



PRESS RELEASE

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Boston Secession Rings in Holiday Season With *Cabaret Noël: Singalong Secession*

2007-2008 Season

November 9 & 10, 2007
The Big Oh!

December 7, 2007
Cabaret Noel
Singalong Secession

February 8, 2008
(Un)Lucky in Love
Alternative Valentine Celebration

March 15, 2008
Handel in the Strand

April 13, 2008
**Justina Golden and The
Amiable Consort**

Fall, 2008 Preview

November, 2008
Testimony of Witnesses
An Oratorio of Remembrance

BOSTON, MA – November 8, 2007 – Boston Secession will celebrate the holiday season with *Cabaret Noël: Singalong Secession* on December 7th in Brookline. The repertoire for the cabaret-style concert embraces the gamut of emotions associated with Christmas, from joy and revelry to bittersweet desire and longing.

Cabaret Noël will feature both solo and ensemble pieces, mixing traditional seasonal favorites with an eclectic repertoire of contemporary works. The concert offers a sampling of the holiday's most beloved choral chestnuts, including Harry Simeone's arrangements of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* and *The Little Drummer Boy*. Poignant and witty cabaret solos by some of musical theatre's best-loved composers, including Jason Robert Brown, Irving Berlin, Frank Loesser, and Maltby & Shire, will also be featured.

The audience is invited to sing along with members of Secession's professional choral ensemble in a variety of traditional Christmas hymns and carols, from *Silent Night* to *White Christmas*, and well-known selections from Handel's *Messiah*.

Artists of Boston Secession welcome returning guest artist and friend Nancy Armstrong, renowned soprano, and join with her in a number of surprise ensemble and solo pieces. Of the concert, Armstrong notes, "I'm delighted to have another opportunity to sing with Secession because the ensemble is

deserving and unique. Jane Ring Frank is a programming genius and there is no one in this city doing the kind of repertoire she is able to handle. It works because the group has riveting, top-notch musicians. Their performance skill is phenomenal.”

Members of Boston Secession will be accompanied by Secession pianist Scott Nicholas, and guest organist Heinrich Christiansen, Director of Music for King’s Chapel.

Boston Secession was founded in 1997 by Jane Ring Frank, the ensemble’s conductor and artistic director. The group quickly established a reputation for offering superlative performances. Looking forward to the 2007 - 08 season, Frank observes, “It’s a joy and a privilege to work with a group of musicians who are not only singularly talented, but passionate and committed as well. Their skill and dedication has enabled Secession to earn a place of great respect in the classical music community.” Secession is equally dedicated to making classical music accessible to audiences, offering intelligent thematic programs accompanied by commentary.

Cabaret Noël: Singalong Secession will take place on Friday, December 7th, at 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Church, 15 St. Paul Street in Brookline. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for students.

Boston Secession’s 2007 – 2008 concert season also includes **(Un)Lucky in Love**, Secession’s popular Alternative Valentine Celebration, on February 8th, **Handel in the Strand** on March 15th, and **Justina Golden and the Amiable Consort** on April 13th.

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Concert Highlights for Cabaret Noël: Singalong Secession

<i>'Twas The Night Before Christmas</i> [1945]	Ken Darby (1909-1992) arr. Harry Simeone
<i>I Wonder As I Wander</i> [1933]	trad./arr. John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)
<i>White Christmas</i> [1942]	Irving Berlin (1888-1989) arr. Roy Ringwald (1910-1995)
<i>The Little Drummer Boy</i> [1943]	Harry Simeone, Katherine K. Davis & Henry Onorati arr. Harry Simeone (1911-2005)
“Surabaya Santa” from <i>Songs for a New World</i> [1995]	Jason Robert Brown (b. 1970)
“Christmas Lullaby” from <i>Songs for a New World</i> [1995]	Jason Robert Brown (b. 1970)
<i>What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?</i>	Frank Loesser (1910-1969)
Excerpts from <i>Amahl & the Night Visitor</i> [1951]	Gian Carlo Menotti (b.1911)
<i>O Holy Night (Cantique de Noël)</i> [1847]	Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)
Traditional Hymns, Carols, Songs and excerpts from Handel's <i>Messiah</i> .	

Photos available for download at www.bostonsecession.org Press Room

Boston Secession's 2007 - 2008 Season Details

Boston Secession 2007 - 2008 season subscriptions are \$130 (5 shows for the price of 4, and a \$25 discount off the single ticket price) for all five season performances, including tickets to *Secession's* repeat sell-out (Un)Lucky in Love alternative Valentine's concert. Tickets are currently on sale through the *Boston Secession* website (www.bostonsecession.org) or by calling 617-499-4860. The subscription package includes:

The Big Oh!

