



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 27, 2024**

Contact: Carolyn Gratzner Cope, Marketing Manager

Email: [marketing@monmouthcivicchorus.org](mailto:marketing@monmouthcivicchorus.org)

Website: [monmouthcivicchorus.org](http://monmouthcivicchorus.org)

Customer Voice Mail: (732) 933-9333

Press Contact Only: (917) 612-4621

**MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS PRESENTS BRAHMS TO BRANDAU**  
**Award-Winning Ensemble Performs World Premiere of Choral-Orchestral Work**

Now in its Sparkling 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, the award-winning Monmouth Civic Chorus presents *Brahms to Brandau* on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 4 p.m., with pre-concert talk at 3 p.m and VIP reception to follow.

This program pairs Brahms' beloved *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, a true icon of the choral repertoire, with the world premiere of our own Artistic Director Dr. Ryan James Brandau's *A Song Together*, commissioned by the chorus to mark the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*A Song Together* celebrates MCC's decades-long love of making music, together. Making full use of the rich orchestral resources required for Brahms's *Requiem* and the 100+ voices of Monmouth Civic Chorus, with texts drawn from Whitman, Longfellow, Teasdale, the group's own Carolyn Gratzner Cope, and Dr. Brandau himself, this choral-orchestral four-movement work is by turns serene, stirring, and joyous.

The chorus will be joined by professional orchestra composed of some of the country's most in-demand musicians, and celebrated soloists soprano Emily Donato and bass-baritone Paul Max Tipton.

The performance will take place at the historic Hackensack Meridian *Health* Theatre, Count Basie Center for the Arts, 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank, NJ. Tickets for premium seating are \$60 adult, \$50 senior, \$40 group (10 or more), \$20 student; and for regular seating are \$40 adult, \$35 senior, \$35 group, \$15 student. Pre-concert talk is free to all concert ticketholders. Meet and greet the composer and musicians at our post-concert VIP reception in the Count Basie's beautifully renovated second-floor lobby for an additional \$35 — space is limited.

Tickets and information about the concert, reception, and Virtuoso Fund opportunities to directly support this programming are available at [monmouthcivicchorus.org](http://monmouthcivicchorus.org) or (732) 933-9333.

- more -

Event Summary:

Event title: *Brahms to Brandau: Ein Deutsches Requiem and a World Premiere*

Event sponsor: Monmouth Civic Chorus

Date and time: Sunday, March 24, 2024, 4 p.m. (pre-concert talk at 3 p.m., VIP reception to follow)

Location: Hackensack Meridian Health Theatre, Count Basie Center for the Arts, 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank

Tickets: Premium seating — \$60 adult, \$50 senior, \$40 group (10+), \$20 student

Regular seating — \$40 adult, \$35 senior, \$35 group (10+), \$15 student

Post-concert reception — \$35, limited space available

About Monmouth Civic Chorus: Monmouth Civic Chorus makes the music that moves you. The Chorus has been called “near-flawless” (*Asbury Park Press*), “alive and evocative” (*The Star-Ledger*) and “superior” (*Red Bank Green*). MCC 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.

- more -

About Emily Donato: Soprano Emily Donato, born and based in Brooklyn, NY, enjoys connecting with audiences through performances of music ranging from Baroque to Contemporary works. Most recently, Ms. Donato was awarded first prize in the 2023 Handel Aria Competition, and was a member of the 2023 Virginia Best Adams Quartet at the Carmel Bach Festival. She made her Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium debut in May 2023 as the soprano soloist in Bach's B Minor Mass with the Oratorio Society of NY conducted by Maestro Kent Tritle, and has appeared as a soloist Voices of Ascension led by Maestro Dennis Keene. In 2021, she was awarded first prize in the Lyndon-Woodside Oratorio Competition. In 2019 Ms. Donato appeared as a featured soloist in Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass on Yale Schola Cantorum and Juilliard415's Scandinavian Tour. Later that year, she performed J.S. Bach Cantata 82A *Ich Habe Genug* with Maestro Masaaki Suzuki and members of Juilliard415 at the celebration of American Friends of Bach Collegium Japan held at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in New York City. Ms. Donato has also worked with conductors David Hill, Nicholas McGegan, Simon Carrington and Leon Botstein. Emily is an alumnus of the GRAMMY award winning Brooklyn Youth Chorus, received a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Bard College and a Masters in Music from the Yale School of Music, where she was a member of the Yale Voxtet.

About Paul Max Tipton: Described by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as a dignified and beautiful singer, bass-baritone Paul Max Tipton performs and records in opera, oratorio, chamber music, and art song throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Recent recordings & engagements include Haydn's *Creation* with Pacific Symphony, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with Bach Collegium Japan for a debut in Tokyo, covering the title role in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Handel & Haydn Society under Raphaël Pichon, a recording of Nicolaus Bruhns's solo cantatas for bass with Masaaki Suzuki for the BIS label, the role of Phoebus in Bach Cantata No. 201, *Geschwinde, ihr wirbelnden Winde*, with Dana Marsh and the Washington Bach Consort for the Acis label, Christus in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* at Spoleto Festival USA, Plutone in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* with Göteborg Baroque, and the Bach *Mass in B-Minor* for Avie Records with Nicholas McGegan & Cantata Collective. In 2023-2024 he records 17th century German cantatas for the BIS label with Masaaki Suzuki at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, is a soloist with Bach Collegium San Diego at the annual BachFest Leipzig in Germany, and returns to Tokyo with Bach Collegium Japan for Handel's *Messiah*. He holds an MMus from Yale University and resides in New York City.

###