

THE BRONX CONCERT SINGERS

Arts Fund Grant 2015

LINKS:

Bronx Concert Singers website:

<http://www.bronxconcertsingers.org>

Cablevision Local (Bronx ch 118) *Neighborhood Journal* attended our Spring 2012 concert "A Night at the Opera" where they conducted interviews and taped some of the concert. They produced a 3 minute segment on Bronx Concert Singers. This link is available to our members to share.

Link to Cablevision Neighborhood Journal Bronx Concert Singers profile, August, 2012.

At Spring 2012 Concert at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Parkchester, Bronx NY

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo-q82vFMJk>

Link to sample from BCS's Messiah December 14, 2014. Malaika Alvaro, soprano, and chorus.

<https://onedrive.live.com/?cid=f3cff1a3f1eafc66&id=F3CFF1A3F1E AFC66%21519&ithint=folder.wmv&authkey=!AL4MsyOCLDD1vsM>

Link to Alexandra Fetner, mezzo, as the soloist for *I Wonder as I Wander* by John Jacob Niles at the BCS 32nd Annual Holiday Concert (December, 2013).

<https://onedrive.live.com/redirect.aspx?cid=f3cff1a3f1eafc66&resid=F3CFF1A3F1E AFC66!177&parId=F3CFF1A3F1E AFC66!121&authkey=!AH9XggecJaeMgnk&ithint=video%2cwmv>

In **The Bronx Chronicle**, Nilka Martell wrote about St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church where she included some information regarding the Bronx Concert Singers' 32nd Annual Holiday Concert (December 2013).

<http://thebronxchronicle.com/st-pauls-evangelical-lutheran-church/#respond>

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Music Director Robert René Galván is a conductor and educator with a long list of credits and associations from all over North America, ranging from



small churches to the highest echelons of music. He is equally at home in orchestral, choral, operatic repertoire and musical theater, and is known for his professionalism, precise communication and directing skills. Maestro Galván is Conductor of the **Bronx Concert Singers**, **Peace of Heart Choir**, and **Manhattan Sinfonia**.

He was recently appointed Special Music Teacher for Heketi Community Charter School in the Bronx.

He served as Professor of Conducting at the Long Island Conservatory of Music where he was Vice President of Academic Affairs and conducted the conservatory orchestra and Professor of Conducting & Choral Studies at the Brooklyn-Queens Conservatory of Music where he trained young conductors and directed the conservatory chorale. He was also Music Director of **Highbridge Voices Youth**

Chorus, **Cantiamo Youth Chorus** and associate conductor of the **National Children's Chorus**. He was guest conductor of **Florilegium Chamber Choir** in Manhattan and **Cappella Festiva** in upstate New York. For four seasons he was conductor of the **Springfield Symphony Chorus** in Massachusetts.

In Texas, Galván held positions as conductor of the **Austin Philharmonic**, associate conductor of the **Austin Choral Union**, and as director of both the **University Chorus** and the **Longhorn Singers** at the University of Texas.

A native of San Antonio, Texas, he is married to the playwright Holly Hepp-Galván and has a daughter, Gina.

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PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

Tamara Cashour, accompanist and piano soloist, is currently on the Collaborative Pianist Faculty of William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ, and also works as an accompanist for singers and opera workshops in the Mannes College Extension Division, NYC. Ms. Cashour was on the Vocal Accompanying Staff of the Manhattan School of Music and the Long Island Conservatory of Music. She was appointed Music Director/Organist-Choir Director at the Presbyterian Church of New Rochelle in June, 2008, and has been accompanist for Bronx Concert Singers since September, 2009.

As a pianist, Ms. Cashour has performed/premiered the works of many new music composers of opera, art song and solo piano pieces, including John Harbison, Ricky Ian Gordon and Dorothy Chang, as well as New York Composer Circle members Debra Kaye, Nataliya Medvedovskaya and Noah Haverkamp. Ms. Cashour made her Carnegie-Weill Hall Accompanying debut in February, 2002.

Ms. Cashour is also a composer. Her composition: Queens' Suite, a suite in 7 movements for violin, viola, cello and harp, was accepted into the 2015 IAWM (International Alliance of Women in Music) International Music Conference. The conference takes place entirely online April 13-19, 2015. www.iawm.org. The work will also be performed on May 30, 2015 at Symphony Space in NYC.

About Queens Suite: Queens Suite premiered November 1, 2013 at Queens College, NYC. The composition, however, has nothing to do with the New York borough, but is a series of character studies of various women who have inspired me

On October 10, 2013, Ms Cashour was a guest panelist at the American Women Writers National Museum's "Words and Music by Note-able Women" event, held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The event featured women writers who also work in the musical world (librettists, composers of song, opera, choral, music theatre, etc.) The panel is part of the *50-state Project: Honoring Women Writers from New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Ohio*

Ms. Cashour holds a BA in Music Theory from Columbia University (NYC) and an MA in Opera Directing/Performance (with a concentration in feminist/avant-garde theatre studies) from New York University.

