



The Brasiles Ensemble

Holidays ~ Near and Far

Sunday, December 11, 2022
Howland Cultural Center
Beacon, New York

Welcome to our holiday concert!

If this happens to be your first time attending one of our concerts, here is a snapshot of our success since our inception in 2016. We strive to be a very versatile group, now singing in eleven languages with an ever-growing repertoire ranging from early music to opera to folk to pop. We are mainly an a cappella group with a central focus on early music, though we have also had multiple instrumentalists accompany us over the years for various repertoires. Among our accomplishments, we have recorded a CD with Yo-Yo Ma's sound engineer, **Jody Elff**, performed with **Tommy Tune** in **Christopher Radko's Hello Again, Dolly**, and were the first musical program at **Magazzino Italian Art**. We have held concerts at multiple venues around the Hudson Valley ever since. Currently, we are growing to offer new repertoire as an octet as well as expanding our radius of venues in which to perform in the future.

You can stream us on Spotify, iTunes, Tidal, Amazon Music Unlimited, Apple Music and Deezer. Our physical CD, entitled ***A Christmas Feast***, is also sold on Amazon and includes 16 holiday tracks.

For more about us, please visit linktr.ee/thebrasilesensemble, which includes links to our website and all social media platforms.

**In order to help our environment, we strive to be conservative with certain things, such as paper. So, this year, our program can be found on our website before the concert, rather than after. If you are missing a paper program, please visit our website and click on the Program Covers & Promotional Posters tab to find this program available as a PDF.



The Brasiles Ensemble

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. Madeleine had left behind her native country, her beloved family and her Italian maiden name, *Brasiles*. (*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.

~*Madeleine DeNitto, Founder*



Program

The Martinmas Goose

Anonymous

The Boars Head Carol

David Willcocks

Throw the Yule Log on, Uncle John

P.D.Q. Bach

'Tis Christmas

Henry Purcell

Lyrics by Laura Danilov

The Flaming Pudding Carol

Traditional

Carol of the Meal

Mykola Leontovych

Lyrics by Laura Danilov

Christmas Time is Here

Arrangement by Paul Phillips

Walking in the Air

Howard Blake

Madeleine DeNitto ~ soprano

Kimberly Hiss ~ soprano

Christmas Star

John Williams

Alexandra Beliakovich ~ piano

Laura Danilov ~ soprano

Madeleine DeNitto ~ flute

Gloucestershire Wassail

Traditional

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

El Grillo

Josquin des Près

Sleigh Ride

Arrangement by Paul Phillips

Dreydle

Arrangement by Laura Danilov

Jul, Jul, Strändele Jul

Gustav Nordqvist

Madeleine DeNitto ~ soprano

The Snow is Dancing

Claude Debussy

Alexandra Beliakovich ~ piano

Why Must the Winter Come so Soon

Samuel Barber

Madeleine DeNitto ~ soprano

Alexandra Beliakovich ~ piano

In Dulce Jubilo

Robert Lucas Pearsall

Le Sommeil de l'Enfant

Arrangement by Ron Jeffers

Kimberly Hiss ~ soprano

Madeleine DeNitto ~ soprano

Laura Danilov ~ alto

The Blue Bird

Charles Villiers Stanford
Madeleine DeNitto ~ soprano

S'Vivon

Arrangement by Betty Bertaux
Laura Danilov ~ soprano

Rui, Rui, Chui

Anonymous
Paul Phillips ~ tenor

Tu Scendi dalle Stelle

S. Alfonso Maria de' Liguori

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Arrangement by Paul Phillips

The new Brasiles Arts Collective

The Brasiles Ensemble is honored to grow by inviting a selective group of visual, literary, dance and theatrical artists to collaborate with for very special performances throughout the Hudson Valley Region, as well as in New York City. More details about The Brasiles Arts Collective will be coming soon! In the meantime, please visit our new Facebook page: facebook.com/TheBrasilesArtsCollective

Newsletter

You can sign up for our newsletter on the sign-up sheet in the back of the room where the CDs are being sold. This will keep you up to date with our concert and recording announcements in the future.

Friends of The Brasiles Ensemble

We have finally made an official outreach effort to start a group of volunteers to assist us with concerts and special events. There are volunteer forms available tonight if you happen to be interested in any of the areas where we would appreciate some assistance. Whether it's simply handing out programs, handling tickets or donations at the door, selling CDs for us or helping us set up or breakdown stage props or equipment, we would love to have you become a part of our team of volunteers! The printable PDF volunteer form is also found on our website by clicking on our new volunteer tab.

Thank you!

Bud Lavery for designing our official posters and flyers for promoting this concert. You can view Bud's work on budlavery.com.

Minuteman Press for being the most dependable printing service we have ever had the joy to work with.

Howland Cultural Center Board of Directors for having us perform in this historic building.

