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Fantastical Music

VICTORIA Bach FESTIVAL 2026

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Audio and video recordings of these performances in any capacity are strictly prohibited.

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Fellow music lovers,

As we enter the 51st year of the **Victoria Bach Festival**, I am so appreciative of the vision of Dr. David Urness and those in our community who worked so diligently to launch this wonderful venue for presenting world class performances with nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. The Festival which began modestly from one performance in 1976 to a week of glorious music has become a staple of the arts offerings in the Crossroads area and a testimony to Dr. Urness's vision.

This year our Festival theme is **Fantastical Music** which inspired composers from the Baroque era through today. The fantastic as an inspiration reached its pinnacle in the 19th century especially with the works of Hector Berlioz, Georges Bizet and others who were in turn influenced by the works of the French author Prosper Merimee. All these works no matter the time period stimulate in the listener wonder and marvel at the genius of these composers.

We have strived each year to bring outstanding world class artists to perform as well as encouraging young artists in their vocation through our Emerging Artists program. These young musicians will become the virtuosos of their generation encouraging and inspiring in their turn future emerging artists. We are proud of being able to showcase this young talent and assist in launching their careers.

The Festival also honors annually an outstanding educator who is fostering in their students an appreciation for the arts and in identifying those with unique talent who might one day be performing not only on our stages but also nationally and internationally.

We are so grateful to the Crossroads community, our board members, our sponsors, our patrons and these incredible artists all of whom make the Festival possible each year.

Enjoy the performances.



Simon McCloud
President Victoria Bach Festival Board of Directors



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Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the **2026 Victoria Bach Festival** –a season devoted to the fantastical power of music to transport, transform, and illuminate. This summer, we journey through sound worlds shaped by dreams, myth, and imagination, where Baroque drama, Romantic intensity, and modern innovation converge in vivid storytelling. From the shimmering, color-saturated artistry of Duo AYA to the haunting beauty of *La Notte* and the mythic resonance of Brahms, from intimate chamber reflections to the grandeur of Bach's sacred works, each program offers a unique portal into the extraordinary. We culminate with *Spellbound*, a sweeping orchestral finale featuring Dukas's playful sorcery, Beethoven's luminous Fourth Piano Concerto, and Berlioz's electrifying *Symphonie fantastique*—a masterpiece of obsession and the supernatural. Across these days, you will encounter music that whispers, dances, dreams, and astonishes. I warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the boundless imagination of the human spirit.



Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez
Artistic Director Victoria Bach Festival



Welcome to the **2026 Victoria Bach Festival** and our 51st season of music, community, and celebration. As we begin this new chapter, we do so with hearts full of gratitude for the many individuals, families, sponsors, musicians, volunteers, and patrons who have supported the festival throughout the years. Your encouragement and generosity have allowed this festival to flourish for more than five decades, enriching our community through the power and beauty of music.

This year's theme, "**Fantastical Music**," celebrates the imagination, joy, wonder, and connection that music brings into our lives. Throughout the season, audiences will experience performances that inspire creativity, stir emotions, and remind us of music's extraordinary ability to bring people together. From beloved masterworks to exciting new experiences, this year's festival promises something meaningful for everyone.

Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning as a longtime friend of the festival, we are delighted to welcome you. Thank you for being part of the Victoria Bach Festival family. We look forward to sharing this fantastic season with you.



Wm. Buck Moore
Executive Director Victoria Bach Festival



Saturday | May 30

Duo 彩 AYA

7:30 PM | Presidio la Bahia, Goliad

Sunday | May 31

Duo 彩 AYA

3:00 PM | Rockport Center for the Arts

Tuesday | June 2

Baroque Ensemble

7:30 PM | First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday | June 3

BachFest Breakfast:
A Sonic Dreamscape

9:00 AM | St. Mary's Activity Center

Dance with the Shadow

Noon | First United Methodist Church

Community Outreach
Emerging Artists

2:00 PM | Twin Pines Nursing

Into the Labyrinth

7:30 PM | Trinity Episcopal Church

Thursday | June 4

BachFest Breakfast:
Mythic Whispers

9:00 AM | St. Mary's Activity Center

2026 Emerging Artists in Concert:
Mostly About Love

Noon | First United Methodist Church

Angels & Dragons

7:30 PM | Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Friday | June 5

BachFest Breakfast:
Dreaming in Silence

9:00 AM | St. Mary's Activity Center

Community Outreach
Emerging Artists

11:00 AM | Victoria Public Library

Visions in the Dark

Noon | First United Methodist Church

VAMP Vocals

7:30 PM | Trinity Episcopal Church

Saturday | June 6

Community Outreach
Big Bang

1:00 PM | Victoria Public Library

Spellbound

7:30 PM | Victoria Fine Arts Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Including Concert Tickets please visit

VictoriaBachFestival.org



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The **Victoria Bach Festival** aims to inspire and educate musicians and audiences of all ages and backgrounds through high-quality and diverse orchestral, choral, and chamber music performances. The first Festival was presented in Victoria, Texas, under the direction of Dr. David Urness with the sponsorship of the University of Houston-Victoria. Artistic Director Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez programs orchestral, choral, and chamber music performances by local and nationally acclaimed artists in various venues in Victoria and South Texas. Recent seasons included performances of some of the greatest orchestral works by Mexican composers, *Mahler's Symphony No. 1, "Titan,"* with a 100-piece orchestra, the US premiere of Pépin's *The Sound of Trees*, and the world premiere of *Contreras' Symphony No. 1, "MyGreat Dream"*. Free concerts and children's programming are an integral part of Festival events and reflect a commitment to outreach and the development of new audiences for the arts.

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

1976-1988 David Urness <i>Founder</i>	1989-1991 Blanton Alspaugh
1992-2015 Craig Hella Johnson	2016 Michelle Schumann
	2017-Present Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez

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Fantastical Music

FIFTY ONE YEARS OF THE Victoria Bach Festival

10th season celebration features commissioned work by David Ott and artwork by Nancy Bandy.

Craig Hella Johnson appointed as Artistic Director. Johnson establishes the "New Young Artists" series, the VBF Chamber Choir, and the Bach Cantata Series. Performance of Telemann's Triple Concerto in E_b major is broadcast on National Public Radio's "Performance Today." NPR calls the Festival "a Texas Treasure."

Bach's Mass in B minor performed in Austin and Victoria with the New Texas Festival.

Recital by world-renowned harpsichordist Igor Kipnis and performances of two landmark works, Mahler's Symphony no. 4 and the Brahms' German Requiem.

Wilbur Collins records performances for broadcast on 90.3 KEDT in Corpus Christi and 90.7 KVRT in Victoria.

Expanded 3-week festival culminates in critically-acclaimed performance of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis.

Nina Di Leo joins the Festival as Executive Director. VBF collaborates with Conspirare and the Texas State University Chorale to perform Robert Levin's completion of Mozart's Mass in C minor.

VBF's first period instrument concert (Handel's "Messiah" featuring concertmaster Stephen Redfield). Thirty-minute excerpt broadcast nationwide on American Public Media's "Performance Today." VBF artists program a memorial concert honoring former board president Dorothy Welton.

Guest conductor Jerry Junkin leads the VBF Orchestra in George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with Michelle Schumann at the piano.

- 1976
- 1985
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- 2010
- 2012

Members of the Victoria community and Dr. David Urness found the Victoria Bach Festival, sponsored by the University of Houston-Victoria. The non-profit organization Victoria Bach Festival Association is formed, the guiding force behind the Victoria Bach Festival.

20th season celebration features a tour of the "Cities of Bach" in Germany and performances of Haydn's Creation in San Antonio and Victoria in collaboration with the University of Texas Chamber Singers.

Performances of Haydn's Creation in Victoria and San Antonio, funded by ¡Arts! San Antonio.

Acquisition of the Rutkowski & Robinette concert grand harpsichord. Inaugural season of MusiCamp in partnership with Victoria College.

25th season celebration features performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion.

Performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' A Sea Symphony featuring the VBF Orchestra and 120 voices of the combined Conspirare Symphonic Choir and VBF Chorus. Daily broadcasts on KEDT-KVRT.

30th season is celebrated with the debut of a live concert broadcast on KEDT-KVRT Public Radio.

VBF Collaborates with Conspirare to perform Mendelssohn's Elijah in Austin and Victoria.

First VBF Rockport Chamber Music Series concert in collaboration with the Rockport Center for the Arts featuring the Austin String Trio (Richard Kilmer, violin, Bruce Williams, viola, and Douglas Harvey, cello).

