

RENAISSANCE WOMAN - CHRISTINE SHUMWAY MORTINE



Christine Shumway Mortine is a woman of many talents. As an accomplished pianist, chelloist, vocalist, concert soprano and vocal instructor, Mortine has dedicated her entire life to the art of music. "By nature I love working with people, chamber music, performing and teaching," she says. "I spend all of my time doing all these things." It seemed a natural next step when she created the Columbus Bach Ensemble.

The Columbus Bach Ensemble is a chamber and vocal orchestra that focuses its performances on the Baroque time period of which the music of Johann Sebastian Bach is most known.

One of the few female conductors in the country, Mortine was given her first conducting opportunity while living in Alaska. "I got to do *The Messiah*, which is full orchestra, full chorus and soloists and as a musician I had played in the orchestra, sung in the chorus and been a soloist so it was a great piece for me to do for the first time." The experience ignited a newfound passion and eventually a new life's mission.

After attending the prestigious Oregon Bach Festival in 2000, where Mortine was one of 13 selected to study with conductor Dr. Helmuth Rilling, she was encouraged to continue honing her craft. When she returned home to Columbus she founded the Columbus Bach Ensemble amid overwhelming support and enthusiasm.

The Ensemble, now entering their fourth season, has added an extra day to their performances at St. Turibius Chapel of the Pontifical College Josephinum on N. High Street, as well as a third concert to the season's already bountiful program. It's easy to see why Mortine remains so dedicated to the Ensemble both as a businesswoman and a musician.

Visit columbusbachensemble.com for more information on the Columbus Bach Ensemble's mission and concert schedule.