

The Bruckner Society of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 247, Windsor, Connecticut 06095-0247



January 1, 2025

Dear Bruckner Society of America members,

As we exit the Bruckner Year and enter the new year 2025, I send greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Board of Directors to each member of the Bruckner Society of America.

2024 was truly a year filled with Bruckner. I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to attend many performances, some in Austria and some here in the US. Many were by top international orchestras: the Berlin Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw, the orchestras of Munich, Philadelphia and Chicago. Hearing the Ninth in the great Basilica in Sankt Florian with the Altomonte Orchestra was a memorable experience. The most unusual event was a complete performance of the Eighth in a solo piano arrangement—a true feat of virtuosic pianism, and indeed endurance. The first Bruckner performances I enjoyed in the Bruckner year were two of the Fifth given by the Symphony Pro Musica, an intrepid regional orchestra in the Boston area. They may not have been the most polished of performances, but they were rewarding, enjoyable, and received with real enthusiasm by their audiences.

The Society sponsored and cohosted a major international Bruckner Conference, called *Bruckner then and now*, held in St. Florian in August in conjunction with the annual Brucknertage festival. The conference was highly successful, filled with fascinating, deeply informed presentations. It is especially gratifying to report that a number of younger scholars contributed important work, and that a good number of Society members were able to attend.

The many events and performances of the year continually impressed two essential points upon me. Each and every performance demonstrated anew the power of Bruckner's music to move people, often very deeply. There is a kind of magic in this. Music composed more than 125 years ago that continues to be reborn, brought to life in the here and now by musicians for audiences across the globe. And again and again this year I was reminded just how much Bruckner and his music mean to those who love it. For many of us he is a trusted confidant, a perplexing genius, a boon companion, revealer of deep truths, and source of compelling musical experiences.

BENJAMIN M. KORSTVEDT
President
WILLIAM CARRAGAN
Vice President
MICHAEL CUCKA
Treasurer
JOHN F. BERKY
Executive Secretary

DIRECTORS
John F. Berky
Charles E. Benson
Katie Buehner
Michael Cucka
Benjamin M. Korstvedt
Eric C. Lai
John Gladney Proffitt
Neil Schore

HONORARY MEMBERS
Andrea Harrandt, Vienna
Elisabeth Maier, Vienna
Thomas Leibnitz, Vienna
Ken Ward, London



It was wonderful to meet members of the Society and other Bruckner lovers, many for the first time, at concerts and other events. Bruckner seems to have a way of bringing people joyfully together. Yet this year was also marked by sadness. In June our beloved Vice President Will Carragan passed away. Will was a splendid soul, loved and admired by many. He combined great expertise with deep love for Bruckner's music in a way that was as unique as it was precious. Will and I were good friends for more than thirty years. I miss him a great deal even as I treasure many wonderful memories of him.

At times this year the steady stream of recordings that came out felt almost overwhelming. One that stands out is the "Bruckner from the Archives" series of recordings produced by SOMM Recordings. It covers Bruckner's oeuvre from start to finish with historical recordings, many of them magnificent, from the 1950s and 1960s. The sixth and final volume will be released in January. This project was supported by the Society. Our own John Berky provided all the recordings in the series, none of which had been officially released previously. If you have not caught up with this series, I urge you to check it out. The Society is also offering a CD with the Mass in D minor and the rarely heard Psalm 146 in fine recordings produced by John Proffitt. It is available on the BSA website: www.brucknersocietyamerica.org.

As always, we warmly invite anyone who wishes to submit reviews of new Bruckner recordings, concerts, essays on favorite recordings or other Bruckner-related topics to *The Bruckner Journal*. We are eager to welcome new voices into its pages, so please don't hesitate to write the editor, Michael Cucka (editor@brucknerjournal.com) if you have something to share! We are also always happy to hear from you with comments, suggestion, or ideas about how you would like to be involved with the Society: contact@brucknersocietyamerica.org

Finally, I urge you to renew your BSA membership for 2025. Membership fees are the main source of funding for the Society's activities, and all members receive three issues of *The Bruckner Journal* each year.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy year filled with the special pleasures and rewards that Bruckner's music offers!

Ben Korstvedt

Benjamin M. Korstvedt

President, Bruckner Society of America

bkorstvedt@clarku.edu