VBF Chorus, Conspirare Symphonic Choir, and Organist Gerre Hancock perform Maurice Duruflé's Requiem and James MacMillan's Cantos Sagrados at Corpus Christi Cathedral.

Harmonia Mundi releases recording of VBF's collaboration with Conspirare: Robert Kyr's Songs of the Soul and The Cloud of Unknowing, which is chosen for National Public Radio's list of best albums of 2014. VBF collaborates with the Victoria TX Independent Film Festival for a live score of F.W. Murnau's 1922 silent film Nosferatu performed by Jill Tracy and the Malcontent Orchestra. GRAMMY-winning clarinetist Richard Stoltzman performs with Michelle Schumann and VBF chamber music artists.

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez named Artistic Director. Craig Hella Johnson scholarships awarded. Michelle Schumann introduces BachFest Breakfast concert series. Faith DeBow and New Young Artists Katya Gruzgline and Chloë Schaaf perform VBF's first concert at the Presidio La Bahía in Goliad. Dr. Hernandez-Valdez conducts his first VBF performance, featuring Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring.

Festival finale concert features pianist Anton Nel and the VBF Orchestra in Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2 and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 conducted by Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez. Because of a power failure at the Victoria Fine Arts Center 30 minutes before the concert, players, stage crew, and audience abruptly move to a different venue. Season features "Magnificent Bach," a concert highlighting some of Bach's most beloved compositions, including his Magnificat and an introduction to the Credo of the B Minor Mass by C.P.E. Bach.

100-piece VBF Orchestra performs Mahler's Symphony No. 1, "Titan," conducted by Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez.

Festival finale features the VBF Orchestra performing Liszt's Les Preludes, the US premiere of Pépin's The Sound of Trees featuring Vanguel Tangarov on clarinet and Gregory Sauer on cello, and Saint-Saëns' symphony No. 3, "Organ" featuring Renée Anne Louprette on the organ conducted by Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez.

50th Anniversary Season celebrates Bach's Mass in B Minor, a commemorative recreation of the Festival's very first concert, VBF's first performances in Rockport, the unveiling of the Festival's first permanent monument at University of Houston-Victoria (now Texas A&M University-Victoria), a solo recital and performance of Rhapsody in Blue by Anton Nel, and the world premiere of Juan Pablo Contreras' Symphony No. 1, "MyGreat Dream," commissioned in honor of the 50th season.

- 2013 Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson named 2013 Texas State Musician.
- 2014 VBF's first outdoor concert on DeLeon Plaza, featuring indie orchestral band Mother Falcon. Premiere of commissioned fanfare "So Long As Days Shall Be" by Donald Grantham, featuring the VBF Orchestra, VBF Chorus, and Conspirare Symphonic Choir, conducted by Craig Hella Johnson. Johnson transitions to Conductor Emeritus and is awarded the key to the City of Victoria. Michelle Schumann assumes role of interim Artistic Director.
- 2015 U.S. premiere of "Mariachitlán" by GRAMMY-nominated composer Juan Pablo Contreras performed by the VBF Orchestra conducted by Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez. Festival finale "Mexico Bello" features some of the greatest orchestral works by Mexican composers. Season also features clarinetist Vanguel Tangarov in Copland's Clarinet Concerto and Bernstein's Prelude, Fugue, and Riffs, and a performance of Fanfares for the Uncommon Woman by Joan Tower.
- 2016 Festival concerts persevere and succeed during the pandemic with live-streamed online performances in artists' homes. Online performances include a piano recital by Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez featuring Beethoven's Sonata Op. 110 and Schubert's Sonata in B-flat, D. 960.
- 2017 VBF welcomes Buck Moore as Executive Director. Premiere of commissioned work for organ "Introduction, Passacaglia, and Fugue on Windham" by David Hurd Jr, performed by Renée Anne Louprette. Festival finale features pianist Alexandre Dossin and the VBF Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 conducted by Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez.
- 2019
- 2020
- 2022
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez is an acclaimed conductor and pianist whose dynamic artistry and visionary leadership have earned national and international recognition. He serves as the Artistic Director of Musica Viva NY and Director of Music at Manhattan's historic Unitarian Church of All Souls. He is also the co-founder and Artistic Director of the New Orchestra of Washington (NOW) and Artistic Director of the Victoria Bach Festival in Texas.

Hernandez-Valdez has received consistent praise from leading publications. *The Washington Post* hailed him as a conductor "with the incisive clarity of someone born to the idiom," while *The New York Times* lauded his direction of Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* as "a stirring performance." Reflecting on his 2018 program commemorating the WWI Armistice centenary—which featured the world premiere of Joseph Turrin's *And Crimson Roses Once Again Be Fair—Oberon's Grove* noted, "Maestro Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez drew rich, warm sounds from the musicians" in "a beautiful and deeply moving program."

Recognized widely, Hernandez-Valdez is featured in *El Mundo en las Manos/Creadores Mexicanos en el Extranjero* (The World in Their Hands/Creative Mexicans Abroad), a publication by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs celebrating influential Mexican artists. He was also honored with the 2016 Shenandoah Conservatory Alumni of Excellence Award, in recognition of his national prominence, professional distinction, and artistic integrity.

In 2016, during its 40th anniversary season, Hernandez-Valdez was appointed the third Artistic Director of the Victoria Bach Festival. As *Classical Voice America's* Mike Greenberg remarked, "Hernandez-Valdez replaced the question mark with an exclamation point—perhaps more appropriately, given his Spanish name and Mexican provenance, two exclamation points: ¡Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez! The results were astonishing."

Since assuming leadership of Musica Viva NY in 2015, Hernandez-Valdez has expanded the ensemble's artistic reach. Described by *The New York Times* as "an excellent chorus," the group has deepened its commitment to innovation, commissioning new works while honoring its tradition of excellence. Notable alumni include Renée Fleming, Samuel Ramey, and Michael Maliakel. Under his direction, Musica Viva NY continues to explore bold, resonant repertoire that engages modern audiences.

As co-founder and Artistic Director of NOW, Hernandez-Valdez has reimagined the chamber orchestra model. Celebrated by *The Washington Post* as a leader in the "smaller-is-better" movement, NOW presents cutting-edge programs and culturally enriching performances across the National Capital Region, including appearances at the Kennedy Center.

A passionate advocate for contemporary music, Hernandez-Valdez has commissioned and premiered works by a distinguished range of composers, including Joan Tower, Arturo Márquez, Joseph Turrin, Gilda Lyons, Richard Einhorn, Seymour Bernstein, Viet Cuong, Juan Pablo Contreras, Trevor Weston, and Elena Ruehr. His dedication to amplifying new voices and diverse perspectives is shaping the evolving landscape of classical music.

As a pianist, he was invited to perform at the Britten 100 Festival in New York City, commemorating the centenary of Benjamin Britten. As a composer, he premiered *The Imaginary City*, a cantata inspired by the life of Ramzi Aburedwan, a violist and educator working in Palestinian refugee camps. He also created and premiered a chamber arrangement of Seymour Bernstein's *A Song of Nature*. Bernstein, the subject of Ethan Hawke's acclaimed 2014 documentary *Seymour: An Introduction*, remains one of Hernandez-Valdez's most influential mentors.

Most recently, Hernandez-Valdez led Musica Viva NY in the recording of three commissioned works by American composers for the Naxos label. Featuring legendary mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, the album continues to receive critical acclaim from publications such as *BBC Music Magazine*, *Gramophone*, *Choir & Organ*, *Fanfare*, among others.

Dr. Hernandez-Valdez resides in New York City, where his work continues to inspire, innovate, and elevate the world of classical music.



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The **Victoria Bach Festival Endowment Trust** was established to help ensure the long-term sustainability and artistic excellence of the Festival for generations to come. The Endowment has supported the festival in times of need as well as celebration, most recently by helping to commission *Contreras' Symphony No. 1, "MyGreat Dream"*. Through charitable gifts and dedicated stewardship, the Endowment Trust ensures the preservation of the Festival's legacy as a cultural treasure of South Texas.

