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**RELEASE**

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**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE  
PRESENTS MUSICA SACRA IN  
*SPIRIT AND SPLENDOR: SCHÜTZ & HANDEL***



Photo Credit: Brian Hatton

*An evening of Schütz and Handel performed by Musica Sacra on March 19*

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The Cathedral of St. John the Divine's 2023-2024 season of Great Music in a Great Space continues with a performance by Musica Sacra, presenting two Baroque masterworks, Heinrich Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien* and George Frideric Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, on **Tuesday, March 19 at 7:30 pm, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street).** Tickets are \$35-\$75, \$20 for students with valid ID.

Heinrich Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien* — the first German requiem — is rich in its choral textures and variation. The splendor of Handel's famously challenging *Dixit Dominus* showcases the virtuosity of the Musica Sacra Chorus with a marvelous cast of soloists.

These signature works of Musica Sacra will be performed under *Divine Pathways*, seating the audience beneath the stunning site-specific textile installation by artist Anne Patterson and weaving in these with glorious sounds of the Baroque era.

**Spirit and Splendor: Schütz & Handel**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:30 PM**  
Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Pre-concert discussion with Anne Patterson and Kent Tritle, 7 PM

Musica Sacra Chorus  
Kent Tritle, music director/conductor  
Elisse Albian and Emily Donato, sopranos  
Kirsten Sollek, contralto  
Richard Pittsinger, tenor  
Nathaniel Sullivan, baritone  
Joseph Beutel, bass-baritone

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)                      *Musikalische Exequien*  
Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)              *Dixit Dominus*

For more information and to purchase tickets, [visit Musica Sacra's website](#). For details and information on all the Cathedral's programs and services, visit [stjohndivine.org](http://stjohndivine.org).

### **About Musica Sacra**

Since its founding in 1964 by conductor Richard Westenburg, the mission of **Musica Sacra** has been to create definitive, professional, choral performances of the highest caliber for the widest possible audience. It supports its mission by presenting concerts, recording, commissioning and performing new choral works, collaborating with other top tier performing arts organizations, and educating audiences, students, and the general public in the appreciation and history of choral music.

The story of Musica Sacra, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City, is the story of a dazzling past, a thriving present, and a vibrant future. It is a tale of six decades of brilliance, every performance filled with new discoveries; profound statements made simply and elegantly. Whether a performance of the great choral masters of the past or the contemporary repertoire of today, Musica Sacra stands alone in its ability to positively change one's perception of choral singing forever.

### **About Kent Tritle**

**Kent Tritle** is one of America's leading choral conductors. In addition to being Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, he is also Music Director of Musica Sacra and Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York.

In addition, he is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, Kent is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic.

Called “the brightest star in New York's choral music world” by The New York Times, Kent Tritle founded the *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* concert series at New York’s Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and led it to great acclaim from 1989 to 2011. From 1996 to 2004, he was Music Director of New York’s The Dessoff Choirs. Kent Tritle has made more than 20 recordings on the Telarc, Naxos, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, VAI and MSR Classics labels. [kenttritle.com](http://kenttritle.com)

### **About Great Music in a Great Space**

Revived in 2011, Great Music in a Great Space reprises the legendary concert series first held at the Cathedral in the 1980s. Great Music in a Great Space presents choral, orchestral, and instrumental music, in the magnificent, deeply spiritual setting of the world’s largest Gothic cathedral. The beloved holiday traditions of the Christmas Concert and New Year’s Eve Concert for Peace are an integral part of our concert series. Joined by Rose of the Compass and Musica Sacra, the Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra, and a remarkable artistic team of organists and soloists bring the beloved space of the Cathedral to life with this transcendent music.

### **About The Cathedral**

Over one hundred years ago, the trustees of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine conceived its mission to be a house of prayer for all people, an instrument of church unity, and a center of intellectual light and leading in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Today, as the mother church of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the seat of its bishop, the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine serves the many diverse people of our diocese, city, nation and world through the worship of God; pastoral, educational and community outreach activities; cultural and civic events; international ecumenical initiatives; and the preservation of the great architectural and historic site that is its legacy.

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