

A&E

TIVO alert: Forest Whitaker guest stars in an episode of "Criminal Minds" BAU team investigating the murders of several homeless men in San Fran episode that could spawn a spin-off series of the popular crime drama. (9

Superb showing by chorus

By **GAYLE WILLIAMS**

Correspondent

In an evening full of surprises, Gloria Musicae, the professional chamber chorus newly under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Holt, turned out a neatly polished performance of Rossini's Petite Messe Solonnelle with four near perfectly matched vocal soloists — soprano

REVIEW

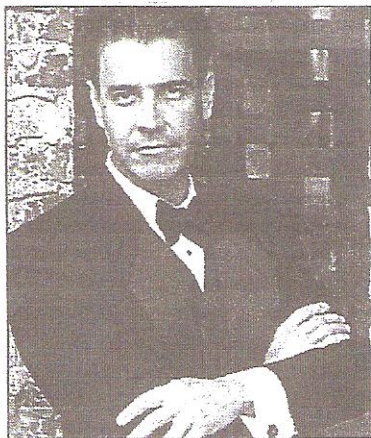
GLORIA MUSICAЕ

Michelle Giglio, soprano; Leah Wool, mezzo-soprano; Pablo Talamante, tenor; Robert McDonald, baritone. Dr. Joseph Holt, conductor. Reviewed April 5 at the Sarasota Opera House.

Michelle Giglio, mezzo-soprano
Leah Wool, tenor
Pablo Talamante and baritone
Robert McDonald. While technically not a world premiere, it had that quality as this particular chamber version (without orchestra) is the Messe as Rossini composed it for its premiere in 1864 with two piano accompaniment and the rare harmonicode-Debain (or a reason-

able pump reed organ facsimile as used this evening).

Among the many reasons this work is unique, Rossini composed his Petite Messe Solonnelle more than 30 years after retiring from active music composition. Although he did produce the occasional sacred work during that period, from where we stand today the Petite Messe seems to burst surprisingly out of the long silence after his boffo opera buffa career. It's astounding the contemporary styles he absorbed during those years, and the way in which he forged them



Pablo Talamante

it all, and its dramatic depth, reveals it as Rossini.

The chorus was well-blended and superb, managing even the most intricate fugal choral portions with some confidence. Holt not only prepared and conducted the chorus but provided firm accompaniment for the solo arias, and proved himself a most secure soloist himself in the Prélude Religieux Pendant L'Offertoire tucked between the Credo and the Sanctus.

The four vocal soloists were exceptional in their own way. McDonald had a deep, warm and reassuring voice. Talamante's ringing tenor was quite pleasing. But the stars were the two women, Giglio and Wool, who in the duet Qui tollis peccata mundi of the Gloria, left us hanging on every phrase. Their ornamented final phrase together was perfection. Only Wool's final solo, Agnus Dei, with the chorus eclipsed this moment.

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MONA LISA

Sarasota Orchestra "Great Escapes." 5:30 p.m. Holley Hall. 953-3434; sarasotaorchestra.org

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