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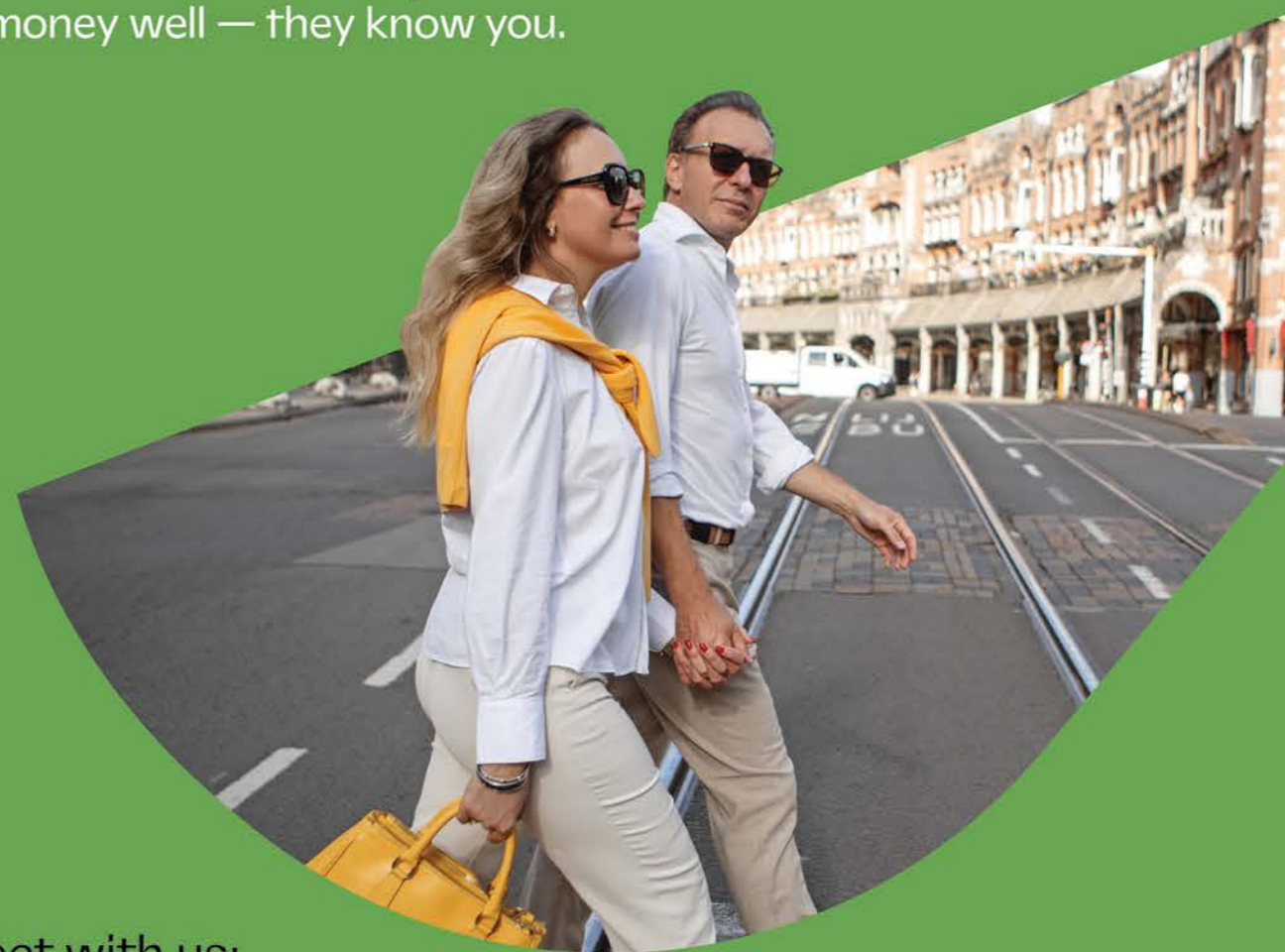


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 More information on named endowments at: victoriabachfestival.org/endowment-trust or call 361-570-5788

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Saturday | May 30 | 7:30 PM

Sunday | May 31 | 3:00 PM

Our Lady of Loreto Chapel,
Presidio la Bahia
217 US 183, Goliad, Texas

Rockport Center for the Arts
204 S. Austin, Rockport, Texas

Duo 彩 AYA

Makana Jimbu marimba | **Rachel Woolf** flute

Reunion Dance (2007)

Wildflowers (2023 Duo 彩 AYA Commission)

Kembang Suling (1996)

1. Bali
2. Japan
3. India

Water Planet (2023 Duo 彩 AYA Commission)
For flute, marimba, and electronics

Intermission

Histoire du Tango (1985)

1. Bordel 1900
2. Café 1930
3. Nightclub 1960

La Cumbia (2025)

Javanaise, from *Suite for Flute and Jazz piano trio*

Duo 彩 AYA (彩 AYA meaning “bright colors” and “vibrancy”) is an electrifying ensemble featuring flutist Rachel Woolf and marimbist Makana Jimbu. Their debut album *Cycles*, released on Neuma Records in Spring 2025, weaves together newly commissioned works by Evan Williams, Miriama Young, Fumihiko Ono, and Paul Millette, alongside classic repertoire by Ney Rosauro, Gareth Farr, and Makoto Shinohara. “Global and virtuosic,” (Am:plified Mag), *Cycles* is a mosaic of delicate phrasing, extended techniques, stylistic variety, intricate rhythms, and kaleidoscopic textures, that explores our shared ecological, culture, and creative landscapes. “An outstanding release...take a deep dive into *Cycles* so you can experience all it has to offer,” praises RAG Magazine. Pan M 360 emphasizes the duo’s “excellent technical and sensory performances,” and their power to immerse listeners in “accessible, colourful universes evocative of attractive panoramas, anchored in luminous tones.” The marriage of lyricism and rhythm, they write, creates “a duo with a great potential for evocative versatility.”

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Ney Rosauro (b. 1952)

Paul Millette (b. 1992)

Gareth Farr (b. 1968)

Fumihiko Ono (b. 1990)

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Alejandro Carrillo (b. 1993)

Claude Bolling (1930-2020)

2025 Gold Medal winners of the Global Music Awards for Duo and Instrumentalist, Duo 彩 AYA has performed across the world including the United States and Japan, with appearances and masterclasses at The University of Texas at San Antonio, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, University of North Texas, Texas Christian University, and the University of North Carolina system (Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Wilmington, and Pembroke). Their artistry has also been featured in chamber music series in San Diego and on radio programs across the United States.

Rachel and Makana met as students at the University of North Texas, where they discovered their shared passion for collaborative performance. Through their innovative programming and commitment to global artistic dialogue, Duo 彩 AYA continues to redefine the possibilities of chamber music and inspire audiences worldwide.



Makana Jimbu
Marimba

Makana Jimbu’s musical journey commenced at a young age in Japan, where her passion for piano and electronic organ flourished under the guidance of Yamaha Music School. Her talents expanded to composition, setting the stage for a lifelong dedication to music. The world of percussion beckoned her, and she answered the call with remarkable success. An Innovative percussion artist, Makana is a prizewinner of the Japan Percussion Association Competition, KOBE International Marimba Competition, Poland International Marimba Competition, and Italy PAS International Marimba Competition. Beyond this, she has performed marimba recitals throughout Japan and the United States. Makana’s commitment to music extends to her role as an educator, imparting her knowledge to students of all ages. Makana received degrees from Senzoku Gakuen College of Music (BM) and the University of North Texas (Graduate Artist Certificate and Master of Music).



Rachel Woolf
Flute

Dr. Rachel Woolf is a multifaceted flutist, educator, and advocate for new music, serving as Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Texas at San Antonio. An international performing artist, she is co-founder of flute and marimba duo Duo 彩 AYA, principal flute of the Victoria Bach Festival, and a member of the symphonic pop-rock band, The Polyphonic Spree. In 2025, Duo 彩 AYA released *Cycles* on Neuma Records, earning two Gold Medals from the Global Music Awards. Woolf has performed on five continents, appeared at major festivals worldwide, and recorded across classical, contemporary, and popular genres. Named YAMAHA’s “40 Under 40” Music Educators Class of 2025, she is committed to expanding the musical canon through performance, commissioning, and education, championing composers and artists whose voices shape the future of classical music.



