

# Ars Nova Singers

## 2009-2010 Subscription Season: *Exploration*

Perhaps the purest,  
most communicative  
performances of the year  
...celestial!

- *The Rocky Mountain News*

### **explor•ation** |eksplə' rā sh ən| noun

1. the action of traveling in or through an unfamiliar area in order to learn about it : *a journey of exploration* | *a voyage into unknown territory.*
2. a thorough analysis of a subject or theme : an exploration of the musical dimensions of our lives.

Travel beyond the horizon of your experience with the singers of Ars Nova and conductor Thomas Edward Morgan. Bold, daring, inspiring choral music from the Early Renaissance to the Avant-garde. Thoughtfully crafted, sonically lush programs of music that traverse the range of human emotion. Join Ars Nova for these exciting voyages of discovery, joyous journeys into the world of music.

**Season-Opening Gala Celebration: *Embarkation*** - Tuesday, September 15th - Rembrandt Yard, Boulder

#### **A Voice from Afar**

With Jurgen de Lemos, *cello* and Tana Cochran, *soprano*

Travel to distant shores, carried aloft by two of our region's most spectacular voices. Jurgen de Lemos, principal cellist of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, retired after 41 years with the symphony in May of this year. Join us for this rare opportunity to hear this most extraordinary musician, in a program of works for cello, soprano and chorus. Featured music includes the Colorado premiere of young British composer Tarik O'Regan's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis: Variations for Choir*, John Tavener's *Svyati* and *Akhmatova Songs*, and music by Gregg Smith, Joan Szymko, and Bill Douglas. Soprano Tana Cochran will be highlighted in *Helletused (Childhood Memory: Herding Calls)* by the preeminent composer of Baltic choral music Veljo Tormis.

October 9 & 10, 2009

#### **Home for the Holidays: *Christmas with Ars Nova***

Seasonal music with a uniquely Ars Nova atmosphere! Glorious polyphony from the Spanish Renaissance and the Mexican Baroque, and modern masterpieces resound in this joyful holiday program featuring festive Christmas dances, ballads, villancicos, and carols.

December 11, 12, 17 & 18, 2009

#### ***Chanson d'Amour: A Romantic Recital***

An intimate Valentine's Day recital of solo and small ensemble music presented by Ars Nova's professional singers.  
February 13, 14

#### **Requiem: Music of Richafort, Howells and Pizzetti**

The *Requiem* mass for the dead dates back to the middle ages, and has inspired composers throughout the centuries as vehicle for profound personal expression. Jean Richafort's (ca. 1480- ca. 1547) *Requiem for 6 Voices* from the high Renaissance was composed in honor of the greatest composer of the 16th century, Josquin. Herbert Howells (1892-1983) wrote his Requiem in 1936 after the death of his 5 year old son from polio. He considered it such a personal work that he withheld it from publication until 1980. The Italian composer Ildebrando Pizzetti's (1880-1968) *Messa di Requiem*, composed in 1922, is a work firmly steeped in the Gregorian tradition. The composer weaves an intriguing twentieth-century web over the familiar melodies.

March 12, 13, 19

#### **Hollywood! Choral Music from the Movies**

"Come with me, and you'll be in a world of pure imagination." The power of the moving picture has been enhanced by the singing voice for many decades. Join us for an unusual program of film music, featuring original works and arrangements by Samuel Barber, György Ligeti, Randy Newman, Charles H. H. Parry, Patrick Doyle, and others.

May 21, 22

**Ars Nova Singers**  
**2009-2010 Season**  
**AUDITION INFORMATION**

**WHO WE ARE**

Specializing in *a cappella* music of the Renaissance and the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, the Ars Nova Singers of Boulder, Colorado is presenting its 24<sup>th</sup> concert season in 2009-2010. In its history, Ars Nova has presented over 250 performances of more than 100 different concert programs.

**PROJECT-BASED ROSTER OF SINGERS**

Ars Nova is recognized for performing a wide variety of repertoire, from small ensemble works to challenging multi-divisi music. Over the past few seasons we have developed a larger pool of available singers, and we would like to provide as many opportunities as possible to singers in the community.

This season, the roster of the ensemble will vary according to each project's needs.

**THE SEASON**

The preliminary season schedule has been announced; final, confirmed dates and venues will be announced by August 6, 2009. Rehearsals will generally be Thursday evenings, from 7:30-10:00 p.m., with occasional Tuesday rehearsals (especially in concert weeks). The rehearsals will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Boulder, beginning **Thursday, August 6th at 7:00 p.m.**

**THE ESTILL VOICE TRAINING SYSTEM**

The Ars Nova Singers are pioneering the choral implementation of the Estill Voice Training System. In June, 2006 we sponsored our first national workshop in the Estill model, and it is our intention to utilize this specific, physiological method of voice training in our choral work.

