

MONTGOMERY
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Your Entry into Arts & Entertainment

TICKET

Photo for Ticket by EVE M. QUATTRONE

Chef Patrick Feury, of Nectar, was one of the "Star Chefs" preparing a special Asian-French fusion dinner at the James Beard House in New York, Jan. 21.

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Flutist Zofie Vokalkova will perform with Kathleen Scheide at All Hallows Episcopal Church, Sunday, Jan. 31.

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Wine in Winter, a benefit for the Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund, will take place this year at Coleman Restaurant at Normandy Farm, Friday, Feb. 5.

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A 'Winter's Night' with Sting

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Pop superstar Sting, backed by the Philadelphia Orchestra, will headline the 153rd Anniversary Concert at the Academy of Music, Saturday, Jan. 30.

Background Photo © by JULIE SKARRATT

& MORE!

Czech flutist to perform at All Hallows

By Joe Barron
Staff Writer

The Philadelphia suburbs abound with good music, if one only knows where to look. Churches in the area are a good place to start: Some, in addition to top-flight organists and choirs that appear on the schedule of regular services, also schedule independent, nonreligious concerts that show off indigenous talent and attract musicians from far and wide.

All Hallows Episcopal Church, Wyncote, is fortunate to have, as its music director, Katherine Scheide, an organist and harpsichordist with degrees from the University of Southern California and the New England Conservatory of Music. Scheide, in turn, is fortunate to have found a friend and collaborator in the Czech flutist Zofie Vokalkova. The two have been performing together in the United States and Europe since they met in Prague almost 15 years ago.

As Scheide told the story at the church Jan. 22, she was living in San Diego when a friend, a flute player with the San Diego Symphony and a Czech, organized a trip to Prague so that her Californian students could attend an intensive, weeklong master class with Vokalkova. Scheide went along simply because she has never been to Prague, and she and Vokalkova hit it off at once.

They easily picked one another out, Scheide said, because they were the only adults in the room.

Vokalkova is spending a few weeks this month visiting both Scheide and Philadelphia. Last week, they began recording their second joint CD at Chestnut Hill Presbyterian Church — their first, a selection of works by Mozart and his father, arranged for flute and organ, was released in 2002 — and on Sunday they will perform a recital at All Hallows. The use of the space, and the resonant acoustics that result from its bare

stone walls, is a gift of sorts from the church in recognition of the work Scheide puts in the rest of the time.

The concert is free, though donations will be accepted, and the program is a creative combination of the familiar and the not-so-familiar.

The repertoire of every instrumental soloist would shrink considerably without the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, but wind players would probably be at a particular disadvantage. While composers in the 19th century produced reams of chamber music for piano and violin, they produced few if any important chamber pieces or concertos for flute, even though, as Vokalkova says, the instrument reached its modern form at that time.

To fill their programs, solo wind players — and harpsichordists, too — have to either reach back to the 18th century or forward into the 20th, when composers began writing for their instruments again.

Sunday's program will feature a sonata for flute and harpsichord and a partita for solo flute by Bach, as well as two pieces from the French Baroque, and, most interesting of all, a little-known sonata by a little-known Swiss composer, Marguerite Roesgen-Champion, who lived from 1894 to 1976.

The composer is so obscure that

she does not even have her own Wikipedia page, but her sonata is attractive, impressionism-tinged music with a lovely adagio and a sparkling rondo finale. It deserves to be better known, and, one may hope Vokalkova's performance will spark greater interest.

"I think Zofie's playing is a very pure style," Scheide said. "I think it's a lot different from many American flutists."

Materials count for much in producing that purity: Vokalkova plays a flute made of gold, which, she said, produces a darker tone than the silver or titanium used in other instruments.

"I like 14-carat gold because 18 is too soft," Vokalkova said. "Twenty-four is too much."

Scheide, too, takes care with the materials she uses in her harpsichord. Many players insist on the just the right woods for the case and soundboard, she said, but when it comes to the actual, sound-producing point of contact, where the plectrum hits the string, they settle for modern synthetics. Scheide insists on 100 percent bird quills, which of course were the material of choice in the 18th century. Vulture works best, she finds, and she buys her quills from a builder in Germany who keeps the birds on a farm.

Least listeners feel guilty, she assures them that no bird was harmed in the making of her instrument.

"He just loses a couple of feathers," she said. "Materials are everything."



At left (L to R) are harpsichordist Kathleen Scheide and flutist Zofie Vokalkova, who also appears below. They will perform at All Hallows Episcopal Church, Sunday, Jan. 31.



MUSIC

IF YOU GO

Zofie Vokalkova,
Czech flute virtuoso,
accompanied by harpsichordist
Kathleen Scheide, will perform
in a free concert
at All Hallows Episcopal Church
262 Bent Road,
Wyncote, PA 19095,
Sunday, Jan. 31, 4 p.m.
Info: 215-885-1641.

Win Flower Show Tickets!



Montgomery Media and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society are pleased to offer you the opportunity to win a Philadelphia International Flower Show Family Fun Pak! The Family Fun Pak is a \$65 value and includes 2 adult and 2 child (2-16 years) tickets to the 2010 Philadelphia International Flower Show plus a year-round membership in the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. To enter, fill out the entry form below and mail it in or go to: www.montgomerynews.com to enter online.

All entries must be received by Thursday, February 18, 2010.

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- ☐ Please send me information about gardening.
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