



**PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** *Susannah Abbott*  
*978.204.5836*

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*Susannah.Abbott@verizon.net*

**Boston Secession's *(Un)Lucky in Love* Celebrates the  
Vicissitudes of Romance in Honor of Valentine's Day**

**BOSTON, MA – January 16, 2009** – Boston Secession's popular alternative Valentine concert, *(Un)Lucky in Love*, will take place in Cambridge at First Church Congregational on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. This year's performance of *(Un)Lucky* features all-new repertoire, from classical music to musical theatre and from cabaret to parody, with works by P.D.Q. Bach, Bernstein, Sondheim, Stephen Schwartz, Alan Menken, and many others.

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**2008-2009  
Season**

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**Bach, Brahms &  
Schnittke: The Sacred  
Imagination**

*November 15, 2008*

**Chestnuts Roasting:  
A Secession Holiday  
Concert**

*December 5, 2008*

***(Un)Lucky in Love***

*February 13 & 14, 2009*

**World Premiere of  
Testimony of Witnesses**

*March 22, 2009*

In *(Un)Lucky in Love*, comprised of solos, duets, and small ensembles, featured members of Boston Secession take aim at Cupid himself in a program that reveals the humor and heartbreak, as well as the romance, behind love. "It's a decidedly alternative Valentine concert," explains Jane Ring Frank, Secession's Conductor and Artistic Director. "This is love, stripped of its sugar-coating, and revealed as something truly authentic and moving, whether we're celebrating a new romance or mourning love lost. As always, we've peppered the program with some very humorous pieces, as well as a few new works we know our audience will enjoy."

In response to sell-out crowds in seasons past, Boston Secession will present *(Un)Lucky in Love* on two separate nights this year, accommodating a larger audience while keeping the intimate feeling of the concert. Ring Frank comments, "As luck would have it, the concert will be held on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> and on Valentine's Day itself. We're curious to see whether people choose a performance date based on whether they consider themselves lucky or unlucky. It's a fun coincidence that underscores the program's theme and humorous side."

Boston Secession is a professional choral ensemble founded in 1996 by Jane Ring Frank as a showcase for the breadth and depth of choral music. Ring Frank is also Conductor of Philovox (publishing house E.C. Schirmer's resident professional recording chorus), Resident Scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University, Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church in Winchester, and Conductor of the Concord Women's Chorus. Now in its twelfth season, Secession has earned a reputation as "...a polished, finely blended chamber choir" (Allan Kozinn, *The New York Times*) and an "...extraordinary chorus, notable for its beautiful balance [and] musical surety." (David Perkins, *The Boston Globe*).

Boston Secession has produced two professional recordings, including *Surprised by Beauty: Minimalism in Choral Music*, released in 2008 and featuring compositions by Gavin Bryars, Arvo Pärt, Ruth Lomon, and William Duckworth, with a bonus track by William Walker. Writing for *Gramophone*, reviewer Andrew Farach-Colton singled out Secession's "intelligent programming and polished performances," while Steve Hicken wrote for *Sequenza 21*, "The performances, led by Boston Secession Artistic Director Jane Ring Frank, are uniformly outstanding."

***(Un)Lucky in Love*** will take place in Margaret Jewett Hall, First Church Congregational, in Harvard Square, on Friday, February 13, at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, and \$15 for seniors and students. Tickets may be ordered online at [www.bostonsecession.org](http://www.bostonsecession.org) or by phone at 617.499.4860.

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For photos visit: <http://www.bostonsecession.org/page.cfm?pageid=5872>

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## Boston Secession's 2008 - 2009 Season

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### **Bach, Brahms & Schnittke: The Sacred Imagination**

Saturday, November 15, 2008 • 8 pm

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

### **Chestnuts Roasting: A Secession Holiday Concert**

Friday, December 5, 2008 • 8 pm

Old South Church, Copley Square

### **(Un)Lucky in Love**

Friday, February 13 & Saturday, February 14, 2008 • 8 pm

Margaret Jewett Hall

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

### **Testimony of Witnesses**

Sunday, March 22, 2008 • 3 pm

Sanders Theatre, Harvard University  
45 Quincy Street, Cambridge

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## About Boston Secession

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Boston Secession is a professional choral ensemble comprised of 25 voices, with a repertoire ranging from medieval chant to contemporary classical music.

