



Eitliner Mozart was painted by Johann Georg Edlinger, 1790, in Munich. Today it is displayed in the Berliner Gemäldegalerie, Berlin, in Germany.

This January marks the 250th birthday of one of the most brilliant composers in history, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. In his 35 years he produced over 600 original symphonies, operas, and other works of music for the chambers and performing halls of 18th-century Europe. Outstanding in its complexity and tonal beauty, Mozart's music is heralded today as the work of a genius.

To celebrate the quarter millennium since his birth, the resident companies at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts (801 Chase Street; [www.mdhallarts.org](http://www.mdhallarts.org)) have organized a Mozart festival for the beginning of 2006. "When we realized that our winter Classic Series concert actually fell on Mozart's birthday," says Lee Streby, president of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, "there was simply no other choice of program to present." The ASO then contacted the three other companies and all agreed to perform various works by Mozart at Maryland Hall throughout the season to honor this great composer.

The Maryland Hall box office will be offering special discount Mozart Festival packages. "We are very excited to collabo-

rate with our resident companies on this extraordinary festival to celebrate one of the world's greatest composers," says Linnell Bowen, executive director of Maryland Hall.

The Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (410-263-0907; [www.annapolissymphony.org](http://www.annapolissymphony.org)), the city's leading professional orchestra performs to increase the awareness, enjoyment, and appreciation of music throughout the region. "For Annapolis, this festival is a special opportunity to enjoy the arts and be reminded of Mozart's glorious gifts to humanity," says Streby. The ASO will begin the festival with a concert entitled "Happy Birthday, Mozart!" which will include four assorted works by Mozart. First will be the ballet music from his Italian opera *Idomeneo*, followed by the Flute Concerto No. 1, performed by Kimberly Valerio, the orchestra's principal flutist. Then comes the overture to *Don*

*Giovanni*, Mozart's interpretation of the story of Don Juan. Finally, they will perform *Jupiter*, his 41st symphony, which was never performed in his lifetime.

Show times: January 27, 8 p.m., January 28, 8 p.m.

The Ballet Theatre of Maryland (410-224-5644; [www.balletmaryland.org](http://www.balletmaryland.org)) is the professional ballet company at Maryland Hall. On participating in the festival, director Dianna Cuatto says, "It is a lot of fun to work with all of the other companies, especially the chorale. We both have a similar vision and are moving forward in support of each other and Maryland Hall." Cuatto, who is choreographing the performance, chose the Horn Concerto, 4th Movement, and the Wedding of Figaro since they "provide a good juxtaposition of the range and breadth of Mozart's work." The performance will also feature Act II from *Swan Lake* to round out the classical portion of the program and to "satisfy the classical aficionados," according to Ms. Cuatto.

Show times: February 11, 8 p.m., February 12, 8 p.m.

The Annapolis Chorale (410-263-1906; [www.annapolischorale.org](http://www.annapolischorale.org)) is a community chorus directed by J. Ernest Green that incorporates 150 voices with its own chamber orchestra. The chorale will "Go Wild for Wolfie" with three works for the festival, representing the three stages of Mozart's career, beginning with his first symphony. The chorale will follow with *The Impresario*, a comedic opera about the struggles between a director and the prima donnas in his company. Finally, the group will perform



PHOTO BY KIM HASTA

J. Ernest Green, Lee Streby, Nancy E. Lindley, and Dianne Cuatto representing the Annapolis Chorale, Symphony, Opera, and Ballet.

*Requiem*, Mozart's haunting final work rumored to have been written for his own funeral Mass.

Show times: March 3, 7.30 p.m.  
(Special preview concert with performer's Q&A afterwards), March 4, 8 p.m.

Annapolis Opera (410-267-8135; [www.annapolisopera.org](http://www.annapolisopera.org)), the area's 33-year-old premier opera society offers an "opportunity for young singers" to perform in one of the most encompassing of the performing arts. As part of the Mozart festival, professional singers from the Mid-Atlantic region will put on Mozart's final opera, *The Magic Flute*, written in the singspiel style (part sung and part spoken dialogue). It will be performed in German with English surtitles.

Show times: March 17, 8 p.m., March 19, 3 p.m.

—Conal Darcy

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