Friday, November 9, 2007, 8:00 pm

Heineman Ecumenical and Cultural Center, Framingham State College

Saturday, November 10, 2007, 8:00 pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

A let-'er-rip romp through the sexier strains of music from 999 to today. This is a seductively silly, positively PG-13 program that explores the earthier mechanics of 'friction to heat' conjugal counterpoint, tests the tortured romanticism of Wagnerian love-death, and takes a humorous look at love "from both sides, now." Repertoire highlights run the gamut – from Pergolesi to Rossini, Barber, Schönberg, Bruckner and more.

Cabaret Noël: Singalong Secession

Friday, December 7, 2007, 8:00 pm

St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul Street, Brookline

Join us for Boston's new holiday tradition, a joyous cabaret performance overflowing with seasonal favorites, this year featuring renowned soprano Nancy Armstrong and Artists of Boston Secession. Croon along or wail away on all your holiday favorites, from *White Christmas* to *Silent Night* and through the top tunes from Handel's *Messiah*. Lift your voice in song with Jane Ring Frank and the professional singers of Boston Secession and enjoy a few funny, heartwarming and poignant Secession solo surprises along the way. ...and if you have a *Messiah* score, don't leave home without it!

(Un)Lucky in Love

Featuring special guest artist, Justina Golden

Friday, February 8, 2008, 8:00 pm

Veronique Ballroom, Longwood Towers, Brookline

Cupid might be stupid

And forget to shoot the beau

But you don't have to sit alone

And wish it weren't so...

Come share an empathizing laugh with fellow fools for love at Boston Secession's annual Alternative Valentine celebration – presented for the first time in the gorgeous Veronique Ballroom of the Longwood Towers in Brookline! Join featured Secession artists – in solos, duets and wee ensembles – as they celebrate the vicissitudes of love. Featuring an all new program, including works by Mozart, Sondheim, Bernstein, Jason Robert Brown, and others.

Handel in the Strand

Saturday, March 15, 2008, 8:00 pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

In the Baroque period, J. S. Bach beetled away in Germany as the introverted, provincial genius, while George Frideric Handel took London by storm, becoming the era's extroverted, cosmopolitan superstar. A German who wrote in the Italian style in England, Handel was wildly popular in his day – and it is his musical style that has left an indelible mark on nearly all the greatest composers after his death in 1759. This concert traces the musical inheritance of Handel's heirs – from the man himself to works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Weill, Stravinsky and even Percy Grainger!

Boston Secession presents

Justina Golden and The Amiable Consort

Featuring Robert Eisenstein, medieval fiddle, founding member of the Folger Consort

Friday, April 11, 2008, 8:00 pm

Gordon Chapel, Old South Church, Boston

Boston Secession is pleased to welcome guest artist Justina Golden and her new ensemble, The Amiable Consort, featuring the best of Boston Secession's early music voices. Specializing in Hildegard von Bingen and solo and multi-part chant, this early music ensemble presents deeply moving performances of exceptional quality, imbued with a rare accessibility both for those in the know and those who are new to this music. Praised for her "honey rich, deep voice" and the "lush richness" of her expressive vocal work, Justina brings to her performances a boldness and passion rarely heard in this form.

About Boston Secession

It's not every night that the chemistry of a concert's performance and program leads to spontaneous audience combustion. Welcome to Boston Secession: utterly superlative musical performances combined with witty, original programs that reframe the very notion of what a "classical music" concert can be.

Here's Boston Secession's formula for the city's most stunning and entertaining concerts:

First, start with Boston's best, most disciplined singers. Add Artistic Director Jane Ring Frank's commitment to world-class musicianship coupled with a lushly transparent sound, achieved through applying typically orchestral techniques to her professional ensemble. After plundering nine centuries of repertoire to find compositions—both famous and obscure—Ring Frank then puts this unique sound to work in creative thematic programs of depth and originality.

The result? Performances that demonstrate "a commitment to serious musicianship leavened with a friendly sense of *joie de vivre*," (*The Hub Review*), and an aural effect "so precise" — according to Richard Dyer of *The Boston Globe* — "[it makes] the ears ring."

So, why the name Boston Secession?

Over a hundred years ago, Austrian painter Gustav Klimt's artist's co-operative, the Vienna Secession, created a sensation by displaying paintings at eye level for the first time. Now the common practice for all art galleries, the Secessionists' approach modernized the presentation of fine art forever. Inspired by the original Secession, Jane Ring Frank founded Boston Secession in 1996 as a professional studio for modern vocal performance, bringing classical music to "eye level."

Join this "superb choral group" (*Boston Phoenix*) as we embark on our second decade of exceptionally fine performances, bringing new audiences to classical music and fresh inspiration to classical music lovers everywhere.