

## Musical Treasure Chest #23



What an exciting week this has been for Musicians of Ma'alwyck. Somehow out of this COVID miasma, we have managed to construct some worthy projects (both historically-oriented and just fun) that will fill our time over the next few weeks. They all feature great music, just in very different facets.

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, we spent the day filming the first installment of a musical history project sponsored by Dutch Culture USA, which is an arm of the Consulate General of the Netherlands. The initial segment was a musical program done in [Crailo New York State Historic Site](#) in Rensselaer. One of the older structures in the Capital Region, Crailo was the 1707 house of Hendrick van Rensselaer. The front windows look out onto the Hudson, with a marvelous view of Albany. If you have never visited this site, I highly recommend it. Sam Huntington, the Programming Interpreter, is passionate and extremely knowledgeable about the house's history, and you will come away with a fascinating perspective of Dutch life in the Hudson Valley in the 1600 and 1700s. (Make sure to ask him about the little sleeping alcove on the second floor, it's a most unusual story).

We taped in one of the upstairs rooms (I have included some photographs). The project included both the musical aspect and a discussion by Site Manager Heidi Hill about the Dutch in early America, as well as some unique objects in the house. Our musical repertory featured instrumental music of Pietro Locatelli (yes, an Italian-born composer, but he spent most of his career in Amsterdam, and is buried

there) and a wonderful set of songs by Willem de Fesch written in 1748 for the English Pleasure Garden Marylebone (he was music director there in the 1740s). Each featured musical selection is unique and brings to the program a great sense of the music the Dutch and English were enjoying during the mid 1700s. Playing in one of these historic sites is always inspiring, and lends an authenticity that is shared by audience and musicians alike. The acoustics in the room we filmed in at Crailo were perfect: intimate, resonant and easy to play in. Visually, it's as though you have stepped into an early Dutch painting.

Our next segment will be filmed at the **Schuyler Mansion** in late October and feature Dutch works from the later part of the 1700s (music of Hellendaal, Graf, Fodor and Colizzi). We will stream these concerts at a date later in the fall (mid-November most likely). And, of course, we will make an announcement about how and when you can access them.

So, while we are still deeply feeling the loss of concerts with an in-person audience, the situation is somewhat mitigated by the development of this virtual programming. I must admit that I have had great fun researching the Dutch related music and planning the repertory. I thought I would share with you for this Musical Treasure Chest some of these composers, while not the exact selections we are playing, you can get a nice taste of their style and brilliance.

Here is a collection of **de Fesch concerti grossi, op 5**. The music, while deriving its form from the Italian mid-baroque style, has its own unique touches. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXA16E90x58>

And then of **Locatelli, from his op 5 trio sonatas, No 4**, which once again is a stunning little masterpiece.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WOFs6km9kI>