Performer Bios

Laura Danilov ~ alto

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: Sister Mary Hubert in Nunsense (Depot Theatre), Annas in Jesus Christ Super Star (Depot Theatre); Linda in No Privacy (Aery 20/20 Festival); Charles Thomson in 1776 (Depot Theatre); Beggars Opera (Philipstown Depot Theatre), Much Ado About Nothing (Princeton Rep Shakespeare Festival), Violet (Putnam County Theatre), Godspell (Oasis Theatre Co.) Most recently, Laura has composed two original pieces for The Brasiles Ensemble and plans to write more in the future. Her play, “Ouija” was a finalist in the 2020 ScreenCast Stage Play competition. In addition to performing, Laura is a body based Life Coach working with people who want to experience more joy and confidence in life including private singing lessons and movement & sound workshops based in the Williamson Movement Technique which she used to teach at the Actors Movement Studio in NYC. She lives in Cold Spring with her husband and her famous son, Alex.

Madeleine DeNitto ~ founder / soprano

During her decade of performance with Capitol City 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. In addition, she was chosen to perform in two special shows in which she toured from school to school in and around the Atlanta region. 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 with fellow singer, Laura in which they performed the “infamous cat fight” at The Philipstown Depot Theatre. Madeleine met fellow singers, Ed, Paul and Kim when they were all members of the former choir at St. Philip’s in the Highlands Episcopal Church, which is how the concept of founding The Brasiles Ensemble became a reality. Since late 2021, Madeleine joined the Christ Episcopal Church choir in Poughkeepsie where she happily continues to meet and work with new musicians. She and her husband relocated to the Hudson Valley permanently in 2010. For over 20 years, Madeleine has been a professional organizer and is proud owner of *Garrison Concierge*. Most recently, has also made the decision to return to her work in the visual arts as a multimedia artist and some of her work can be found on *DeNittoArt* online. This year, she has also taken a position at Magazzino Italian Art in Cold Spring. She and her husband have two adult children; one daughter, a wife and mother for two, living in Raleigh, NC, working in corporate HR, and a son, recently married and working in DC as a U.S. trial attorney for the Department of Justice. As one of the founding members, Speare performs with The Brasiles Ensemble whenever he can spare the time. For his bio, see Speare Hodges below.

Kimberly Hiss ~ soprano

Kimberly Hiss 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 Highlands Choral Society. As a side project, she and Madeleine have created a new vocal duo called The Mary Powell. Beyond music, Kimberly is a writer and editor who has contributed pieces to a range of titles to O the Oprah Magazine, HuffPost, Health, Woman’s Health, Readers’s Digest, Wired, The Prague Post, Dubin’s Sunday Business Post, and more. She lives in Peekskill, NY, with her husband and two sons.

Paul Phillips ~ tenor

Paul grew up singing with family and friends. After some initial music training in the Atlanta Boy Choir, he sang in 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. Paul 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. He 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 produce English language teaching materials. He collaborates with producers, composers, and arrangers to develop video and audio programs for teaching English. In addition to The Brasiles Ensemble, Paul currently sings with the Highlands Choral Society.

Ed Robinson ~ bass

Born in post-WWII Germany to a military family, Ed's childhood was split between Germany and New York City. Choral singing was an important part of his early life during which he sang with the Manhattan Borough-Wide Chorus and the All-City High School Chorus, performing at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. A life-long church choir member, Ed has sung with the Saint Augustine Chapel Choir of Trinity Parish in New York City and, from 1980 to 2021, the Saint Philip's Church Choir in Garrison. Ed is currently a member of the Highlands Choral Society. Ed earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from The City College of New York and recently retired after a forty-two-year engineering career. His specialty was centered on control and automation system design and construction management for domestic and international electrical power facilities, water treatment, and wastewater treatment plants. Ed is also a Vietnam Veteran and retired military NCO; a Master Sergeant with the USAF and NYANG for 22 years. He is also an active member of the New York Paleontological Society. Ed has been married to Louise Squitieri since 2004 and, together, they have five children and nine grandchildren.

Alexandra Beliakovich ~ piano

Alexandra is a versatile Belarusian-American pianist and educator. As a performer, she appeared with the Belarusian Symphony, Belarusian Chamber Orchestra, Cincinnati and Manhattan School of Music Philharmonic Orchestras, Havana Symphony Orchestra and as recitalist in Belarus, China, Cuba, Japan, Poland, Spain and the USA. Alexandra was a prize winner in several piano competitions; she won First Prize at the Klaviermusik International Competition in Vilnius, Lithuania, Second Prize at the Fourth International Piano Competition in Panama and Second Prize at the World Piano Competition 2011. Alexandra's recent engagements include concerto performances with the Charlottesville Symphony Orchestra and the Havana Symphony Orchestra in Cuba, where her performances of Gershwin's Concerto in F and Beethoven's Concerto No. 5 won critical acclaim. As a soloist, she has also been featured on a WQXR radio broadcast and was a featured pianist at the 2018 Bar Harbor Music Festival. Alexandra is a recipient of the scholarship from the Belarusian President's Special Fund for Talented Youth (2004 and 2005), Roy M. Rubinstein Piano Performance Award (2010), and Helen Cohn Award (2016). In 2015, Alexandra was named an Outstanding Citizen of the City of New York by the City Council. From 2004 to 2006, Alexandra was an Advanced Student of piano and organ under Jury Gildiuk at the Belarusian State Academy of Music. She has since earned her Master's and Doctoral Degrees from the Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Solomon Mikowsky.



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