Tuesday | June 2 | 7:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church
2408 N. Navarro Street, Victoria, Texas

Baroque Ensemble

Led by Christopher Haritatos

Concerto in G Minor, RV 439, "La Notte"

Largo
Fantasmi: Presto
Largo
Presto
Il Sonno: Largo
Allegro

Don Fader recorder

Ebra d'amor fuggia

Gitanjali Mathur soprano

Intermission

Concerto Op. 6 No. 7, "Il Pianto d'Arianna"

Andante - Allegro - Adagio
Andante - Allegro - Largo
Largo Andante - Allegro - Largo

Excerpts from *Alcina*

Recitativo Accompagnato: Ah! Ruggiero crudel
Aria: Ombre pallide
Aria: Tornami a vagheggiar

Gitanjali Mathur soprano

Scarlatti: Cantata *Ebra d'amor fuggia*

Recitativo

Ebra d'amor fuggia dalle soglie paterne tra le braccia a Teseo la regal figlia del cretense signor, la bella Arianna. Giunta allo scoglio in cui un tardo pentimento l'attendea del Garzone infedele in grembo assisa, nel volto traditor le luci affisse, indi baciollo e disse:

Recitative

Drunk with love, she fled From her father's home Into the arms of Theseus, that royal daughter Of the King of Crete, the beautiful Ariadne. Having reached the rock where A tardy repentance awaited her, Seated on the lap of the unfaithful youth, She gazed into his treacherous face, Then kissed him, saying:

Antonio Vivaldi

Alessandro Scarlatti

Pietro Antonio Locatelli

George Frideric Handel

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Scan Here for Program Notes

Scarlatti: Cantata *Ebra d'amor fuggia* (Continued)

Aria

Pur ti stringo o mio diletto,
pur ti bacio o caro ben.
Bella gioia del mio petto,
Dolce amore del mio sen.

Recitativo

Ribaciolla Teseo, l'accarezzò lui tanto, che gli occhi le oppresse incauto sonno. Allor col piede al par del core infido fuggi dalla tradita donzella, e giunto al lido ove attendealo il legno spiegò le vele ai venti, e verso Atene indirizzò il corso, e Arianna sola in preda lasciò delle sue pene. Essa intanto dormia e un sogno ingannator le dipingea vicino il suo diletto a cui dicea:

Aria

Stringa sì dolce nodo ardente amore,
Né fredda gelosia lo sciolga mai.
Più tuo che mio sarà questo mio core;
Più mio che tuo mio ben sempre sarai.

Recitativo

Ma poi che desta vide se abbandonata e sola e vide il legno che volando rapia la sua speranza: Teseo, gridò, Teseo! Qual furia a me t'invola e a qual inferno m'abbandoni, ingrato! Ah dell'infida antenna le vele abbassa e riedi a questa senza te misera sponda! Ahi, che siegue il suo corso e mi risponde il sol fragor dell'onde.

Aria

Ingoiatelo, laceratelo, ondosì vortici, mostri del mar.
Sorgete o tempeste, atroci e funeste, le membra barbare a divorar.

Aria

I embrace you, O my love,
I kiss you, O dear beloved.
Fair joy of my breast,
Fair love of my bosom.

Recitative

Theseus kissed her back, And caressed her so ardently That imprudent sleep oppressed her eyes. Then, with foot as treacherous as his heart, He fled from the betrayed maiden, And, having reached the shore where his ship awaited him, Spread his sails to the winds And set his course for Athens, Leaving Ariadne alone, a prey to her grief. Meanwhile she slept on, And a deceptive dream showed her, At her side, her beloved, to whom she said:

Aria

Let a sweet knot bind our burning love,
Nor let cold jealousy ever melt it.
My heart will be more yours than mine;
You will always be more mine than yours, my beloved.

Recitative

But when she awoke, she saw herself Abandoned and alone, and saw the ship Racing away and robbing her of her hopes: Theseus, she cried, Theseus! What fury steals you from me, And to what hell do you abandon me, ungrateful wretch? Ah, lower the sails On the treacherous mast, and come back To this shore that is so miserable without you! Alas, he follows his course And only the crashing of the waves answers me.

Aria

Swallow him up,
Tear him apart,
Whirlpools, sea monsters!
Arise, O tempests,
Dreadful and murderous,
To devour his cruel limbs

Scarlatti: Cantata Ebra d'amor fuggia (Continued)

Recitativo

Ah che son con Teseo per mio tormento
in lega i mostri il mar, gli scogli e'l vento ;
più non veggon quest'occhi
che del mio fallo il portentoso aspetto.
Veggio il mio padre offeso,
il mio germano ucciso,
il mio sangue tradito,
il mio onor perduto;
e pur fra tanti detestabili oggetti
non veggio ancora il volto della morte
che il mio furor, che il mio dolor conforte.

Aria

Struggiti, o core, in pianto
E piangi sino a tanto
Che tu non sia più cor.
E se non puoi tu solo
Piangi con il tuo duolo
Il mio tradito amor.

Recitativo

Sì disse e tanto pianse
Che vedutala Bacco
N'ebbe tanta pietade e tanto zelo
Che dal funesto scoglio
Seco la trasse in sulle vie del cielo.

Recitative

Ah, to torment me, they are all in league with Theseus,
The monsters, the sea, the rocks and the wind;
These eyes of mine now see
Only the enormity of my error.
I see my father offended,
My brother slain,
My blood betrayed,
My honour lost;
And yet, amid so many hateful objects,
I still do not see the face of death
To comfort my rage and sorrow.

Aria

Be consumed in tears, O heart,
And continue to weep
Until you are a heart no longer.
And if you cannot do so alone,
Weep with your grief
For my betrayed love.

Recitative

Thus she spoke, and wept so bitterly
That Bacchus, seeing her,
Felt such pity and passion for her
That from the grim rock
He drew her up with him to the paths of Heaven.

Excerpts from Handel's Alcina

Recitativo Accompagnato

Ah! Ruggiero crudel, tu no mi amasti!
Ah! che fingesti ancor, e m'ingannasti!
E pur ti adora ancor fido mio core.
Ah! Ruggiero crudel! ah, traditore!

Del pallido Acheronte spiriti abitatori,
e della notte ministri di vendetta,
cieche figlie crudeli, a me venite!
Secondate i miei voti,
perché Ruggiero amato
non fugga da me ingrato.

Ma ohimè! misera!
e quale insolita tardanza?
eh! non m'udite?
Vi cerco, e vi ascondete?
Vi comando, e tacete?
Evvi inganno? evvi frode?
La mia verga fatal non ha possanza?
Vinta, delusa Alcina, e che ti avanza?

Accompanied Recitative

Ah, cruel Ruggiero! You have never loved me!
You feigned love and deceived me!
And yet my faithful heart still adores you.
Ah, cruel Ruggiero, you are a traitor!

Come, you spirits of the wan shores of Acheron,
and you, cruel, blind, daughters of the night,
ministers of vengeance, come to me!
Help me to achieve my desire,
that my beloved Ruggiero
will not fly from me and forswear me.

But alas! I am wretched!
What is this unwonted delay?
Ah, do you not hear me?
I seek you, and you hide yourselves?
I command you, and you are silent?
Have I been deceived? Have I been tricked?
Has my fateful wand lost its power?
Vanquished, deluded Alcina, what is now left for you?

Excerpts from Handel's Alcina (Continued)

Aria

Ombre pallide, lo so, mi udite;
d'intorno errate,
e vi celate,
sorde da me:
perché? perché?
Fugge il mio bene;
voi lo fermate
deh! per pietate,
se in questa verga,
ch'ora disprezzo,
e voglio frangere,
forza non è.

Aria

Tornami a vagheggiar,
te solo vuoi amar
quest'anima fedel,
caro mio bene.
Già ti donai il mio cor;
fido sarà il mio amor;
mai ti sarò crudel,
cara mia speme.

Aria

You pale shadows, I know you hear me;
you hover around me
and conceal yourselves,
and are deaf to my words.
Why? Why?
My lover flees from me;
stop him,
for pity's sake,
if this wand,
which now I despise
and would break,
has lost its power.

Aria

Come quickly back to court me,
my faithful heart longs
to love only you,
my dear one.
I have already given you my heart,
and my love will be true.
I will never betray you,
it is your love I long for.

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Alan Austin
Violin

- Founding member of Ars Lyrica Houston and frequent performer with leading early music ensembles throughout Texas, including Mercury Baroque and Dallas Bach Society.
- Served as concertmaster for Ars Lyrica Houston, Bach Society Houston, and Texas Bach Collegium, and taught Baroque violin at the University of

Houston Moores School of Music.

- Former General and Artistic Director of the Olshan Texas Music Festival for nearly 30 years; currently serves as Manager of Orchestras at Rice University Shepherd School of Music.



