

MUSIC IN THE SOMERSET HILLS

PRESENTS

THE SEBASTIANS: CLASSICAL FAVORITES



A cozy Winter concert right in the heart of the Somerset Hills, featuring the Sebastians and beloved pieces by Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann, and more.

January 6, 2024
7:00 PM

The Mansion At Natirar
400 Natirar Drive
Peapack and Gladstone, NJ

[MUSICSH.ORG](https://musicsh.org)



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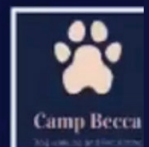
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PROGRAM

- Violin Concerto No. 4 in F Minor,
Op. 8/4, RV 297 "*L'Inverno*" (Winter) Antonio Vivaldi
(1678–1741)
Allegro non molto
Largo
Allegro
Nicholas DiEugenio, solo violin
-
- Prelude and Fugue in F major, BWV 880 Johann Sebastian Bach
from *The Well-Tempered Clavier*,
Book 2 (1685–1750)
-
- Violin Concerto No. 3 in F Major, Op. 8/3, RV 293 Antonio Vivaldi
"*L'Autunno*" (Autumn) (1678–1741)
Allegro
Adagio molto
Allegro
Beth Wenstrom, solo violin
-
- Partite sopra il basso di Ciaccona for solo cello Giuseppe Colombi
(1635–94)
-
- Violin Concerto No. 1 in E Major,
Op. 8/1, RV 269 "*La Primavera*" (Spring) Antonio Vivaldi
(1678–1741)
Allegro
Largo
Allegro
Isabelle Seula Lee, solo violin
-
- Allemande, from Sonata no. 6 for lute Giovanni Zamboni
(fl. early 18th cent.)
-
- Concerto no. 1 for 4 violins without bass,
TWV 40:201 in G major Georg Philipp Telemann
(1681–1767)
Largo
Allegro
Adagio
-
- Violin Concerto No. 2 in G Minor,
Op. 8/2, RV 315 "*L'Estate*" (Summer) Antonio Vivaldi
(1678–1741)
Allegro non molto
Adagio
Presto
Daniel Lee, solo violin



the SEBASTIANS

Nicholas DiEugenio, Daniel Lee, Isabelle Seula Lee, and Beth Wenstrom,
solo violin and viola

Ezra Seltzer, *cello*

Nathaniel Chase, *violone*

Joshua Stauffer, *theorbo*

Jeffrey Grossman, *harpsichord*

The Sebastians (sebastians.org) are a dynamic and vital musical ensemble specializing in music of the baroque and classical eras. Lauded as “everywhere sharp-edged and engaging” (The New York Times), the Sebastians have also been praised for their “well-thought-out articulation and phrasing” (Early Music Review) and “elegant string playing... immaculate in tuning and balance” (Early Music Today). Their 2018 uncondacted St. Matthew Passion with TENET Vocal Arts was called “shattering” and “a performance of uncommon naturalness and transparency.” The Sebastians’ recent seasons have included dozens of originally conceived programs, including collaborations with poets, choreographers, dancers, and actors; a musical installation in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; programs dealing with musical “immigration” and nationalism; and major works of J.S. Bach led from the keyboard. The Sebastians are currently in residence at the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments.



FEATURED ARTISTS

Bassist **Nathaniel Chase** performs a wide range of music, from period performance with the Sebastians, Trinity Baroque Orchestra, and Early Music New York, to orchestral repertoire with the Riverside Symphony and Allentown Symphony, and new music with Ensemble LPR and Ensemble Échappé. He performed on Broadway in the critically acclaimed production of *Farinelli and the King* with countertenor Iestyn Davies. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory and the Yale School of Music, where he was a winner of the 2010 Woolsey Hall Concerto Competition.

Violinist **Nicholas DiEugenio** has been heralded for his "excellent...evocative" playing (*The New York Times*), full of "rapturous poetry" (*American Record Guide*). Nicholas is in-demand as a soloist, chamber musician, and ensemble leader, creating powerful shared experiences in music ranging from early baroque to contemporary commissions. His award-winning album "Unraveling Beethoven" with pianist and wife Mimi Solomon was released in 2018 by New Focus Recordings, and other recordings include the complete Violin Sonatas of Robert Schumann (Musica Omnia) as well as a tribute to Pulitzer prizewinner Steven Stucky (New Focus). Nicholas is a core member of the Sebastians as well as Associate Professor of Music at UNC Chapel Hill. Nicholas plays a J.B. Vuillaume violin (1835) as well as a Karl Dennis baroque violin (2011). nicholasdieugenio.com @dieu_violin

