

Bach Festival Society OF WINTER PARK

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Renowned cellist Christopher Rex to perform with the Bach Festival Society

Winter Park, FL The Bach Festival Society of Winter Park is pleased to present world-renowned cellist, **Christopher Rex**, playing Samuel Barber's *Cello Concerto, Op. 22* on the Society's Fall Choral Masterworks Concerts. The *Cello Concerto* shares the program with Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and the world premiere of Keith Lay's *Vision of the Earth*. The concerts will take place in Knowles Memorial Chapel on the Rollins College Campus **Saturday, October 27 at 8pm, and Sunday, October 28 at 3pm.**

Christopher Rex is a native of Winter Park, FL, and a graduate of Winter Park High School, who shares a strong tie with Rollins College. "I attended Glenridge Junior High School [now Glenridge Middle School] and Winter Park High School. Both schools had an excellent string program for public schools. That provided me with a great opportunity to experience playing as well as playing with other kids," said Rex. Christopher Rex's father, Charles Gordon Rex, Sr., was both a student and music professor at the College. Rex joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as Principal Cello in 1979, the same year in which he became the first cellist ever to win the string prize in the biennial Young Artists Competition of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Since then, he has appeared as a recitalist and chamber musician across the nation.

Mr. Rex took up the cello at age eight, completing a family string quartet. He completed studies at the Curtis Institute of Music and at The Juilliard School and was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy for seven seasons. Mr. Rex has played and toured with many orchestras, in addition to teaching at many colleges and universities. Artistic Director John Sinclair says of Mr. Rex, "It's a pleasure to work with one of America's finest cellists performing this challenging concerto."

Samuel Barber's *Cello Concerto* is considered to be one of the great concertos of the 20th century. It contains Barber's two extremes of style: memorable romantic melodies and difficult solo instrumental passages. While the first and last movements, in particular, are complex and technically demanding, Barber's melodic sense is never lost. Of this work Rex says, "It's a very difficult piece of music. The cello concerto has kind of an exotic sound to it and it's very beautiful and powerful."

Performance Information

What: The Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra performing *Carmina Burana* and the World Premiere of *Vision of the Earth*, with Christopher Rex performing Barber's *Cello Concerto*

Where: Knowles Memorial Chapel on the Rollins College Campus

When: Saturday, October 27, 8pm and Sunday, October 28, 3pm

Tickets: \$45/\$35 depending on seat location

About the Bach Festival Society

The Bach Festival Society, located in Winter Park, Florida, is one of the longest continuously operating Bach Festivals in the country and among America's great oratorio societies. The Bach Festival Society brings the highest caliber of classical music to Central Florida. Performances are held in the intimate settings of the Tiedtke Concert Hall and Knowles Memorial Chapel on the beautiful campus of Rollins College.

[Christopher Rex]
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For more information regarding the upcoming season or to order tickets, please call the Bach Festival Society at 407-646-2182 or visit us online at www.bachfestivalflorida.org

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