Joan Ely Carlson
Violin

- Tenured violinist with the Austin Symphony Orchestra, with additional performance roles on baroque violin, tenor viol, and soprano with leading early music ensembles
- Active chamber and period-instrument musician, including work with Philharmonie Austin and participation in groundbreaking recordings such as

Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony on period instruments

- Versatile professional balancing a performing career with work as a lawyer specializing in document review



Bruce Colson
Violin

- Performs regularly with leading ensembles including the Austin Symphony Orchestra, Austin Opera, Texas Early Music Project, La Follia Austin Baroque, Philharmonie Austin, Victoria Bach Festival, and Britt Festival Orchestra.

- Former longtime member of the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra

and Victoria Symphony Orchestra; continues to perform as a substitute musician in Victoria.

- Performs on both modern and baroque violin, as well as viola, bringing versatility across a wide range of repertoire and performance styles.

- Maintains a private teaching studio, offering violin and viola instruction to students of all ages and skill levels.



Boel Gidholm
Violin

- Performs on modern and baroque violin in the US and Europe.
- Native of Sweden, lives in Rochester, NY
- Co-Director of Publick Musick, a period-instrument ensemble based in Rochester.



Gesa Kordes
Violin

- Performs as chamber and orchestral musician in the U.S. and Europe on Baroque and modern violin and Baroque viola

- Member of the Mobile and Tuscaloosa Symphonies, the Opera Lafayette Baroque Orchestra, and Bama Baroque

- Assistant Professor of Music History and Early Music at the University of Alabama

- Spends her free time at the barn with her Hanoverian gelding, Peewee



Maria Lin
Violin

- Maria is a versatile musician from Houston, equally at home on historical and modern instruments

- Enjoys performing in a diverse range of ensembles, from chamber music to symphonic, opera and ballet orchestras

- Has degrees from the New England Conservatory and Eastman School of Music



Melissa Brewer
Viola

- Performed with the Florida Philharmonic, Miami Chamber Orchestra, West Palm Opera.

- Principal viola for the Tuscaloosa and Meridian Symphonies.

- Principal viola for the Tallahassee Bach Parley and Atlanta Baroque Orchestra.



Jann Cosart
Viola

- Performer of bowed strings of the 12th C to the Contemporary

- Musicology Area Coordinator and Director of the Early Music program at Baylor University

- Recordings published on Dorian, Titanic, and L'Oiseau-Lyre



Christopher Haritatos
Cello

- Member, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

- Co-Artistic Director, Publick Musick

- Freelance baroque and modern cellist with groups such as Pegasus Early Music, NY State Baroque, Finger Lakes Opera, Chamber Music Rochester, Handel and Haydn Society, Apollo's Fire

- Former faculty, Texas State University-San Marcos



Eric Taeyang Mun
Cello

- Performs with period instrument ensembles including Ars Lyrica Houston and La Follia Austin

- Associate Principal Cello of Dallas Chamber Symphony

- Principal Cello of Abilene Philharmonic



Deborah Dunham
Violone

- Symphony, Opera, Ballet, and Chamber Orchestra Musician

- Bassist/Violonist for recordings found on Tel Arc, Bridge, Centaur, Dorian, Linn, New World, Arsis, Mode, Naxos, Sonos Luminus, and New Albion Records

- Sam Houston State University Adjunct Professor of Double Bass and Chamber Music (2007-2023)



Keith Womer
Harpsichord

- Director, La Follia Austin Baroque, Austin Texas

- Organist, University Presbyterian Church, Austin Texas



Don Fader
Recorder

- Professional recorder player

- Performed as soloist and chamber music around in the United States and Europe with multiple ensembles

- Professor of Musicology at the University of Alabama, co-founder of "Early Chamber Ensembles" Program

- Award-winning musicologist, expert on French and Italian Baroque music



Gitanjali Mathur
Soprano

- Gitanjali Mathur is an internationally acclaimed soprano who has appeared on multiple GRAMMY-winning and GRAMMY-nominated recordings and was named "Classical Best Singer" by the Austin Critics Table in 2018.

- Originally from India, she studied North Indian Classical music

before earning degrees in Vocal Performance, along with minors in Computer Science and Mathematics, from Indiana University.

- She performs regularly with renowned ensembles including Conspirare, Seraphic Fire, and True Concord Voices & Orchestra, and is delighted to return to the Victoria Bach Festival in 2026.

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HOURS:
Tue - Fri 12:00 - 5:00 PM
Sat - Sun 12:00 - 4:00 PM

Wednesday | June 3 | 9:00 am

St. Mary's Activity Center
401 S. Liberty, Victoria, Texas

Bach FEST Breakfast: A Sonic Dreamscape

Elaine Barber *harp* | **Faith DeBow** *piano*

Vincent Marks *viola* | **Rachel Woolf** *flute*



Syrinx (1913) **Claude Debussy** (1862-1918)

Rachel Woolf *flute*

Le Merle Noir (1952) **Oliver Messiaen** (1908-1992)

Rachel Woolf *flute*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Sonata pour Harpe (1953) **Germaine Tailleferre** (1892-1983)

1. Allegretto
2. Lento
3. Perpetuum Mobile: Allegro gaiment

Elaine Barber *harp*

Prélude, Récitatif et Variations, Op. 3 (1928) **Maurice Duruflé** (1902-1986)

Rachel Woolf *flute*
Vincent Marks *viola*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Sonata for Flute, Viola, and Harp (1915) **Claude Debussy** (1862-1918)

1. Pastorale
2. Interlude
3. Final

Rachel Woolf *flute*
Vincent Marks *viola*
Elaine Barber *harp*

Elaine Barber

Harp

Elaine Barber is Principal Harpist for Austin Symphony Orchestra. She earned her MM in harp performance at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, studying with Beatrice Rose.



Elaine has been featured soloist at two American Harp Society National Conferences, and with Austin Symphony, Mississippi Symphony, Mozart Festival Texas, and Mason County Chamber Music Festival, as well as Victoria Bach Festival. She plays jazz with the Alex Coke & Carl Michel Sextet, and early music with Texas Early Music Project and Austin Baroque Orchestra.

Composers Stephen Barber, Alex Coke, Gordon Jones, James Sclater, Peter Stopschinski, P. Kellach Waddle, and Charles Rochester Young have written solo and chamber works for her that she has premiered. She maintains a teaching studio in Austin, and is music director of Girl Scout Harp Ensemble, the only Girl Scout troop anywhere made up entirely of harpists.

Faith DeBow

Piano

Pianist and Emerging Artists Coordinator Faith DeBow enjoys a vibrant performance and teaching career based in the Central Texas region. She serves as a Professor of Instruction at the Texas State University School of Music, where she teaches class piano and accompanying, and works with the choral program. She has a long-standing relationship with the choral ensemble Conspirare, and has been honored with several GRAMMY® nominations from those collaborations. Faith often plays orchestral keyboard with such groups as the Austin Symphony Orchestra, San Antonio Philharmonic, and Mid-Texas Symphony.



Faith has had the privilege of performing in fifteen states and eight countries, including Iceland, France, and Denmark. She has recorded for Harmonia Mundi and PBS with Conspirare, and for Albany Records with tuba player Tim Buzbee. Faith enjoys bringing new music to life, and has worked with many composers. She holds a master's degree in accompanying and chamber music from the Eastman School of Music, and a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Butler University.

Vincent Marks

Viola

Vincent Marks received his Bachelor of Music degree in Performance from Indiana University with Stephen Wyrzynski and a Masters degree in Performance at the Butler School of Music (University of Texas at Austin) with Roger Myers. Vincent plays with the Austin Symphony and Austin Lyric Opera as well as teaching through Austin Soundwaves. Summer performances have included the Aspen Music Festival Fellowship program, the Young Artist Program in Ottawa, and the Academy of the Pacific.



Rachel Woolf

Flute

Dr. Rachel Woolf is a multifaceted flutist, educator, and advocate for new music, serving as Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Texas at San Antonio. An international performing artist, she is co-founder of flute and marimba duo Duo 彩 AYA, principal flute of the Victoria Bach Festival, and a member of the symphonic pop-rock band, The Polyphonic Spree. In 2025, Duo 彩 AYA released *Cycles* on Neuma Records, earning two Gold Medals from the Global Music Awards. Woolf has performed on five continents, appeared at major festivals worldwide, and recorded across classical, contemporary, and popular genres. Named YAMAHA's "40 Under 40" Music Educators Class of 2025, she is committed to expanding the musical canon through performance, commissioning, and education, championing composers and artists whose voices shape the future of classical music.



