



PRESS RELEASE

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Boston Secession Names Kate deLima New Executive Director

BOSTON, MA – September 23, 2008 – Professional choral ensemble Boston Secession announces the appointment of Kate deLima as the group's new Executive Director. Ms. deLima, who served as the group's Business Manager for the 2007-08 season, succeeds Mary Sullivan, the ensemble's Executive Director since 2006, who is expecting her first child in November.

2008-2009 Season

**Bach, Brahms & Schnittke:
The Sacred Imagination**
November 15, 2008

**Chestnuts Roasting:
A Secession Holiday Concert**
December 5, 2008

(Un)Lucky in Love
February 13 & 14, 2009

World Premiere of
Testimony of Witnesses
March 22, 2009

Ms. deLima brings wide-ranging administrative and management experience to her work for Boston Secession. She has consulted with business and technology solutions CompuSystems to develop and edit business plan documents, and served as Camp Manager for Idol Camp, a national performing arts camp. She coordinated the Title I Summer Academy in Framingham, a summer program for middle school students in Math and/or Language Arts. And she served as Assistant Director of the Creative Problem Solving Institute, where she prepared and executed twice-yearly conferences.

Ms. deLima has also been involved with the performing arts in New England for many years. As a Harvard College undergraduate with a joint concentration in English and Music, Ms. deLima sang with the mixed choir, Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum. Post graduation, Ms. deLima performed internationally and in theaters across the U.S., and directed, choreographed, and produced theater performances in the Boston area. In addition to serving as Secession's Executive Director she presently teaches Speechwriting and Oral Presentation in Simmons College's Master's program in Communication Management.

Speaking of Ms. deLima's appointment, Boston Secession's Artistic Director Jane Ring Frank commented, "We couldn't be more excited about this transition for the

ensemble. We feel incredibly fortunate to have someone of Kate's extraordinary talents, intelligence, and diverse abilities directing the day-to-day operations of Boston Secession."

Boston Secession is a professional choral ensemble founded in 1996 by Jane Ring Frank as a showcase for the breadth and depth of professional choral music. Ring Frank is also Conductor of Philovox (publishing house E.C. Schirmer's resident professional recording chorus), Resident Scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University, Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church in Winchester, and Conductor of the Concord Women's Chorus.

Boston Secession has produced two professional recordings, including *Surprised by Beauty: Minimalism in Choral Music*, released in 2008, featuring compositions by Gavin Bryars, Arvo Pärt, Ruth Lomon, and William Duckworth, with a bonus track by William Walker. Writing for *The Arts Fuse* about *Surprised by Beauty*, reviewer Caldwell Titcomb observed, "The Secession chorus under Ring Frank's direction is marvelous. There are a few brief vocal solos, but for most of the time we get a wonderfully homogeneous and completely blended sonority."

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For photos visit: <http://www.bostonsecession.org/page.cfm?pageid=5872>

Boston Secession's 2008 - 2009 Season

Subscriptions to *Boston Secession's* 2008 - 2009 season are currently available through the *Boston Secession* website (www.bostonsecession.org) or by calling 617-499-4860. Subscriptions range from \$135 to \$150, and tickets to individual concerts start at \$15. The subscription package includes:

Bach, Brahms & Schnittke: The Sacred Imagination

Saturday, November 15, 2008 • 8 pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational

11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

Chestnuts Roasting: A Secession Holiday Concert

Friday, December 5, 2008 • 8 pm
Old South Church, Copley Square

(Un)Lucky in Love

Friday, February 13 & Saturday, February 14, 2008 • 8 pm
Margaret Jewett Hall
First Church in Cambridge, Congregational
11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

Testimony of Witnesses

Sunday, March 22, 2008 • 3 pm
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University
45 Quincy Street, Cambridge

In addition to savings on the price of tickets, subscriber benefits include two guest passes per subscription, free parking for Boston Secession's Cambridge concerts, and preferred seating at all four concerts.

About Boston Secession

Boston Secession is a professional choral ensemble comprised of 25 voices, with a repertoire ranging from medieval chant to contemporary classical music.

Founded in 1996 by Conductor and Artistic Director Jane Ring Frank, Boston Secession has garnered critical acclaim for its uniquely blended and transparent sound. David Perkins of the *Boston Globe* called Secession an "extraordinary chorus, notable for its beautiful balance, musical surety, and English-styled straight-toned singing" (March, 2008), while Tom Garvey of the *Hub Review* praised the ensemble for its "lushly transparent singing conducted with intelligence and wit" (February, 2007).

Boston Secession performs four times annually, with thematic programs exploring topics ranging from the enduring influence of George Frideric Handel to expressions of passion and sensuality in choral music. Secession concerts frequently feature premieres of new choral music. The ensemble's annual alternative Valentine's Day concert, *(Un)Lucky in Love*, which takes a lighthearted look at the vicissitudes of love, has sold out for many years.

In the spring of 2009, Boston Secession will premiere *Testimony of Witnesses*, a new multilingual oratorio based on the poetry of Holocaust victims and survivors by Secession's composer-in-residence Ruth Lomon. *Testimony of Witnesses* is a concert-length work scored for chorus, orchestra, and soloists. Lomon's provocative and hauntingly beautiful settings illuminate the personal experience of seventeen poets, whose texts – in seven languages – reflect the truly international impact of the Holocaust and the variety of individuals and communities that were forever changed by it.

In the spring of 2008, Boston Secession released its second professional CD recording, *Surprised by Beauty: Minimalism in Choral Music*, featuring compositions by Gavin Bryars, Arvo Pärt, Ruth Lomon, and William Duckworth. Secession's first recording, *Afterlife: German Choral Meditations on Mortality*, was praised by the *American Record Guide*, which noted that the ensemble is "a very fine one, well blended and excellently in tune. Their performances of often quite difficult music are assured and musical."

Boston Secession was founded on the belief that vocal music is a uniquely powerful way to share intellectual ideas and has the power, above all arts, to create community. Its mission is to create, through its superlative performances, a deeper connection between the audience and the performers.

So, why the name Boston Secession?

One hundred years ago, Austrian painter Gustav Klimt's artist's co-operative, the Vienna Secession, created a sensation by displaying paintings at eye level for the first time. Now the common practice for all art galleries, the Secessionists' approach modernized the presentation of art forever. Inspired by the original Secession, Jane Ring Frank founded Boston Secession in 1996 as a professional studio for modern vocal performance, bringing classical music to "eye level."