Malaika Alvaro, soprano, made her New York singing debut at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1999 winning critical acclaim. She has since sung lead roles in many productions of the major national and international houses in opera and legit musical theater. A recitalist, she was a featured soloist with The New York Lyric Opera Theater, Westchester Philharmonic, National Hungarian Orchestra, and sang Brazilian classical favorites in a guitar recital under the auspice of Sharon Isbin at Alice Tully Hall.

Ms. Alvaro has appeared with The New York Lyric Opera Theater, The Aspen Music Festival, The Hamptons Music Festival, the Mexican National Orchestra, the Hungarian National

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Orchestra, and the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center and as concert soloist in the church of Santa Giulia in Torino, Italy.

She is the director of the voice department for the Long Island Conservatory. She conducts a private music studio in New York and Washington, D.C. Her students have been engaged in professional opera companies and children's choruses, independent films and accepted into major voice conservatory programs including Manhattan School of Music and Oberlin Conservatory.

Ms. Alvaro holds a B.M. from The Juilliard School and an M.M. from Manhattan School of Music as well as a certificate from the American University of Paris. She is a native Washingtonian and currently resides in New York City.

Melissa Raymond, soprano, has been living and working in New York for a number of years. Her performances have included Handel's *Messiah*, Brahms's *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, Mozart's *Solemn Vespers*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* (RV588), Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Carissimi oratorios, Domenico Scarlatti's *Stabat Mater*, Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, Bach *Cantatas 80* and *140* as well as shorter works by Purcell, Zelenka and Mozart.

Ms. Raymond is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music, where she obtained her Master of Music while studying with Joan Caplan. Melissa has been a regular soloist with The Bronx Concert Singers since Robert René Galván took the baton in late 2006.

Mezzo-soprano Alexandra Fetner currently lives in NYC where she performs locally and attends Columbia University. She performs weekly at Cavalry St. George's Church.

Ms Fetner's made her third appearance with Bronx Concert Singers as Mezzo-Soprano soloist in the 2014 Holiday *Messiah* concert.. Her debut with BCS in 2013's Holiday concert prompted Nilka Martell of THE BRONX CHRONICLE to write: "I Wonder as I Wander" featured Mezzo-soprano Alexandra Fetner, whose angelic deliverance literally caused your hair to stand on end."

A native of Ridgewood, N.J, she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2013 from Carnegie Mellon University where she performed the role of L'Enfant in Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, Cherubino in scenes from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Dorabella in Carnegie Mellon Opera Scenes, and Mezzo-Soprano soloist in Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

During that time, Ms. Fetner was awarded the Charlotte Black Memorial Scholarship, first-prize in the 2010 Tri-State Chapter of National Association of Teachers of Singing, and graduated with High Honors. Ms. Fetner has attended music programs such as the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute and Songfest, she currently resides in NYC.

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Tenor Anthony Cinelli holds a Bachelor of Arts from Rhode Island College with a concentration in vocal performance and theatre. Anthony has toured nationally performing numerous roles from standard opera repertoire to American musical theatre in regional and summer stock houses throughout the eastern seaboard. He has been a featured solo artist with the West Point Cadet Choir, The Bronx Concert Singers, New Jersey Chorale, Third Street Music Settlement and Cornerstone Chorale for which he served as President of the Board of Directors for the millennium season.

Mr. Cinelli is an ensemble member of MUSE Early Music Chamber Ensemble as well as principal tenor and soloist at Congregation Oheb Shalom in South Orange, NJ.

Dale Smith, tenor, has appeared internationally in a variety of concert and leading operatic roles in Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Hong Kong, and Israel as well as the United States.

Mr. Smith made his New York City Opera debut as Don Jose in *Carmen* and made his Carnegie Hall debut as tenor soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*.

He is Director of Music at St. Francis Xavier Parish in the Bronx, teaches at St. Raymond's Elementary School in the Bronx, is on the staff at All About Theater in Waverly, Pennsylvania and on the voice faculty at Third Street Music School Settlement in Manhattan. Mr. Smith

maintains an active voice studio at home in the Bronx and teaches private students in Pennsylvania. **Mr. Smith has been a Bronx resident for several decades.**

Dalton Taylor, baritone, graduated from SUNY Purchase College, where he studied voice with Thomas Goodheart. He sang the roles of Masetto in *Don Giovanni*, Baron in **The Merry Widow**, Papageno in *The Magic Flute* and roles in *Die Fledermaus*, among many other concerts.

Mr. Taylor served as the section leader for St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in White Plains for eight years. Currently, he is the resident artist at Blessed Sacrament Church in Hamden, CT. He has been a regular guest with the Bronx Concert Singers since Robert René Galván took the baton in Fall 2006.