine DeNitto ~ soprano II

Laura Danilov ~ alto

Jesu dulcis memoria

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Tebe poem

Dobri Hristov

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Lacrimosa

Zbigniew Priesner

Madeleine DeNitto ~ soprano

Stabat Mater

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

Kimberly Hiss ~ soprano

Madeleine DeNitto ~ alto



As the first question people often ask is about where the name of the group originated, here is a bit of background. It was on July 4th in 1921, that Salvatore and Madeleine DeNitto arrived in the harbor of New York City with the Statue of Liberty being the very first thing that Madeleine saw from the bow of her ship from Algeria. With her, Madeleine brought a very ill baby, a wealth of education and appreciation for the fine arts. She left Old Algiers and parents she would never see again in hopes of great opportunities in a new world. She later bore three more children who all recall her singing opera in her kitchen while baking her famous French loaves. Madeleine had left behind her native country, her beloved family and her Italian maiden name; *Brasiles*—pronounced “*BRAH-zee-lez*”. It is in her honor that I lend my grandmother’s given name to a group of fine musicians for whom she would certainly have adored.

Due to the great success of the formal *Nocturnal* concert in November of 2013 at *St. Philip’s Church in the Highlands*, I am very happy to invite you all to future performances from *The Brasiles Ensemble*. As the mission of this group is to provide audiences with unique concerts, we are thrilled to have several opportunities already in the works for 2018. Please like our official Facebook page and/or check our website for future performances.

~*Madeleine DeNitto, Founder*

This concert is dedicated to my father, *Dr. John Francis DeNitto*, who is the last direct *Brasiles* descendant. As a brilliant classical pianist and college professor, my father believed in community efforts. Not only was he committed to teaching educational psychology to graduate students, he also graciously dedicated his personal time to creating and performing a series of piano concerts for his college’s music department as fundraisers spanning over a decade.

It might be fair to say that it may be completely his fault that I am unable to resist the power of classical music as well as pulling people together to enjoy it.

~ ~ ~ *This is all your fault, Dad.* ~ ~ ~

Performer Bios

Laura Danilov ~ mezzo soprano

Laura Danilov has been singing since she was a little girl. She enjoys singing all sorts of styles including musical theatre (see acting roles) & rock (Formerly with the Roy Orbison band, The Lonely.) Acting roles include: Annas in Jesus Christ Super Star (Depot Theatre); Linda in No Privacy (Aery 20/20 Festival); Weather Lady in Gasping (Drones Theatre Company); Charles Thomson in 1776 (Depot Theatre); Beggars Opera (Philipstown Depot Theatre), Much Ado About Nothing (Princeton Rep Shakespeare Festival), Violet (Putnam County Theatre), The Gift (Terry Schreiber Studio), Hidden Voices (Pillars: An Utopian Ensemble), Godspell (Oasis Theatre Co.) Besides co-directing youngsters in Shakespeare Situation & Stories for the Stage summer camp, past teaching jobs include private singing coach and movement specialist in the Williamson Technique for Actors at the Actors Movement Studio in NYC. In addition to performing, Laura is a Life Coach, working with Actors, Singers & Moms Making a Difference. She lives in Cold Spring with her husband and her famous son, Alex.

Madeleine DeNitto ~ founder / soprano

During her decade of performance with a professional opera company, Madeleine was on stages regularly in major productions, including such great operas as Suor Angelica, Don Pasquale and The Merry Wives of Windsor. She was also very honored to have been chosen to perform in rare works, including Riders to the Sea, as well as special opportunities to perform in honor of Queen Anne and Princess Sophie of Romania. Proficient in sacred and early music, Madeleine was also one of eight members of an elite madrigal group for several years. In late 2012, Madeleine had a role in The Beggar's Opera performed at The Philipstown Depot Theatre, which marked her return to the music world after a ten year hiatus. For 18 years, Madeleine has been a professional organizer and is proud owner of Garrison Concierge. She is a member of the choir at St. Philip's in the Highlands Episcopal Church and the Philipstown Garden Club. Most recently, she and Kimberly Hiss created *The Mary Powell*, the newest vocal duo of The Hudson Valley. Madeleine and her husband, Clayton, relocated to the Hudson Valley permanently where they are able to be close to their two adult children in New York City; one daughter, a wife and mother, working in corporate HR for a major bank and a son, recent graduate Georgetown Law, working for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in DC. Her son is performing in this concert.