Wednesday | June 3 | Noon

First United Methodist Church
407 N. Bridge St. Victoria, Texas

Dance with the Shadow

Abigail Bellorin *violin* | Luis Eduardo Bellorin *viola*
Anna Park *cello* | Chris Whitley *violin*

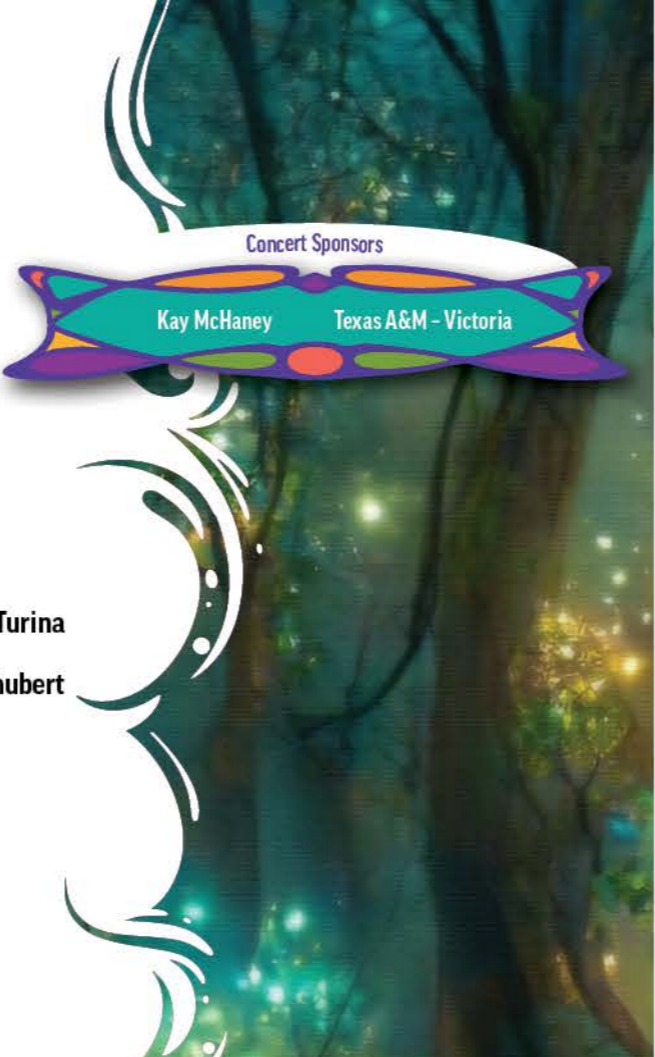
La Oración del Torero

String Quartet No. 14 in D minor, D. 810, "Death and the Maiden"

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante con moto (*Theme and Variations*)
- III. Scherzo: Allegro molto - Trio
- IV. Presto

Joaquín Turina

Franz Schubert



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Abigail Bellorin
Violin

Abi Bellorin is an Austin-based violinist, collaborator, and educator committed to building community through music. She co-founded and performs with *Austin Unconducted*, is a regular performer with *Austin Opera* and *One Found Sound* in San Francisco, and has been featured in the Kronos Quartet's annual music festival. Abi has performed across North America and currently leads a vibrant violin studio at Suzuki Strings of Austin. She is also a co-director of *Chamber Academy Austin*, where she shares the art of chamber music with young musicians throughout the city.

When she's not playing violin, Abi can be found going for a run, brewing a fresh French press, or off on a camping adventure with her partner Luis and daughter Luna.



Luis Eduardo Bellorin
Viola

Luis Eduardo Bellorin is a Venezuelan-American violist praised for his "impossibly sweet tone" (San Francisco Classical Voice). A founding member of the Thalea internationally at venues including Snape Maltings (UK), Flagey (Belgium), the Kennedy Center, and Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, collaborated with GRAMMY®-winning ensemble Alarm Will Sound, and toured the United States with the acclaimed Sphinx Virtuosi. Luis was a top prize winner at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and has held chamber music residencies at the Caramoor Center (NY) and the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel (Belgium). Now based in Austin, Texas, he is the newest violist of the Austin Symphony, a Sphinx MPower Artist Grant recipient, and co-founder of the conductorless group Austin Unconducted.



Anna Park
Cello

Anna Park is the Assistant Principal cellist of the Austin Symphony and a versatile performer with a rich background in both orchestral and chamber music. Throughout her career, she has performed with numerous ensembles, including the Houston Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, International Contemporary Ensemble, Artosphere Festival Orchestra, and Austin Opera. Passionate about community engagement, Anna regularly performs throughout the Austin area, bringing music to schools, libraries, and concert venues alike. Anna earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Peabody Conservatory and her Master of Music degree from Northwestern University. Her most influential teachers include Carole Neuen-Rabinowitz, Martha Gerschefski, Alan Stepansky, and Hans Jørgen Jensen. Outside of her musical pursuits, Anna is a houseplant enthusiast and enjoys life with her cellist husband, Frank, and their two dogs, Pete and Birdie.



Chris Whitley
Violin

Praised for his "quicksilver brilliance" (Chicago Tribune) and described as "a stunningly versatile performer" (The Whole Note), Toronto-based violinist Christopher Whitley maintains a rich and varied career as a violinist, educator, and composer. Christopher is a founding member of the Thalea String Quartet. Formed in 2014, the ensemble has performed recitals across North America, Europe, and China, and has appeared at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Massey Hall. Christopher has shared the stage with members of the Emerson, Brentano, Kronos, St. Lawrence, and London Haydn String Quartets, James Ehnes, Lawrence Power, Gilbert Kalish, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw. He was appointed Principal Second Violin of the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra in 2025. Christopher performs on a 1900 Stefano Scarampella violin, generously on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank.



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Wednesday | June 3 | 7:30 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church
1501 N. Glass Street, Victoria, Texas

Into the Labyrinth

Anton Nel *piano*

Sonata in C Major, Hob. XVI:50

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegro molto

Drei Klavierstücke, D. 946

- I. Allegro assai
- II. Allegretto
- III. Allegro

Prelude in G-flat Major, Op. 16, No. 3

Prelude in C-sharp minor, Op. 34, No. 10=

Prelude in C Major, Op. 12, No. 7

Prelude in G Major, Op. 32, No. 5

*Andante spianato and
Grande Polonaise brillante in E-flat Major, Op. 22*

Franz Joseph Haydn

Franz Schubert

Alexander Scriabin

Dmitry Shostakovich

Sergei Prokofiev

Sergei Rachmaninov

Frédéric Chopin



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Anton Nel

Piano

Winner of the 1987 Naumburg International Piano Competition at Carnegie Hall, Anton Nel continues to tour internationally as recitalist, concerto soloist, chamber musician and teacher. Highlights in the U.S. include performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Chicago, San Francisco, Dallas, Seattle, and Detroit Symphonies as well as coast to coast recitals. Overseas he has appeared at the Wigmore Hall in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, and major concert halls in China, Korea, and South Africa. He holds the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Endowed Chair at the University of Texas at Austin where he heads the Division of Keyboard Studies. and also joined the faculty of the the Glenn Gould School in Toronto in 2025. During the summers he is on the artist-faculty of the Aspen Music Festival. Mr. Nel also frequently performs as harpsichordist and fortepianist. His teachers include Adolph Hallis at the University of the Witwatersrand and Bela Siki and Frank Weinstock at the University of Cincinnati. He was inducted into the Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame in New York in 2019 and the Austin Arts Hall of Fame in 2025.



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Thursday | June 4 | 9:00 am

St. Mary's Activity Center
401 S. Liberty, Victoria, Texas

Bach FEST Breakfast: Mythic Whispers

Korine Fujiwara *viola* | Barbara George *cello*

Maria Lin *violin* | Michelle Schumann *piano*

Piano Quartet in A Major, Op. 26

1. Allegro non troppo
2. Poco adagio
3. Scherzo
4. Finale. Allegro

Johannes Brahms

Concert Sponsor

Mary Virginia Jacobs

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Korine Fujiwara

Viola

Korine Fujiwara is a violinist, violist, composer, and founding member of Carpe Diem String Quartet. Her music has been performed to critical acclaim throughout the world in venues including Carnegie's Weill Hall, New York; Suntory Hall, Tokyo; the Aichi Prefectural Art Theater Concert Hall, Nagoya; and the Palazzo Chigi Saracini in Siena, Italy. Named one of Strings Magazine's "25 Contemporary Composers to Watch," critics say of her music, "The ear is forever tickled by beautifully judged music that manages to be sophisticated and accessible at the same time... contains a very rare attribute in contemporary classical music: happiness." (Fanfare) "She knows how to exploit all the resources of string instruments alone and together; her solo violin writing is fiendishly difficult." (Strings) "Epic." (Columbus Dispatch) Korine is on the faculty of Pacific Lutheran University. She holds degrees from Juilliard and Northwestern University, and is in great demand for master classes and clinics.