Founded in 1996 by Conductor and Artistic Director Jane Ring Frank, Boston Secession has garnered critical acclaim for its uniquely blended and transparent sound. David Perkins of the *Boston Globe* called Secession an “extraordinary chorus, notable for its beautiful balance, musical surety, and English-styled straight-toned singing” (March, 2008), while Tom Garvey of the *Hub Review* praised the ensemble for its “lushly transparent singing conducted with intelligence and wit” (February, 2007).

Boston Secession performs four times annually, with thematic programs exploring topics ranging from the enduring influence of George Frideric Handel to expressions of passion and sensuality in choral music. Secession concerts frequently feature premieres of new choral music. The ensemble's annual alternative Valentine's Day concert, *(Un)Lucky in Love*, which takes a lighthearted look at the vicissitudes of love, has sold out for many years.

In the spring of 2009, Boston Secession will premiere *Testimony of Witnesses*, a new multilingual oratorio based on the poetry of Holocaust victims and survivors by Secession's composer-in-residence Ruth Lomon. *Testimony of Witnesses* is a concert-length work scored for chorus, orchestra, and soloists. Lomon's provocative and hauntingly beautiful settings illuminate the personal experience of seventeen poets, whose texts – in seven languages – reflect the truly international impact of the Holocaust and the variety of individuals and communities that were forever changed by it.

In the spring of 2008, Boston Secession released its second professional CD recording, *Surprised by Beauty: Minimalism in Choral Music*, featuring compositions by Gavin Bryars, Arvo Pärt, Ruth Lomon, and William Duckworth. Secession's first recording, *Afterlife: German Choral Meditations on Mortality*, was praised by the *American Record Guide*, which noted that the ensemble is "a very fine one, well blended and excellently in tune. Their performances of often quite difficult music are assured and musical."

Boston Secession was founded on the belief that vocal music is a uniquely powerful way to share intellectual ideas and has the power, above all arts, to create community. Its mission is to create, through its superlative performances, a deeper connection between the audience and the performers.

### **So, why the name Boston Secession?**

One 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 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."

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## **About Jane Ring Frank, Conductor and Artistic Director**

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Boston Secession's Conductor and Artistic Director, Jane Ring Frank, has earned a reputation for her orchestral command of ensemble, her acute sense of intonation and sound coloring, her relentlessly scholarly preparation, and her sparkling sense of humor. The result, in the words of Thomas Garvey of the *Hub Review*, is "lushly transparent singing conducted with intelligence and wit."

Ring Frank founded Boston Secession in 1996 on the program of Gustav Klimt's Vienna Secession of a hundred years ago: bringing uncompromising art and innovation to the people through public performances. Ring Frank and her 25-member vocal art ensemble achieve this goal through rich, uniquely-themed programs and exquisitely realized music.

Ring Frank has conducted and produced two CDs with Boston Secession. *Afterlife: German Choral Meditations on Mortality* features the works of Distler, Brahms, Bach, and Ruth Lomon, Secession's composer-in-residence. This debut disc has received critical acclaim for its outstanding performance quality. Ring Frank and Boston Secession recently recorded a second CD, *Surprised by Beauty: Minimalism in Choral Music*, which features works by Lomon, Arvo Pärt, Gavin Bryars, and William Duckworth.

In addition to her Secession Artistic Director responsibilities, Ring Frank is Conductor of Philovox, publishing house E.C. Schirmer's resident professional recording chorus. She is a Resident Scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University, Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church in Winchester, and Conductor of the Concord Women's Chorus, a 50-voice ensemble.

An accomplished pianist and conductor, Ring Frank started her career in Los Angeles as assistant to Professor Frank Pooler, an important choral innovator known for championing new music and experimental performance techniques. With degrees in accompanying and conducting, Ring Frank began her professional career as associate conductor of the 70-voice University Choir, staff pianist, lecturer, and musical director/conductor for the Department of Theatre Arts at California State University, Long Beach.

Ring Frank moved to Boston in 1991 to conduct at Harvard University. From 1998–2003, Frank was Director of Chapel Music at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, where she worked extensively with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Bishop Emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa. Ring Frank has toured Vienna, Austria, Munich, Prague, Stockholm, Poland and the United States extensively as a guest lecturer, choral/instrumental conductor, and pianist.