Mostly Mozart Takes Flight

Each summer, New York's Mostly Mozart Festival continues to tweak the boundaries of what constitutes a "classical" festival, with this year's offerings to include a multi-genre exploration of birds and birdsong; the conducting debut of choreographer Mark Morris; a twelve-part Schubert survey of symphonic and chamber music; and a sound-art installation by Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, *The Murder of Crows*, at the Park Avenue Armory. The birdsong theme will also encompass Audubon bird walks in Central Park and performances of works by Messiaen, Kaija Saariaho, and John Cage; a screening of the film *Winged Migration*; and the world premieres of bird-themed works of Suzanne Farrin and Marcos Balter by members of the International Contemporary Ensemble. Mark Morris will conduct the Trinity Choir and the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble in Morris's ballet *Dido and Aeneas*, based on the Purcell opera, and featuring mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe as Dido and the Sorceress.