

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra set for 'Soaring Sounds'



Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra partners with Roosevelt University Conservatory Chorus for "Soaring Sounds" on April 9 at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Chapel in Palos Heights. (Photo courtesy of Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra)
Jessi Virtusio Daily Southtown

The spirit of partnership will be on display at Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's next event.

The orchestra teams with Roosevelt University Conservatory Chorus for "Soaring Sounds" April 9 at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Chapel in Palos Heights.

"One of the things we like to do at the university is to have our students work with professional or semiprofessional orchestras in various parts of the

region," said Cheryl Frazes Hill, director of Roosevelt University Conservatory Chorus.

"It's a great experience for them to work with a variety of conductors in a professional venue where people don't know them. They're coming out and being treated as a guest artist. Part of their education is performing for an audience that's not necessarily their friends or people they know."

The orchestra and chorus partner on Franz Schubert's Mass No. 5 in A flat major.

"The way the piece is put together, the chorus and the soloists have fairly equal pieces and they sing throughout the piece. A lot of symphonic choral work isn't necessarily that way and function more as background to solos," said Hill, who is also director of choral activities at the university.

"This is a very chorally based piece so they are very much a part of the performance in the way that the orchestra is and the way the soloists are. It's very equal footing for all who are performing."

Chorus soloists include soprano Kathrin Danzmayr, mezzo-soprano Julie Miller, tenor Scott Ramsay and baritone Aaron Wardell. Approximately 53 singers perform, with 45 of those being undergraduates and the rest being Roosevelt alumni.

"I'm very excited for our students to have that inspirational experience with a fine conductor," said Hill of David Danzmayr, who conducts the concert and is the orchestra's music director.

The program also features Schubert's "Rosemunde" overture and Osvaldo Golijov's "Night of the Flying Horses."

"The primary driver of all this is the educational component. It is a great educational experience for students to work with outstanding conductors and

orchestras and be treated as professional singers," said Hill, who is also associate director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus.

Trinity chair of theology Yudha Thianto organized free "Religion and the Arts in Contemporary Life" preconcert workshops, which also feature Wheaton College's Johann Buis, Temple Anshe Sholom's Rabbi Paul Caplan, InterVarsity Press' David McNutt and Trinity's Helen VanWyck.

Immediately preceding the concert, Trinity's Derrick Hassert and a Trinity drama student perform "Schubert and His Mass No. 5" by orchestra board member Charles Amenta.

Jessi Virtusio is a freelance reporter for the Daily Southtown.

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

When: 8 p.m. April 9

Where: Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Chapel, 6601 W. College Drive, Palos Heights

Tickets: start at \$25; group and student ticket rates available

Information: 708-481-7774 or ipomusic.org

Etc.: program is "Soaring Sounds" with Roosevelt University Conservatory Chorus; free "Religion and the Arts in Contemporary Life" preconcert festival beginning at 3:30 p.m. via RSVP by April 8 to rachel@ipomusic.org or via phone; "Reader's Theater: Schubert and His Mass No. 5" at 7 p.m.; lobby entertainment by Music Connection string students at 7:15 p.m.