



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Boston Secession's March 15<sup>th</sup> Concert, *Handel in the Strand*,  
Celebrates Handel's Musical Legacy**

**BOSTON, MA – February 13, 2008** – Boston Secession's March 15<sup>th</sup> concert, *Handel in the Strand*, takes a sweeping look at the musical legacy of Baroque superstar George Frideric Handel. A German who was wildly popular in his day, Handel's musical style left an indelible mark on nearly all the greatest composers who followed him. *Handel in the Strand* showcases Handel's heirs, from Felix Mendelssohn and Johannes Brahms, to composers for opera and theater such as John Gay (a student of Handel's), as well as Kurt Weill, and Benjamin Britten. The repertoire also includes a few humorous parodies of Handel's work, such as Percy Grainger's *Handel in the Strand*, for which the concert is named.

"Boston audiences know and love Handel, thanks to the many extraordinary classical music groups that regularly feature his work in their concerts," comments Jane Ring Frank, Boston Secession's Artistic Director and Conductor. "We think of *Handel in the Strand* as a way of engaging in a musical dialogue with our colleagues and our audience, and sharing a different side of Handel with Boston music lovers."

Repertoire highlights for the concert, which kicks off with "Hallelujah" from Handel's *Messiah*, include excerpts from Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, and Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*, as well as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and Brahms' *Triumphlied*, which Frank describes as "Handel on steroids." Grainger's *Handel in the Strand* for keyboard and strings presents a parody of Handel compositions, as does Victor Hely-Hutchinson's *Old Mother Hubbard*.

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**2007-2008  
Season**

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*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**

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**Fall, 2008  
Preview**

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*November, 2008*  
**Testimony of Witnesses**  
**An Oratorio of Remembrance**

Boston Secession's 25-member professional ensemble, which includes tenor Jason McStoots and alto Martin Near, has earned a reputation for delivering concerts of impeccable beauty and precision. The group is pleased to welcome for this performance celebrated organist Heinrich Christensen. The repertoire for *Handel in the Strand* was selected with an eye towards showcasing the diverse talents of Boston Secession's accomplished musicians.

*Handel in the Strand* takes place Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. at First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square. For preferred seating, tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door; general seating is \$25, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for students. Tickets may be ordered online at [www.bostonsecession.org](http://www.bostonsecession.org) or by phone at 617.499.4860.

Boston Secession was founded in 1997 by Jane Ring Frank. The group quickly established a reputation for offering superlative performances of works ranging from medieval chant to contemporary music. Looking forward to the 2007 - 08 season, Frank observed, "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.

Boston Secession's 2007 – 2008 concert season will conclude with **Justina Golden and the Amiable Consort** on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

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## Concert Highlights for Handel in the Strand

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“Hallelujah”  
from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

*Handel in the Strand*  
[1911, for piano and strings]

Percy Aldridge Grainger (1882-1961)

### Excerpts from:

*The Beggar's Opera* [1728]

John Gay (1685-1732)

*The Threepenny Opera* [1928]  
(*Die Dreigroschenoper*)

Kurt Weill (1900-50)  
Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956)

*The Beggar's Opera*, Op. 43 [1728], [1948]

John Gay (1685-1732)  
realized from the original airs by Benjamin Britten

“Old Mother Hubbard,” a parody [1929]

Victor Hely-Hutchinson (1901-47)

“Yes! We Have No Bananas” [1923]

Irving Cohn (1898-1961)  
Frank Silver

Excerpts from *Elijah* [1846]

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)

*Triumphlied*, op. 55 [1873]  
3. Lebhaft

Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

Photos available for download at [www.bostonsecession.org](http://www.bostonsecession.org) Press Room

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## Boston Secession's 2007 - 2008 Season Details

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*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](http://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.

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## About Boston Secession

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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.