Kimberly Hiss ~ soprano

Kimberly Hiss, soprano, studied English and Vocal Performance at Penn State University then moved to Manhattan, where she enjoyed singing with groups including the Young People's Chorus of New York City, which toured Eastern Europe, and the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York, which prided itself on a repertoire of ancient liturgical chants and new works from contemporary composers. As a soloist she has recorded television commercials and performed on acoustic guitar both while living in Prague in the Czech Republic, and more recently throughout New York's Hudson River Valley. Currently, she is pleased to sing with The Brasiles Ensemble and the St. Philip's Choir, as well as creating the vocal duo, *The Mary Powell*, with Madeleine. Beyond music, Kimberly is a writer and editor who has contributed pieces to a range of titles from Reader's Digest and O the Oprah Magazine to The Prague Post. She lives in Peekskill, NY, with her husband and two children.

Speare Hodges ~ baritone

As a founding member of The Brasiles Ensemble performing in the 2012 Nocturnal Concert, Speare Hodges is an experienced pianist and vocalist. Classically trained at young age, he has given numerous piano recitals, studying under Troy Palmer and Michael Cannon. He toured internationally with the Atlanta Young Singers of Callanwolde, and played the leading role of Claude in Hair at the Fiorello H. Laguardia High School Of Music & Art and Performing Arts (the "Fame School"). More recently, he has worked as a piano accompanist throughout college and law school. Speare is dedicated to a career in public service, working to prevent foreclosures in New York Legal Services Corp., providing relief to Hurricane Sandy victims, and serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer (Peru). He graduated Cum Laude from Georgetown University Law Center in 2017, and now works as an Honors Attorney at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C. He is Madeleine DeNitto's son.

Paul Phillips ~ tenor

Paul grew up singing with family and friends. After some initial music training in the Atlanta Boy Choir, he sang various choirs and groups throughout a somewhat nomadic childhood. In college, he was an original member of the Oberlin Obertones, who continue a cappella men’s singing at Oberlin College and Conservatory to this day. He performed many major and new chorale works over the years with The New York Chamber Symphony Chorus, The Judith Clurman Chorale, The Juilliard Choral Union, and the Oxford University Press Choir. Paul has sung with ensembles ranging from The American Composers Orchestra and The Juilliard Orchestra to The New York Pops, They Might Be Giants, and The Chieftains. With the Juilliard Opera, he performed in choruses for Igor Stravinsky’s Oedipus Rex and Francis Poulenc’s Dialogue of the Carmelites. He has sung on stage with the New York City Ballet’s Chichester Psalms as well as in the orchestra pit for Mark Morris Dance Group’s Gloria. In his “other” career, Paul works in the world of educational publishing, helping create English language teaching materials for children, teens, and adults. He’s found great fun working with composers and arrangers to develop songs programs for teaching English. In addition to The Brasiles Ensemble, Paul currently sings with the St. Philip’s Church Choir in Garrison as well as the Newburgh Symphonic Chorale.

Ed Robinson ~ bass

Born in post-WWII Germany to a military family, Ed’s childhood was split between Germany and New York City. He has spent much of his time singing with various choirs, including the Manhattan Borough-Wide Chorus, the All-City High School Chorus, the Saint Augustine Chapel Choir with Trinity Parish and presently, the Saint Philip’s Church Choir since 1980. Currently retired, Ed earned a degree in mechanical engineering from The City College of New York and not only had an extensive career in control and automation system design and construction for electrical power facilities, water, and wastewater treatment plants, but is also a Vietnam Veteran and retired military NCO, a Master Sergeant with the USAF and NYANG for 22 years. Ed is also an active member of the New York Paleontological Society. He has been married to Louise Squitieri for 12 years and along with Louise’s children and grandchildren, they have five children and five grandchildren.