The implications of this for our singers are manifold, and include this two primary points:

1) Ars Nova expects all singers to be willing to acquire a basic understanding of the model, its terminology, and implementation. Where this technique departs from an individual's previous voice training, it is expected that singers will be supportive of the Estill model.

2) Singers may expect to receive specific, individual support for vocal issues, and practical techniques for furthering their vocal development.

For more information on the Estill Vocal Training System, please visit [www.trainmyvoice.com](http://www.trainmyvoice.com).

**PAID SINGERS** - Section Leaders (4 people), Vocal Coach (1 person)

We are a professional-core ensemble, in that we have a paid core of professional singers who serve as section leaders. These are trained musicians with extensive vocal and choral experience; priority consideration for these positions is given to individuals who are professional musicians or music educators. Since the institution of this paid core of singers in 1993, these people have been a significant factor in our artistic improvement.

Over the past several seasons, the section leaders have assumed more responsibility for the musical preparedness of their sections, the divisi assignments, and the balance and blend of their sections.

**THE AUDITION PROCESS AND TIMELINE**

The entire ensemble is re-auditioned every two years. The auditions consists of an individual audition/interview held one-on-one with Ars Nova Artistic Director Thomas Edward Morgan. Auditions for non-paid positions consist of a variety of vocal exercises testing various aspects of the voice and the singer's musicianship: range, color, vowel production, register transitions, pitch accuracy, and sight reading. To be considered for a paid position, please bring two prepared solo pieces, in different languages, from the art song, oratorio, or opera repertoire.

The roster for the season is expected to be announced by July 27, 2009. All singers will be notified of audition results. A ranked list of alternate singers will also be posted for each voice section.

**QUESTIONS?**

Please contact Artistic Director Thomas Edward Morgan: (303) 494-4018 or by email, [tom@mrgn.us](mailto:tom@mrgn.us)

*Thank you for your interest in the Ars Nova Singers!*

**Ars Nova Singers - 2009-2010 Season**  
**Preliminary Rehearsal/Performance Schedule** (as of 6/1/2009; subject to revision)

**PROJECT 1 - A VOICE FROM AFAR** - August 6 thru October 10 (includes Season-Opening Gala + October Concerts)

August 6, 13, 20, 27

September 3, 8 (Gala performers only), 10, 17, 24, 26 (Saturday retreat rehearsal)

October 1, 6, 8

*Performances:*

Saturday, August 22 - Coors Field, Denver (singing the national anthem at the Rockies game)

Tuesday, September 15 - Season Opening Gala, Rembrandt Yard, Boulder

Friday, October 9 - St. John's Cathedral, Denver

Saturday, October 10 - St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder

**PROJECT 2 - HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Christmas with Ars Nova** - October 15 thru December 19

October 15, 22, 29

November 5, 12, 19

December 3, 8, 10

*Performances:*

December 11, 12, 17, 18

**PROJECT 3 - CHANSON d' AMOUR** - Shared Recital (by invitation; advance preparation scheduled individually)

February 9, 11

*Performances:*

February 13, 14

**PROJECT 4 - REQUIEM** - January 14 thru March 20

There will be 2 ensembles in this program: a smaller ensemble that will perform a Renaissance *Requiem* by Jean Richafort, and the full ensemble, performing works by Howells and Pizzetti. *The smaller ensemble will require additional rehearsal time.*

January 14, 21, 28

February 4, 18, 25

March 4, 9, 11

*Performances:*

March 12, 13, 19

**PROJECT 5 - MOVIES** - April 8 thru May (some music for this program will be distributed and read earlier in the season)

April 8, 15, 22, 29

May 6, 13, 18, 20

*Performances:*

May 21, 22

**NOTES:**

- There may be additional regional performances added to this schedule, especially for projects 4 & 5.
- Singers in Project 3 may not be in the small group in Project 4.
- **Underlined, bold** dates indicate the date by which singers are expected to have full command of the notes and rhythms for all music for the program. In the week following this date, there may be additional note-learning rehearsals scheduled for singers needing extra time. The goal is to be intentional about our preparation and accountable to each other, and to allow us to strive for greater artistry in our performances.
- Rehearsals between this expectation date and the first performance are the most critical for the ensemble; when committing to a project, please make every effort to attend all of these rehearsals.