



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS PRESENTS HANDEL'S ISRAEL IN EGYPT
Acclaimed Chorus Brings Baroque Masterwork to Monmouth County**

The immersive story of one of George Frideric Handel's most beloved oratorios will capture your heart as the award-winning Monmouth Civic Chorus presents *Israel in Egypt* on Sunday, May 22, 2022, at 4 p.m. Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience floods and plagues, frogs and locusts, peril and victory, from the comfort of your air-conditioned seat in Monmouth County.

The story of the plagues of Egypt, the flight of the Israelites, and their victory over Pharaoh's army, is told in striking choruses, stunning solos, and moving instrumental passages. The choir of over 60 voices will be accompanied by professional Baroque chamber orchestra.

"Israel in Egypt paints with every texture and color in Handel's choral palette," said Artistic Director Dr. Ryan Brandau. "Vigorous, florid polyphony juxtaposes massive, declamatory block chords; and lilting, elegant movements influenced by Baroque dance stand alongside stern canons in the older Renaissance style."

The performance will take place at The Parish of St. Mary, 1 Phalanx Road, Colts Neck, NJ. Tickets are \$35 adult, \$32 senior, \$30 group, \$15 student. Tickets and information are available at <https://monmouthcivicchorus.org> or (732) 933-9333.

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Event Summary:

Event title: *Israel in Egypt*

Event sponsor: Monmouth Civic Chorus

Date and time: Sunday, May 22, 2022, 4 p.m.

Location: The Parish of St. Mary, 1 Phalanx Road, Colts Neck, NJ

Tickets: \$35 adult, \$32 senior, \$30 group (10 or more), \$15 student

About Monmouth Civic Chorus: The Monmouth Civic Chorus has been called "near-flawless" (*Asbury Park Press*), "alive and evocative" (*The Star-Ledger*) and "superior" (*Red Bank Green*). The Chorus is the proud recipient of the 2008 ASCAP/Chorus America Alice Parker Award, the 2010 Spinnaker Award for Arts and Culture from the Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce, and a third-place winner of the 2018-19 American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music.

About Ryan James Brandau: Artistic Director Ryan James Brandau has broad experience conducting a variety of choral and orchestral ensembles. In addition to his work with Monmouth Civic Chorus, he serves as Artistic Director of Princeton Pro Musica and Amor Artis, a chamber choir and orchestra in New York City. He has also served on the faculty of Westminster Choir College, where he has worked with the Symphonic Choir, which he has prepared for performances with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, and the New Jersey Symphony. He remains active as a choral arranger, composer, and clinician, whose arrangements and compositions have been featured by choral ensembles across the globe. Ryan received the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from the Yale School of Music. Prior to pursuing graduate study in conducting, Ryan attended the University of Cambridge in the UK as a Gates Scholar, earning an M.Phil. in historical musicology. He received his B.A. in music, *magna cum laude*, from Princeton University.

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