Barbara George

Cello

Barbara George is a cellist with the San Antonio Philharmonic, the Pearl Trio and Artistic Director of Musical Offerings. Before coming to Texas she was principal cellist of the Orlando Philharmonic and a member of the Orlando Philharmonic String Quartet. She was cello professor at the University of Florida Gainesville and the University of Central Florida. Prior to her principal position she was a member of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and also performed, recorded and toured with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra and the Lyric Arts Chamber Ensemble. As a studio musician she recorded numerous motion picture soundtracks, commercials and record albums. Barbara was awarded a Master of Music degree from the University of California at Los Angeles as a student of Ronald Leonard and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music as student of Stephen Geber. She has performed at the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival, the Spoleto Italy Festival, the Sarasota Music Festival, the Mainly Mozart Festival, the Victoria Bach Festival, the Sunflower Music Festival and the Austin Chamber Music Center Festival. In 2019 Barbara released a solo album, *Femme*, of all women composers with pianist Jim James.



Maria Lin

Violin

Violinist Maria Lin enjoys performing music from the Renaissance to the present day on modern and historical violins. A versatile artist and freelancer, Maria plays with many of Houston's diverse resident ensembles including the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, Houston Symphony, Ars Lyrica Houston, Mercury Chamber Orchestra, Harmonia Stellarum, Bach Society, and La Speranza. With Ars Lyrica Houston she has performed at Music Before 1800, San Diego Early Music Festival, and Arizona Early Music Festival.



Maria has also performed at the Spoleto Festival USA, Tanglewood, Grand Teton Music Festival, and the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove. She has appeared as a recitalist and soloist at Weill Recital Hall and with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and National Repertory Orchestra. She has also served on the faculty of the Interlochen Center for the Arts. Maria received her Bachelor of Music from the New England Conservatory and her Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music.

Michelle Schumann

Piano

Pianist Michelle Schumann has earned acclaim for performances praised as "sensitive, flexible, and tempestuous," combining expressive artistry with engaging stage presence. Winner of the Janice K. Hodges Competition for Contemporary Music, Schumann is known for thoughtfully crafted programs that blend classic and contemporary repertoire into compelling musical experiences. She has appeared at renowned festivals including the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Austin Chamber Music Festival, Banff Festival of Music and Sound, Tanglewood, and the Victoria Bach Festival.



Her performance of *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Austin Symphony was named the #1 Classical Arts Event of 2008 by the Austin Chronicle, and she has received multiple Austin Critics' Table awards, including "Best Instrumentalist" and "Best Chamber Music Performance." From 2006-2024, Schumann served as Artistic Director of the Austin Chamber Music Center, where she became known for innovative programming and audience-centered performances.

Schumann has collaborated with many distinguished artists and ensembles and has performed internationally throughout Europe and North America. She holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Vienna Conservatory.

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Thursday | June 4 | Noon

First United Methodist Church
407 N. Bridge St. Victoria, Texas

2026 EMERGING ARTISTS
IN CONCERT:

Mostly About Love

Joohyun Grace Kim *mezzo-soprano* | Rachel Kobernick *soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Dôme épais le jasmin, from *Lakmé* **Léo Delibes** (1836-1891)
Rachel Kobernick *soprano*
Joohyun Grace Kim *mezzo-soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Ombra mai fu, from *Xerxes* **George Frideric Handel** (1685-1759)
Joohyun Grace Kim *mezzo-soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Come nube che fugge dal vento, from *Agrippina* **George Frideric Handel** (1685-1759)
Rachel Kobernick *soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Gruss **Edvard Grieg** (1843-1907)
Die verschwiegene Nachtigall
Zur Rosenzeit
Ein Traum
Joohyun Grace Kim *mezzo-soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Deh vieni non tardar, from *Le Nozze de Figaro* **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791)
Rachel Kobernick *soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Widmung **Robert Schumann** (1810-1856)
Joohyun Grace Kim *mezzo-soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Down at the docks **Virgil Thomson** (1896-1989)
Let's take a walk
A prayer to St. Catherine
Rachel Kobernick *soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Si mes vers avaient des ailes **Reynaldo Hahn** (1874-1947)
À Chloris
Joohyun Grace Kim *mezzo-soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Concert Sponsors

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Les chemins d'amour **Francis Poulenc** (1899-1963)
Rachel Kobernick *soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Will there really be a morning? **Ricky Ian Gordon** (b. 1956)
Heaven
Rachel Kobernick *soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

My Ship, from *Lady in the Dark* **Kurt Weill** (1900-1950)
One Life to Live, from *Lady in the Dark*
Joohyun Grace Kim *mezzo-soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Hand in Hand **Kait Kerrigan** (b. 1981) and **Bree Loudermilk**
Rachel Kobernick *soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour, from *Tales of Hoffmann* **Jacques Offenbach** (1819-1880)
Rachel Kobernick *soprano*
Joohyun Grace Kim *mezzo-soprano*
Faith DeBow *piano*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Joohyun Grace Kim
Mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Joohyun Grace Kim has appeared in a wide range of lyric mezzo repertoire, including Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Madame de la Haltière in *Cendrillon*, Flora in *La Traviata*, Susanna in *The Ghosts of Versailles*, and Orfeo in *Orfeo ed Euridice*. She has been a Young Artist with Opera San Antonio in collaboration with the Classical Music Institute and an artist with the Austin Opera Festival.

As a concert soloist, she has appeared twice as Alto soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and as a soloist in Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*. In 2025, she received an Encouragement Award at the Metropolitan Opera's Laffont Competition (Colorado-Wyoming District).

She is currently a second-year D.M.A. student in Opera Performance at The University of Texas at Austin and holds a Master of Music and a Professional Studies Diploma from the Mannes School of Music in New York. In the 2026 season, she will sing Melissa in Handel's *Alcina*, followed by Puccini roles as La Frugola in *Il Tabarro* and La Badessa in *Suor Angelica*.



Rachel Kobernick
Soprano

Rachel Kobernick is a versatile soprano praised for her "power and sweetness" (*The Observer*), "seamless coloratura sparkle" (*Seen and Heard International*), and "captivating performance" (*The New York Times*). In 2025, Rachel premiered four exciting roles singing La Statue Animée in Rameau's *Pygmalion* (Kentucky Opera), Marguerite in *Faust* (Heartbeat Opera), Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Cincinnati Opera), as well as Norina in *Don Pasquale* (Opera Magnifico). This season, Rachel makes her concert debut as a soloist with the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, returns to Kentucky Opera to sing Berginella in *Songbird*, makes her role debut as Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Indianapolis Opera), and debuts with Park City Opera singing Laurie in *The Tenderland*. She is also a 2025 **George and Nora London Foundation** Competition Finalist. Additional performance credits include appearances with Sarasota Opera, Opera on the James, Queen City Opera, the NF Opera Collective, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, and Cincinnati Song Initiative.



Faith DeBow

*Emerging Artists Coordinator
Piano*

Pianist and Emerging Artists Coordinator Faith DeBow enjoys a vibrant performance and teaching career based in the Central Texas region. She serves as a Professor of Instruction at the Texas State University School of Music, where she teaches class piano and accompanying, and works with the choral program. She has a long-standing relationship with the choral ensemble Conspirare, and has been honored with several GRAMMY® nominations from those collaborations. Faith often plays orchestral keyboard with such groups as the Austin Symphony Orchestra, San Antonio Philharmonic, and Mid-Texas Symphony.

Faith has had the privilege of performing in fifteen states and eight countries, including Iceland, France, and Denmark. She has recorded for Harmonia Mundi and PBS with Conspirare, and for Albany Records with tuba player Tim Buzbee. Faith enjoys bringing new music to life, and has worked with many composers. She holds a master's degree in accompanying and chamber music from the Eastman School of Music, and a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Butler University.



