

Upper Valley Baroque's "Journey through Italian Baroque Music"

The Vermont Italian Cultural Association is delighted to partner with Upper Valley Baroque as we "Journey through Italian Baroque Music" with Monteverdi's Vespers. [To purchase tickets, visit Upper Valley Baroque.](#)

In the 17th century, Italian musicians and composers made a monumental contribution to European music -- they invented Baroque music. The greatest of these innovators was Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643). Monteverdi invented the opera in the early 1600's with *L'Orfeo* (1607). His most famous religious work is the *Vespro della Beata Vergine* of 1610, a revolutionary masterpiece of grand dimensions, demanding vocal and instrumental virtuosity, combining traditional forms and progressive elements. Monteverdi displays and advances all contemporary styles and uses every available structural technique, resulting in a "splendid conglomeration of diverse structure, styles, and techniques." His creativity, influence, and fame were ubiquitous; during his life he was known as "il divino Claudio" ("the divine Claudio"). His Vespers and operas are the foundation for the Italian Baroque innovations that followed, innovations that underpin all subsequent development of Western music.

The Vespers consist of thirteen glorious and diverse sections – an introduction, musical settings of five Psalms, four concerto motets based on scripture, a vocal sonata, a setting of a well-known hymn "Ave maris stella/Dei Mater alma" (Hail, star of the sea, blessed Mother of God"), and ending with a glorious setting of the "Magnificat". The Vespers was composed as Monteverdi's audition piece for the job as maestro di capella at St. Marc's Basilica in Venice. He pulled out all the stops to win the job, and as a result, the world received the great gift of his Vespers. Incidentally, he was granted the position in 1613, which he held until his death in 1643.

The Upper Valley Baroque Orchestra will be playing on strange-looking and beautiful-sounding period instruments: sackbuts, cornettos, theorbos, continuo organ, and baroque string instruments. The vocal diversity of the Choir will be on display – solos, duets, trios, choruses with up to ten vocal parts, multiple choirs, echoes from afar.

Presentation by Artistic Director Filippo Ciabatti March 28, 6:30–7:30pm via Zoom. FREE

Artistic Director Filippo Ciabatti will share insights about Monteverdi's Vespers and Upper Valley Baroque's upcoming performances. This is Maestro Ciabatti's second presentation sponsored by the Vermont Italian Cultural Association. In January over 100 people participated in his informative and exciting presentation on the Italian Baroque Concerto. A native of Florence, Italy, Filippo Ciabatti is the Music Director of the Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra, the Dartmouth Opera Lab, and the Music Director of Dartmouth's Choral Ensembles. You must pre-register on the Vermont Italian Cultural Association [website](#) in order to receive the Zoom link.



About Upper Valley Baroque: Upper Valley Baroque was founded in September, 2021 to bring top-quality performances of Baroque music to Vermont and New Hampshire, and to build a community of Baroque music lovers. Artistic Director Filippo Ciabatti and the professional orchestra and choir have far exceeded all expectations in their first four concerts. The musicians are world class, with graduate degrees from the leading conservatories and successful international careers. Highly talented local professionals join leading musicians from Boston, New York, and beyond. Maestro Ciabatti brings his vision for the music and inspires the musicians to realize that vision. Upper Valley Baroque looks forward to creating many magical musical moments this season, offering the beauty, drama, and genius of Italian Baroque music to music lovers throughout the region.

