

Bach Boys swing again.

The North Shore Chamber Arts Ensemble 2011 – 2012 Season came to an outstanding conclusion this past May 20. The program, though short in length, was long in excitement, beauty, and musicality. The group's Director, Maestro David Rubens, has walked us through centuries of musical history in the past two seasons. This time, the concert concentrated on music of the pre-Classical era. More specifically, music contributed by three of the sons of the famous Baroque composer, J.S. Bach—Wilhelm Friedemann, Carl Philipp Emanuel and Johann Christian. Starting with the effervescent overture to *Astrato, Re di Tiro*, by "The London Bach"—Johann Christian— to the ostentatious and dark Adagio in d minor by Wilhelm Friedemann Bach, the orchestra played with an outstanding sense of ensemble and style. Lyric-coloratura soprano, Nancy Wiebe-Mazurowski, navigated through the difficult passages of Arsinda's aria from J.C. Bach's opera *La Clemeza di Scipione* with ease and grace. Her voice dipped to the lowest notes of the female chest-voice, holding its focus and brilliance of color, only to soar to effortlessly-produced high D's and C's. She used the complex coloratura writing, not as a simple vocal display of skill and power, but to express the dramatic content of the suffering heroine, Arsinda. The concert ended with *Symphony in D Major, Wq. 183/1* by C.P.E. Bach. Maestro Rubens made the most of music which is sometimes angry, sometimes sentimental, but always full of charm and beauty. Rubens' musical and stylistic expertise shaped each one of the three movements of this pre-Classical symphony to perfection. The North Shore Chamber Arts ensemble is certainly the newest star to appear in Glencoe, which along with *Writer's Theater*, make this Chicagoland suburb a cultural Haven that should be cherished and nurtured to strong growth.



Members of the North Shore Chamber Arts Ensemble