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Operatic Afternoon Graces Seminary

By George Wallace

In what has become an annual October tradition, the Seminary of Immaculate Conception in Lloyd Harbor resounded this fall with a stunning afternoon of Italian operatic offerings, courtesy of Friends of the Seminary. On hand were operatic soloists, led by opera star Vivian Della Chiesa, in a performance that had the sold-out crowd cheering for more.

The fourth annual concert in a series entitled "The Joy of Music," it was a splendid opportunity to enjoy not only some of the world's great music, but also the beauty of the seminary itself — no ordinary Sunday afternoon in the park!

Performing were soloists Janice Weir and Rosemary Musoleno (sopranos), Vaughn Fritts and Ronald Meixsell (baritone, bass-baritone) and tenors Efron Puig and Brian Donohue. Accompanying on piano were Howard Barr, Leetsa Messina and Christine Dore. Ms. Dore also was a soloist.

Following the concert, a reception and raffle for the benefit of the Seminary of Immaculate Conception were held.

As many in the regional opera-loving public have come to expect, the afternoon was one of impeccable or-

ganization, as the entourage moved through a well-orchestrated series of solos, duets and ensemble pieces to the explanatory notes of Ms. Della Chiesa.

The first half of the performance highlighted the solo talents of each of the vocalists. An intermezzo-like rendering of piano music by Ms. Dore led off the second half, which was principally comprised of duets and larger group pieces. And the entire ensemble, led by Ms. Della Chiesa, put a finishing flourish on the afternoon with a resounding finale of "Pavane Angelicus" by César Franck.

Through it all, each of the vocalists demonstrated a keen ability to reveal his or her vocal personalities to good effect without having to push beyond the limits of his/her range. That combination of vocal soaring, within the context of easy restraint, led to an afternoon which was as relaxed as it was enticing to the ear.

For the most part, the entire afternoon was the province of the Italian composers. First-half honors went to Puccini, Rossini and Verdi, as the soloists danced brightly through arias familiar to many in the audience. Ms. Dore's attractive piano work with Mendelssohn's Venetian love songs proved an important contrast to the

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Chorale, Orchestra At Staller Center

By Meron Langsner

On Saturday, December 4, at the Staller Center for the Arts at SUNY Stony Brook, there will be a special joint concert by the Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra and the Stony Brook Chorale. The evening's entertainment will consist of Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony No. 1 and Vivaldi's Piccolo Concerto in A major, conducted by Bradley Lubman, and Haydn's "The Ways of Zion Do Mourn," conducted by Timothy Mount.

The concert offers an opportunity to hear fine music that is rarely played. The Vivaldi piece is described by Lubman as "a light work filled with humor, the best of baroque expression." Piccolo concertos are not done very often in the United States.

Lubman relates that he chose the Schoenberg symphony because it stands out from other modern music as "one of the great masterpieces of early 20th century music. Incredibly demanding on both the players and the listeners. However, in its construction and mode of expression it relates more to the music of Bach and Brahms than to

the music of the later 20th century." He describes the piece as "ultra romantic in its harmonic and melodic sense." His segment of the performance will feature a solo by Michael Laderman, a concerto competition winner.

The second segment of the performance will feature both the orchestra and the chorale and will be conducted by Timothy Mount. The Haydn piece being performed is one of the lesser-known works, written for the funeral of Queen Caroline in 1737. Mount is very enthusiastic about this piece, both for its rarity and for its quality.

"It's fun to find a work this great that people don't know about," he says. The chorale performance will feature solos by Christine Goerk, a soprano who recently recorded with the Atlanta Symphony and sang at Carnegie Hall; Jeffrey Dooley, alto-counter tenor; Gregory Hostetter, tenor; and Jonathan Babcock, bass, a local music teacher.

There will be a free pre-concert dialogue with Bradley Lubman and Mark Lederway at 7 p.m. in the recital hall. The concert itself starts at 8 p.m.

For more information, call 632-7230.