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Feel the power of Bach's *Magnificat*



HOUSTON —This holiday season, Mercury Baroque brings you Bach's powerful *Magnificat* on December 13, 2008 at 8 p.m. at the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater.

This popular Bach piece, Mary's prayer after learning she will give birth to the Son of God, is from the Gospel of St. Luke. A joyous musical celebration for the holidays, the *Magnificat* is energized by the distinctive sound of period instruments, a Mercury choir, and five soloists.

Following the concert, Mercury Baroque treats the audience to its annual silent auction and party. Free to concert-goers, the party includes food, spirits, and a diverse selection of auction items. The party is a wonderful opportunity to meet the Mercury musicians, and the proceeds benefit the ensemble's educational outreach and concert programming.

The night's featured soloists include sopranos Rebecca Beasley and Ana Treviño-Godfrey, counter-tenor Gerrod Pagenkopf, tenor Zachary Wilder, and baritone Tyler Duncan.

Tyler Duncan has been described as a 'great communicator with suave vocal complexity' (Vancouver Sun). His performances have taken him throughout Europe and North America, and recent highlights include a North American tour of the *Monteverdi Vespers* with Tragicomedia and Concerto Palantino, and the role of Papageno in *The Magic Flute* in Holland.

Rebecca Beasley returns to Mercury Baroque for the first time since her performance as the statue in the critically-acclaimed production of Rameau's *Pygmalion*. In addition to performing with the Mercury ensemble, she has performed with such groups as Concert Royal, Dallas Bach Society, the Orchestra of New Spain, the Catacoustic Consort, and Cantastorie.

Tenor Zachary Wilder made his debut in a trio of roles with the Boston Early Music Festival's production of Lully's *Psyché*. He has performed with a number of early music ensembles, including the Houston Bach Society, Ars Lyrica Houston, and Ossia New Music Ensemble.

Soprano Ana Treviño-Godfrey and counter-tenor Gerrod Pagenkopf perform regularly with Mercury Baroque. Both appeared in last season's fully-staged production of *Dido and Aeneas*.

Mercury Baroque's highly imaginative programming brings music to a variety of audiences and venues, including the Wortham Center, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and The University of Houston at Clear Lake. The ensemble does not limit itself to concerts—it also presents a fully staged opera each season.

Tickets for Bach's *Magnificat* are \$25 - \$52. Admission to the holiday party and silent auction is included in the ticket price. To purchase tickets, call 832-251-0706 or visit www.mercurybaroque.org.

Pictured: Soprano Ana Treviño-Godfrey Photo credit: George Hixson