



**MALE VOCAL ENSEMBLE LIMBURG**

Dion Ritten, conductor

**ST. JOSEPH'S SINGERS**

Stephen Black, conductor

October 22, 2005

8:00 P.M.;

**PROGRAM**

Laudate Dominum

H. Andriessen

Mass in F Minor  
II. Gloria

J. G. Rheinberger

Gaude Mater

G. Gorczycki

O sacrum convivium

Th. L. da Viadana

Ave Maria

Aug. De Boeck

The Lord is my shepherd

W. Mathias

Male Vocal Ensemble Limburg

Mass in G Minor

R. V. Williams

Alexa Nieschlag, soprano

Sheila Gaffney, alto

Vince Peterson, tenor

Raphael Biran, bass

St. Joseph's Singers

**INTERMISSION**

Dir, Seele des Weltalls

W. A Mozart

1. Der Zauberer

Mozart

Lea Dortants, mezzo - soprano

Wanderes Nachtlid

Br. Sturmer

Gott ist mein Hirt	Fr. Schubert
Standchen Lea Dortants, mezzo - soprano	Schubert
Shenandoah	arr. K. A. Newbury
My Lord what a morning Jean Noel, baritone	arr. W. Siegler
When the Saints go marching in	arr. D. Hood

*Please turn off mobile phones and pagers. Thank you.*

Male Vocal Ensemble Limburg was founded in 2004 by conductor Dion Ritten. The ensemble was formed with select singers of seven different choirs from all over Limburg, the southernmost province of The Netherlands. Three of these choirs (Mannenkoor Beeker Liedertafel, Chevremonts Mannenkoor 1912 Kerkrade and Weerter Gemengd Koor "Vivace") hosted the Rutgers University Glee Club when they toured Europe in May 2003.

This Concert Tour is the group's first trip to the USA and included performances in Washington DC, Philadelphia, and Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Tonight's performance in New York City concludes their tour.

TENOR I	TENOR II	BARITONE	BASS
Wim Winckels	Jos Daemen	Ger Dautzenberg	Hans Offermans
Miel Verkerk	Frank van Dam	Piet Dautzenberg	Ger Bemelmans
Geert Gommers	Erik Zeelen	Jo Dortants	Marc Charlier
Henk Dols	Norbert Pesch	Jean Noel	Franco Wetzelaer
		Roger Soons	Louis Soons
			Hans Bervoets

St. Joseph's Singers is a select choral chamber ensemble of skilled singers from Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. SJS sings sacred and secular music from all periods, with an emphasis on the music of J. S. Bach and contemporary composers. SJS was founded in the spring of 2004 by Stephen Black, director of music at St. Joseph's Church Yorkville. For more information please visit our website at [www.sjsingers.org](http://www.sjsingers.org).

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Natalie Hung	Sheila Gaffney	Jose Cuevas	Matt Bachiochi
Julie Musilek Alexa	Liz Geisewhite	Lance Langston	Raphael Biran
Nieschlag Sarah	Susanna Leuci	Vince Peterson	Jud Brooks
Worthington	Sally Miller Mara	Tim Sachs	Brian Hamer
	Mindell Ianina		Ricardo Rivera
	Wentinck		Guillermo Vaisman
			Bob Wisniewski

**Dion Ritten** started his studies at the Maastricht school of music, where he obtained his degree in the principal subject of school music in 1982. After studying the principal subject of choral conducting for two years, he continued his study at the "Staatliche Hochschule für Musik Rheinland Grenzland-Institut" in Aachen. He completed his study successfully in 1986.

Maestro Ritten studied orchestral conducting with Professor Louis Weemaels, renowned former conductor of the "Nationaal Orkest" of Belgium. In 1987 he took part in a "Meisterkurs" of orchestral conducting in Vienna and in the same year he was a successful candidate in a course of orchestral conducting of the "Limburgs Symphonie Orkest".

Maestro Ritten has conducted many choral and orchestral productions, including opera productions with the co-operation of the Limburgs Symphonie Orkest, the Kerkrads Symphonie Orkest, the Tegels Symphonie Orkest, the chamber orchestra Musica Mosa and various other instrumental ensembles. He regularly works with well-known soloists such as Harrie Peeters, Hub Claessens, Saskia Gerritsen, Thea Vermeulen, Jan Alofs, Corinne Romijn, Janine Kitzen, Kim Savelsbergh, Andrea Poddighe and Frans Kokkelmans.

At present Dion Ritten is conductor of Male Voice Choir Chevremonts Mannenkoor 1912 Kerkrade, Mixed Choir Weerter Gemengd Koor "Vivace", Chamber Choir Cantate Venlo, Male Voice Choir Beeker Liedertafel Beek and Mixed Choir KRZM Roermond. With the Weerter Gemengd Koor "Vivace" he won the Limburgs Korenfestival, mixed voices in 1998 and with the Beeker Liedertafel he won the Zuid Nederlands Mannenkoor Festival. With Chamber Choir Cantate Venlo, Dion Ritten won the finale of the Dutch National Choral Competition 2005, attended the ACDA National Convention in Los Angeles, and the World Symposium in Kyoto, Japan, is the host of three choirs from the USA and travels to the USA for a Concert Tour.

Stephen Black holds graduate degrees in organ and choral conducting from the Yale University School of Music. While at Yale he was the conductor of the Yale University Choir at Battell Chapel. He was awarded the Charles Ives Prize in 1997, given by the dean of the school of music to the most outstanding organ performer in 1996-1997. He was also the recipient of the Richard French Prize, which recognizes outstanding talent in the field of choral conducting. He received his undergraduate education at the University of Louisville, where he studied organ with Melvin Dickinson.

Mr. Black has received several honors and awards in both organ performance and choral conducting. In 1997 he won first prize in the John R. Rodland organ competition in New Jersey, one of the largest organ scholarship competitions in the country. In 1999 he was one of six finalists at the American Guild of Organists Young Artist Competition at the national organist convention in Denver. He has performed recitals at Washington National Cathedral; St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City; All Saints Cathedral in Albany, NY; Longwood Gardens in Westchester County, PA; and St. Mary's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland.

Mr. Black is equally active as a conductor. In addition to his activities as conductor of the St. Joseph's Singers he is the artistic director of the Central City Chorus, and the conductor of the Brearley Singers. He has conducted for organizations such as the National Association of Composers USA and the Association of Connecticut Choruses Summersing. He was awarded a conducting fellowship to the Dennis Keene Choral Festival in the summer of 2002. Recently he served as chorumaster for the Astoria Symphony Orchestra's September 11 commemorative concert in September of 2005. Highlights of the 2005-2006 concert season include St. Joseph's Singer's performance of Cantatas 104 and 106 by J. S. Bach in February 2006, and performances of the Brahms *Requiem* in May 2006 by the Central City Chorus and the Astoria Symphony Orchestra.