Keyboardist and conductor **Jeffrey Grossman** specializes in vital, engaging performances of music of the past, through processes that are intensely collaborative and historically informed. As the artistic director of the Sebastians, Jeffrey has directed Bach's *Passions* and Handel's *Messiah* from the organ and harpsichord, and he is a frequent performer with TENET, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and numerous other ensembles across the country. Recent seasons include his conducting operas of Haydn and Handel with Juilliard Opera, leading Monteverdi's *Vespers* with the Green Mountain Project in New York and Venice, and conducting a workshop of a new Vivaldi pastiche opera for the Metropolitan Opera. A native of Detroit, Michigan, he holds degrees from Harvard, Juilliard, and Carnegie Mellon University. Jeffrey teaches performance practice at Yale University. jeffreygrossman.com

Daniel S. Lee thrives in the intersection of the arts and spirituality. His work involves redefining the roles of sacred and secular music with regards to their intention, function, and venue. Praised by *The New York Times* as "soulful" and "ravishing," he performs as a period violinist and leader with various ensembles throughout the United States and Europe, including his own, the Sebastians. He currently serves as the concertmaster for the Providence Baroque Orchestra (RI) and the resident baroque orchestra at the Washington National Cathedral (DC). He performs on various historical instruments and fosters ongoing collaborative research with luthier Karl Dennis (Warren, RI) and bowmaker David Hawthorne (Waltham, MA). When not traveling and performing, he splits his time between Willard, MO, where he pastors a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation, and New Haven, CT, where he teaches early music at the Yale School of Music. Born in Chicago and raised in

Seoul (South Korea) and in New York City, Daniel is equally (un)fluent in Korean and in English. He identifies himself as ethnically a New Yorker. He enjoys learning different languages and cultures, and is a student of various ancient languages.

Isabelle Seula Lee, a New York City-based baroque and modern violinist performs regularly throughout the US and abroad. Lee is a new member of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and frequently appears with the New York Baroque Inc, Bach Collegium at Saint Peter's, Teatro Nuovo, Bach Collegium Japan, and others. As a soloist, she has performed under Rachel Podger, Lars Ulrik Mortensen, and toured throughout New Zealand with Masaaki Suzuki and Juilliard415. Lee began learning the violin at age of four in South Korea before moving to Russia, where she studied for ten years at the Special Music School of the Saint Petersburg Conservatory. At age of eleven, Lee appeared as a concerto soloist with the Tele-Radio Symphony Orchestra in Saint Petersburg. After moving to the States, Lee completed studies at Lynn University (BA), the Juilliard School (MM in violin and MM in historical performance), and the Yale School of Music (Artist Diploma).

Hailed for his "scampering virtuosity" (*American Record Guide*) and "superb" playing (*The New York Times*), cellist **Ezra Seltzer** is the principal cellist of the Trinity Baroque Orchestra, New York Baroque Incorporated, and Early Music New York and a founding member of the Sebastians. He has frequently appeared as guest principal cellist of Musica Angelica and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, where he earned praise for his "delicate elegance and rambunctious spirit" (*Twin Cities Pioneer Press*). He attended Yale University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in history and Master of Music in cello, and graduated from the inaugural class of Juilliard's historical performance program.

Joshua Stauffer is a restless creative who performs music from over four centuries on a variety of plucked instruments. Recent projects in his eclectic calendar include a collaboration with Riannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi (theorbo), an opera by Doug Balliett (electric guitar), and a baroque folk record with Rebecca Scout Nelson (lutes and guitars). Joshua studied lute at The Juilliard School, classical guitar at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and jazz guitar at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Outside of music, Joshua writes open source software and is an avid marathoner..

Violinist **Beth Wenstrom's** chamber playing has been praised as "elegant and sensual, stylishly wild" (*The New Yorker*) and is an original member of the "eclectic and electrifying early-music ensemble," ACRONYM (*Boston Globe*). As a soloist and concertmaster, she has performed with Trinity Wall Street Baroque Orchestra, New York Baroque Incorporated, the Sebastians, and TENET, as well as the Washington Cathedral Baroque Orchestra. She has also performed in Apollo's Fire, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, and other ensembles throughout the country and abroad. Beth serves as string coach for the baroque ensemble at SUNY Stony Brook and has taught violin and baroque orchestra as a recurring guest teacher at Oberlin Conservatory. She has also coached at Cornell University, Rutgers University, Vassar College, as well as summer institutes such as the Baroque Performance Institute at Oberlin and the Amherst Early Music Festival.

