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ASSUMPTA EST MARIA IN COELUM

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Free Concert at St. Mary's, Norwalk: The Academy of Sacred Drama presents "The Birth of Moses" (Friday, September 14 at 7:15 p.m.)

*The NYC-based Academy of Sacred Drama will perform the modern premiere
of the 1682 oratorio *Il Nascimento di Mosè* by Vincenzo de Grandis*

NORWALK, CONN., August 27, 2018—St. Mary's Church and the St. Cecilia Society are delighted to announce a special concert event featuring the New York-based Academy of Sacred Drama, on Friday, September 14, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 669 West Avenue in Norwalk, Connecticut.

The Academy of Sacred Drama is an artistic and intellectual community dedicated to the exploration of the forgotten cultural treasures of sacred dramatic music. This program is the inaugural concert of the Academy's incredibly ambitious Year of Moses, which features the modern American premieres of three Italian-Baroque oratorios (all with librettos by Giovanni Battista Giardini). More information about this season's oratorios and salon concerts can be found at sacreddrama.org.

Vincenzo de Grandis's 1682 oratorio *Il Nascimento di Mosè* (The Birth of Moses) was dedicated to Duke Francesco II of Modena, and was first performed for a Modenese audience at the oratory of San Carlo rotondo. Giardini's libretto tells the harrowing story of Moses's birth as a slave in Egypt, when the tyrannical Pharaoh, fearing the growing power of the Hebrews, had ordered that all male new-borns were to be thrown into the river Nile. The Academy's performance will feature five voices and seven instrumentalists, as well as a brief talk at intermission about the original context of the oratorio.

Violinist Jeremy Rhizor, founder and director of the Academy of Sacred Drama, describes its music and its mission: "Seventeenth-century oratorio combined the tremendously popular music of the opera with stories chosen for the intellectual and spiritual enrichment of its listeners. The Academy continues this mission by uniting emotion, intellect, and community in presentations that incorporate great oratorios, contextual lectures, and community receptions. From the philosophical and storytelling lens of Baroque-era sacred dramatic music we learn from history, share the rich ideas and music of past ages, and re-imagine the place of art and music within our own communities."

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The concert will be performed in St. Mary's Church at 7:15 p.m. Admission is free of charge, though donations will be gratefully accepted. All proceeds will benefit the sacred music program at St. Mary's and make more concerts possible in the future. A light reception in the church hall (school building) will follow the concert.

For further information, please visit the St. Mary's Church website at www.stmarynorwalk.net.

ABOUT SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

Saint Mary's Church is a Roman Catholic Church within the Diocese of Bridgeport. Parishioners in this unique multi-ethnic community are united in their devotion to the Trinitarian God through aesthetically beautiful and reverent celebrations of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in three languages: English, Spanish and Latin. The Traditional Form of the Roman Rite lies at the heart of the parish's liturgical life and its timeless essence infuses every Mass. The parish's mission of evangelization through authentic liturgical renewal is enhanced by a sacred music program of rare caliber featuring the acclaimed St. Mary's Schola Cantorum. Designed in Gothic Revival style and dedicated in 1870, this historic church was beautifully and lovingly renovated beginning in 2009 to support its essential and timely mission. For more information, please visit the parish's website: www.stmarynorwalk.net.

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