

Tango Passion Meets Baroque Brilliance: Crescendo's Dramatic Conclusion to 22nd Season



LAKEVILLE, Conn. — In the quiet corners of the Berkshires, where winter often lingers, Crescendo's 2026 season acts as a vital spark, bringing world-class, diverse cultural experiences directly to our local community.

By blending international talent like Martín Palmeri with local voices—the Crescendo Chorus and CT State Manchester Community College singers—these concerts transform regional venues into vibrant, global hubs, fostering connection, artistic growth, and shared passion.

Starting on March 7, 2026, the season promises to bridge continents, centuries, and genres, offering audiences an immersive musical journey that blends high-art tradition with visceral, emotional performance.

Tango Meets Mass: A U.S. Premiere (April)

The highlight of the spring season is a groundbreaking, cross-cultural event **"Stepping into Song,"** with two concerts on **April 25 & 26**. Audiences will experience the U.S. premiere of *A Jewish Cantata* by acclaimed composer Martín Palmeri, performed alongside his world-renowned *Misa a Buenos Aires (Misatango)*.

This is not your traditional choral concert. Palmeri himself will travel to the Berkshires to conduct and accompany his own works in collaboration with Crescendo's Artistic Director Christine Gevert. Both works are unique as they merge sacred, traditional choral music with the dramatic, pulsating rhythms of Argentine tango. *A Jewish Cantata* is a groundbreaking new work that merges Yiddish and Hebrew songs with traditional choral writing and Piazzolla-style tango. These concerts are intended to do more than entertain; they foster cultural exchange.

The performances will feature the Crescendo Chorus, members of the CT State Manchester Community College Chorus, Mexican-born soprano soloist Nadia Aguilar, and Argentinian bandoneón player Rodolfo Marcelo Zanetti. Through dance workshops in partnership with Muna Swairjo of the Hartford Argentine Tango Society, local residents are invited into the passionate world of tango, creating an immersive, interactive experience that enriches the community's cultural life.

Bach's Architectural Brilliance (May)

In direct contrast to the, hot-blooded tango, **May 30 & 31** features "**Baroque Brilliance: Bach's Motets in Concert.**" Under the direction of Founding Artistic Director Christine Gevert, the Crescendo Vocal Ensemble and period instrument players will perform all six of Johann Sebastian Bach's surviving motets.

Known as the pinnacle of Baroque choral music, these works demand immense stamina and technical precision. Featuring four eight-part double choruses, this concert promises an unforgettable sonic experience, navigating the emotional spectrum from deep sorrow to ecstatic joy.

Pioneering Women & Rediscovered History (March & June)

Opening and closing the season are **tributes to trailblazing female musical innovators.**

- **March 7 & 8:** The season kicks off with "**La Cecchina – The Songbird,**" a celebration of Francesca Caccini, the early Baroque composer, poet, and singer who was one of the most successful and highly paid musicians of her time. Venezuelan soprano Salomé Sandoval will join Christine Gevert (virginal/organ) to perform works from this powerhouse female composer.
- **June 13:** The season concludes with "**Wanda Landowska's World,**" honoring the 20th-century virtuoso who single-handedly brought the harpsichord back from obscurity. Christine Gevert will perform repertoire made famous by Landowska, including recently discovered keyboard works by J.S. Bach.

2026 Season Schedule Highlights:

- March 7 (Lakeville) & 8 (Great Barrington): Francesca Caccini tribute.
- March 28 & April 11 (Great Barrington), April 10 (Falls Village): Tango workshops.
- April 25 (Lakeville) & 26 (Great Barrington): Martín Palmeri's *Misatango* & U.S. Premiere of *Eine Jüdische Kantate*.
- May 30 (Great Barrington) & 31 (Lakeville): J.S. Bach's Motets.
- June 13 (Lakeville): Wanda Landowska tribute.

The Venues:

The concerts take place at **Saint James Place**, 352 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA; **Trinity Church**, 484 Lime Rock Rd.; and **Lakeville Methodist Church**, 319 Main St., both in Lakeville, CT. The workshops will be held at Saint James Place, and at **Center on Main**, 103 Main Street, Falls Village, CT.

Tickets and Workshop Registration are now available through Crescendo's website, www.crescendomusic.org for what promises to be a transformative, unforgettable season of music in the Berkshires.

Crescendo's concerts are partially funded by support of the **Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA)** from the Connecticut State Legislature, **WMNR Fine Arts Radio**, and the **NBT Bank**.