String Ensemble

Conductor & Violin I
Rachel Evans

Violin I
Richard Berner

Violin II
Laura Nathanson
Sophia Catalina

Viola
Cynthia Ligenza

Cello
Carolyn Llewellyn
Madlyn Flavell

Organ
John Drew



**Please join us for a lovely reception in the parish hall following this performance!
All food & beverages provided by local community restaurants, caterers and shops!**

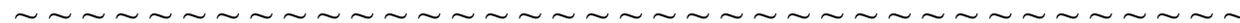


Good Friday Concert at St. Philip’s

***Requiem
Gabriel Fauré***

***Friday, March 30, 2018
7:30pm***

***The Choir of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in the Highlands
1101 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524***



*Thank you all for attending our special concert to benefit St. Mary's.
We have truly enjoyed putting this performance together with our community!
Please visit the church website to learn more about its rich history.*

www.stmaryscoldspring.org



What's next for The Brasiles Ensemble?

The Brasiles Ensemble will be taking a short break following this concert to build up steam again for future opportunities. As The Brasiles Ensemble enjoys being a versatile group, we will be working on new repertoires of pop, folk and even some more opera in the coming months. There is also a rumor about the group considering recording a cd. Keep in touch with us on Facebook as we will later begin making some announcements for future performances and other news!

Please visit our website for more information:

thebrasilesensemble.wordpress.com

Please like our official Facebook page:

facebook.com/TheBrasilesEnsemble

Check out the hiring page on our website to find out more about how to hire The Brasiles Ensemble for your next special event!

The Brasiles Ensemble

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Special Acknowledgements

As founder of *The Brasiles Ensemble*, I would like to thank the original group of musicians from the 2013 *Nocturnal* concert, which became the foundation of formalizing an ensemble group. The original members are Laura Danilov, Julie Heckert, André Herzegovitch, Linda Speziale with Michael Wittenburg and Paul Heckert as accompanists. I would also like to thank my son, *Speare Hodges*, who also provided accompaniments in 2013 and now joins us on occasion to sing or accompany us, commuting in from DC where he works.

A big thank you to *Frank Geer* for his enthusiasm about our most recent accomplishments and for allowing us to borrow music stands, hold rehearsals, photo shoots and recording sessions in *St. Philip's Church in the Highlands*, located in Garrison.

Another big thank you goes to *Kassie Chapman* for her amazing sewing skills for selective pieces of our classic attire and Dickensian costuming.

Continued thank yous always flow over to *Durward Entrekina* for his inspiring work with the choir of *St. Philip's Church in the Highlands* and for his blessing upon us to succeed.

Special thanks goes to musicologist, *Dr. Malena Kuss*, who gives us highly positive critiques and to my father, professor and pianist, *Dr. John DeNitto* for music consulting and forever nodding his head to ensure that we are on the right track as he listens to our many rehearsals. Also, to my husband, *Clayton Scales*, for his camera skills during our photo shoots in various locations for which everyone compliments us.

Also, we would like to give a special nod to *Barbara DeSilva* of The Chapel Restoration, *Lauren Daisley* of *Boscobel*, *Giorgio Spanu*, *Nancy Olnick*, *Vittorio Calabrese* and *Selika Cerofolini* of *Magazzino*, we would also like to extend our appreciation to them for having us perform in their wonderful spaces.

We would like to extend another thank you to *Ross Cossair* for his audio/video work in 2017.

To *Father Shane Scott-Hamblem* for rehearsal space in St. Mary's Episcopal Church and his enthusiasm for the Palm Sunday concert in 2018 to benefit the church and to John Drew for helping us with many of those rehearsals.

To *Rachel Evans*, we appreciate her diligence in creating and directing the string ensemble for Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* for the St. Mary's benefit concert.

It is our desire to also mention that we try to be as green of a group as possible and that most of our costuming has come from the *That Nothing Be Lost Thrift Store at St. Christopher's Inn at Graymoor* in Garrison.

Thank you to *Grey Printing* for printing this wonderful program in support of this special concert! Please see their ad on the back cover!

Cover art by [facebook.com/denittophotography](https://www.facebook.com/denittophotography)



You can find Kim and Madeleine singing as The Mary Powell locally this summer! Like us on Facebook to catch our live dates!

[facebook.com/TheMaryPowell](https://www.facebook.com/TheMaryPowell)

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GOES HERE