MUSIC IN THE SOMERSET HILLS

PRESENTS

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MISSION STATEMENT

Music in the Somerset Hills (MISH) is a musical community whose mission is to create musical experiences of the highest quality for those who live and work in the Somerset Hills and the surrounding area. Founded in 2010 by Artistic Director Stephen Sands, MISH's primary focus is the Somerset Hills Chorus, the Concert Series and Music Education.

The **Somerset Hills Chorus**, is open to anyone aged 14 and upwards, with or without expertise, and enables young performers to sing extraordinary repertoire alongside more seasoned professionals in fine venues within and around the community.

The **Concert Series**, brings accomplished professional musicians to perform in local venues.

Since 2010, performances have included the Vivaldi *Gloria*, Handel's *Semele* and *Messiah*, a centenary concert of works by Benjamin Britten, a jazz concert of George Shearing works, the Fauré *Requiem*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, *Music of the Movies* (with Peter Dinklage), and, in 2018, a Bernstein Centenary concert. The Concert Series also includes performances by distinguished visitors - concerts by Chanticleer (2016), Canadian Brass (2017) and The King's Singers (2019), as well as occasional outdoor concerts in the summer, including Handel's *Water Music* on the Lake at Far Hills in 2017.

Music Education centers on an **Early Childhood Music Program**, which runs classes for children up to 4-years old. MISH runs the a very popular **Summer Voices Camp** for children and teens in June each year. MISH also offers **scholarships to high school seniors** who demonstrate musical excellence.

STAFF

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MUSIC IN THE SOMERSET HILLS



Stephen Sands, Music in the Somerset Hills founder and Artistic Director is highly sought after as a soloist, conductor, music educator and ensemble member. He holds his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Westminster Choir College. Stephen is the director of Downtown Voices, a semi-pro choral group that is part of the Trinity Wall Street Music program, focused on bringing the best volunteer and professional singers in the NYC area together for high level performances. He has taught choral music to thousands of students in grades 3-12 in the Somerset Hills School District for more than 20 years, and is a founding member and executive director of the internationally acclaimed Antioch Chamber Ensemble. Stephen sings with the Grammy-nominated Trinity Choir in New York. He has been praised as a "crystalline tenor" (Backstage) and "a tenor with a focused, powerful tone" who sings with " subtlety" and "poignancy" by the New York Times. Stephen has been heard as the Evangelist and tenor soloist in numerous performances of Bach's sacred oratorios, most recently with the Trinity Choir and Baroque Orchestra in the *St. John Passion* of J.S. Bach. StephenSands.net

Joan Seigle, President, is a native of the Somerset Hills. Raised by two music enthusiasts, both proficient pianists, she was exposed to concerts and theater at a very young age. As a child, she took piano lessons and played in a recorder quartet and handbell choir, further nurturing her love for the performing arts. She graduated from the University of the South, Seawee with a degree in English literature and a minor in French. Today, with three grown children out of the nest, she combines her appreciation for excellent music with the gift of time by working to promote the mission of Music in the Somerset Hills throughout the greater community. A passionate advocate for music as a form of therapy and healing, she believes that all genres, performed at their highest level, hold the unique power to transport us out of the ordinary into the otherworldly and profound.



Pamela L. Nardone, Chair of Events, has been a part of Music in the Somerset Hills, almost from the beginning, as a member of its Community Chorus. Her singing and performing go all the way back to her early school years and have never stopped, simply for the pure joy it brings her. In addition to the Somerset Hills Chorus, she also sings in the choir of St. Luke's, Gladstone, and rings in their Bell Choir. Pam has a day job, too. She owns and operates Hibernata Bedding in Bernardsville. Pamela brings her love and passion for music and this organization along with her many years of experience chairing fundraising events to her role with Music in the Somerset Hills.

Erin Schwab, Marketing & Communications Director, is an experienced arts administrator, performer, and teaching artist. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Music from Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts, where she studied Vocal Performance and was the recipient of the Olga Marsano Burian award for "Outstanding Achievement in Music" in 2014, and the Michael Fardink award for "Outstanding Vocalist" in 2019. In addition to her role at Music in the Somerset Hills, Erin serves as Marketing Coordinator for PROTESTRA (protest + orchestra), an ensemble that inspires activism through benefit concerts and turns voluntary audience donations into targeted support for mission- and policy-driven groups related to their concerts' themes. In September 2022 she became Executive Director of Skylands Music Academy, a new after-school music program in Ringwood, NJ that offers vocal and ringing choirs for students in grades 1-8. She is also the Chorus Manager for Trinity Church Wall Street's Downtown Voices ensemble, which combines NYC's best volunteer singers with members of the GRAMMY-nominated Trinity Choir.





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