



photo by Paige Baker

THE *New Haven* ORATORIO CHOIR & ORCHESTRA Mark Bailey, Music Director

Mark Bailey is a recognized expert in Slavic and 17th-18th century musical performance practice, with broad experience in the choral, orchestral, and operatic repertoires. In demand as a guest conductor, he appeared in October 2008 with Cappella Romana, the premiere professional chamber choir in the Pacific Northwest, offering a program of Ukrainian baroque sacred music. Performances took place in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington. *Northwest Reverb* gave the Portland performance unqualified praise: “. . . the choir followed Bailey’s detailed, expressive direction with rapt focus . . . they sounded like one solitary living creature, the expansion and contraction of the music coming as naturally as breath.” Mr. Bailey received similar acclaim

in November 2006, when he led the same ensemble in a sellout performance of the Tchaikovsky *Divine Liturgy*. *The Oregonian* called that performance “pure, sumptuous pleasure,” and praised Mr. Bailey throughout for his style of interpretation. In February 2010, Mr. Bailey will conduct Pro Coro Canada, one of North America’s finest choral ensembles, in a program of Slavic baroque music.

The *New York Times* and other publications have noted Mr. Bailey as a leading conductor and authority on Slavic choral music. He has been a featured speaker for the Great Performers Series at Lincoln Center, and at the 2007 Mostly Mozart Festival, he delivered a standing-room only lecture comparing the Fauré *Requiem* to the Rachmaninoff *All-Night Vigil*. His 1996 CD recording with the renowned Yale Russian Chorus, of which he is the artistic director, was placed on *The New York Times* “Critics’ Choice List” and listed as a “must have” by National Public Radio’s “Performance Today,” *Billboard Magazine*, *The Richmond Times*, *The New Haven Advocate*, and several other publications. A YRC recording of live performances was released in 2009 and will be followed by a studio recording in 2010.

Numerous guest conducting appearances by Mr. Bailey have included a gala concert at Carnegie Hall commemorating Russian poet Alexander Pushkin and featuring some of Russia’s finest opera singers. That performance was praised by *New York Times* critic Bernard Holland. *The Hartford Courant* has also profiled Mr. Bailey’s unique programming and repertoire selections.

Mr. Bailey’s instrumental and choral compositions have premiered at Lincoln Center, Yale University, Boston’s landmark Emmanuel Church, and throughout the United States, as well as at St. Basil’s Cathedral in Moscow, Russia. Approximately forty of his compositions have been published. In 2007 he received a commission from Yale instructor Scott Hartman and the Yale Trombones to compose a piece for them, which premiered in Hartford, Connecticut, in May 2008. Mr. Bailey is also co-founder and co-director of the Benchmark Performance Series on Cape Cod, and creator of the annual Slavic Music Festival at Yale University.

In addition to conducting and composing, Mr. Bailey publishes widely on sacred music and is sought after for speaking engagements nationwide. He is extensively involved with early music performance practice for choral and instrumental works, and was chosen to participate as a conductor and singer in the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute, Toronto, Canada, 2007 - 2009. He is vice president and a founding member of PSALM, an international organization dedicated to Orthodox sacred music. At PSALM’s first international conference during the summer of 2006, Mr. Bailey served as music director and principal conductor, leading a conference choir of 150 choir directors and expert singers. He also instructs and coaches voice privately, specializing in 18th-century period performance technique.

From 1992 - 2008, Mr. Bailey served on the faculty of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Seminary in Crestwood, New York, where he taught composition, analysis, choral leadership, and Church Slavonic. He also served on the conducting staff for the chapel choirs, founding and leading the Composers Seminar at St. Vladimir’s in 2007. His former conducting positions include co-founder and Music Director of the New England Benefit Orchestra, Boston, Massachusetts; Artistic Director of the Festival Chamber Orchestra at Yale, New Haven, Connecticut; Assistant Conductor of the Heidelberg Castle Opera Festival, Heidelberg, Germany; Assistant Conductor of the Eastman School of Music Philharmonia, Symphony Orchestra, and Department of Opera, Rochester, New York; Music Director of the Westchester Concert Singers; and several others.

Mr. Bailey has been Music Director of the New Haven Oratorio Choir and Orchestra since 1993. In addition to his activities as a performer, instructor, and composer, he is currently a Fellow at Yale University’s Davenport College, where he also serves as an advisor to freshmen and sophomores. From 1998 to 2009, he served as Research Associate at the Yale Music Library in Historical Sound Recordings. Mr. Bailey earned his music degrees at the Eastman School of Music and at the Yale School of Music (through the Yale Institute of Sacred Music), Yale University. He has studied conducting principally with Harold Farberman, Marguerite Brooks, and David Effron, and has coached with Daniel Lewis.