EMERGING ARTISTS

The Emerging Artists program (formerly the New Young Artists program) began in 1992 and has featured some of the nation's most promising young musicians. Past performers include:

- 1992: David Blackburn, Jana Holzmeier
- 1993: Melissa Marse, Oliver Worthington
- 1994: Richard Gabrillo, Stella Keidann Hastings
- 1995: Jill Bates, João Lourenço, Garrett Maddox
- 1996: David Dillard, Nina Keidann Revering
- 1997: Hanan Alattar, Todd Keister
- 1998: Carr Hornbuckle, Diane Schoff
- 1999: Matthew Oltman, Annie Su
- 2000: Keith Gipson, John Markert, Jennifer Needham
- 2001: Amy Cowan, Mela (Sara Jane) Dailey, Douglas Harvey
- 2002: Jorge Iván Gonzalez, Jenifer Thyssen
- 2003: J.D. Burnett, Stephanie Moore
- 2004: Kathleen Ritch Brown, David Farwig
- 2005: Mark Dupere, Paul Max Tipton, Ivan Treviño
- 2006: Jessica Anastasio, Dann Coakwell, Lauren Snouffer
- 2007: Kathrine Schmidt, Jonathon Subia
- 2008: Taylor Baggot, Joey Kantor
- 2009: Catherine Clarke, Seth Lafler
- 2010: Erin English, Thales Smith
- 2011: Dashon Burton, Nicole Greenidge, Hilary Janysek
- 2012: Estelí Gomez, Laura Miller
- 2013: Jennifer Berg, Jane Leggiero
- 2014: Erin Calata, Patrick Kilbride
- 2015: Reese Farnell, Brian Giebler
- 2016: Katya Gruzglina, Chloë Schaaf
- 2017: Emily Klein, Dillon MacIntyre
- 2018: Matthew Gillen, Natalie Magaña
- 2019: Bruno Barbosa, Natalie Howard
- 2020: Erin Cameron, Matthew Shorten
- 2021: Holden Bitner, John Uzodinma
- 2022: Ivy Cantu, Anita Graef
- 2023: Brandon Berlanga, David Womack
- 2024: Bobby Harris, Sam Higgins
- 2025: Weverton Santos, Logan Wadley

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Wednesday | June 3 | 2 PM

Twin Pines Nursing & Rehab Center
3301 E Mockingbird Ln. Victoria, Texas

Friday | June 5 | 11 AM

Victoria Public Library
302 N Main St. Victoria, Texas

Saturday | June 6 | 1 PM

Victoria Public Library
302 N Main St. Victoria, Texas

Emerging Artists

Our Emerging Artists will perform at Twin Pines Nursing Home as part of our outreach efforts, sharing the joy of live music through a meaningful and engaging program.

Emerging Artists

Our Emerging Artists bring fresh energy and expressive artistry to the library, offering an engaging and up-close musical experience for all ages.

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Thursday | June 4 | 7:30PM

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Angels & Dragons



Es erhub sich ein Streit

Johann Christoph Bach

Es erhub sich ein Streit, BWV 19

Johann Sebastian Bach

- I. Coro: *Es erhub sich ein Streit*
- II. Recitativo (Bass): *Gottlob! der Drache liegt gezwungen*
- III. Aria (Soprano): *Gott schickt uns Mahanaim zu*
- IV. Recitativo (Tenor): *Was ist der schnöde Mensch*
- V. Aria (Bass): *Bleibt, ihr Engel, bleibt bei mir*
- VI. Choral: *Laß dein Engel mit mir fahren*

Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg, BWV 149

Johann Sebastian Bach

- I. Coro: *Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg*
- II. Aria (Bass): *Kraft und Stärke sei gesungen*
- III. Recitativo (Alto): *Ich fürchte mich vor tausend Feinden nicht*
- IV. Aria (Soprano): *Gottes Engel weichen nie*
- V. Recitativo (Tenor): *Ich danke dir, mein lieber Gott*
- VI. Choral: *Ach Herr, lass dein lieb Engelein*

Intermission

Fürchte dich nicht

Johann Christoph Bach

Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir, BWV 130

Johann Sebastian Bach

- I. Coro: *Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir*
- II. Recitativo (Bass): *Ihr heller Glanz und hohe Weisheit zeigt*
- III. Aria (Soprano): *Der alte Drache brennt vor Neid*
- IV. Recitativo (Tenor): *Wohl aber uns, daß Tag und Nacht*
- V. Aria (Alto): *Laß, o Fürst der Cherubinen*
- VI. Choral: *Darum wir billig loben dich*

Nun ist das Heil und die Kraft, BWV 50

Johann Sebastian Bach

Texts & Translations

Johann Christoph Bach

Es erhub sich ein Streit

German

Es erhub sich ein Streit

English

There arose a great battle

Johann Sebastian Bach

Es erhub sich ein Streit, BWV 19

I. Coro

Es erhub sich ein Streit

There arose a great battle

II. Recitativo (Bass)

Gottlob! der Drache liegt gezwungen

Praise God! The dragon lies defeated

III. Aria (Soprano)

Gott schickt uns Mahanaim zu

God sends us his angels

IV. Recitativo (Tenor)

Was ist der schnöde Mensch

What is wretched man

V. Aria (Bass)

Bleibt, ihr Engel, bleibt bei mir

Stay, you angels, stay with me

VI. Choral

Laß dein Engel mit mir fahren

Let your angel go with me

Johann Sebastian Bach

Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg, BWV 149

I. Coro

Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg

Songs of joy are sung of victory

II. Aria (Bass)

Kraft und Stärke sei gesungen

Strength and power be praised

III. Recitativo (Alto)

Ich fürchte mich vor tausend Feinden nicht

I fear not a thousand enemies

IV. Aria (Soprano)

Gottes Engel weichen nie

God's angels never depart

V. Recitativo (Tenor)

Ich danke dir, mein lieber Gott

I thank you, my dear God

VI. Choral

Ach Herr, lass dein lieb Engelein

Ah Lord, let your dear angel

Intermission

Johann Christoph Bach

Fürchte dich nicht

German

Fürchte dich nicht

English

Be not afraid

Johann Sebastian Bach

Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir, BWV 130

I. Coro

Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir

Lord God, we all praise you

II. Recitativo (Bass)

Ihr heller Glanz und hohe Weisheit zeigt

Their bright radiance and high wisdom show

III. Aria (Soprano)

Der alte Drache brennt vor Neid

The old dragon burns with envy

IV. Recitativo (Tenor)

Wohl aber uns, daß Tag und Nacht

Blessed are we, that day and night

V. Aria (Alto)

Laß, o Fürst der Cherubinen

O prince of cherubim

VI. Choral

Darum wir billig loben dich

Therefore we rightly praise you

Johann Sebastian Bach

Nun ist das Heil und die Kraft, BWV 50

German

Nun ist das Heil und die Kraft

English

Now is salvation and strength



Akemi Takayama
Violin, Concertmaster

- Serves as the Victor Brown Endowed Chair in Violin at Shenandoah Conservatory and holds the administrative role of Assistant Provost for Inclusion and Belonging.
- Longtime Concertmaster for both the Roanoke (since 2004) and Williamsburg (since 2007) Symphony Orchestras, and a former 14-year

member of the world-renowned Audubon Quartet.

• A voting member of the Recording Academy whose collaborative recording was nominated for a 67th GRAMMY® Award.

• An internationally trained educator with a DMA from Stony Brook University, whose students hold prominent positions in performance and production worldwide.



Jackson Guillen
Principal second - Violin

- Named a Future of Music Faculty Fellow by the Cleveland Institute of Music.

• Played as soloist with the Shreveport Symphony, Symphony of Southeast Texas, Youth Orchestra of the Americas, La Orquesta Joven de Colombia en Medellin, the Texas Tech Symphony Orchestra, La Orquesta de Cámara de la

UNAH and La Orquesta Filarmónica de Honduras

• Member of the inaugural Global Leaders Program cohort, participating in community music initiatives in Honduras, El Salvador, and Chicago



Melissa Balli
Violin

• Principal Second Violin, Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra; performs with the Victoria and Kingsville Symphony Orchestras

• International artist with performances across the United States, Europe, and Costa Rica

• Active recitalist and chamber musician

• Associate Professor of Music and Fine Arts Chair at Victoria College; conductor of Crossroads Strings



Susan Doering
Violin

- Former tenured university professor
- Co-director of Musica Viva Chamber Music with Dieter Wulfhorst
- Member of the Emerald Duo (violin/violoncello)
- Member of the "Freeway Philharmonic", playing concerts all throughout California

• Board Certified Music Therapist since 2000



Williams Naranjo
Violin

• Solo violinist, concertmaster, and pedagogue trained in Venezuela and New York.

• Performs with orchestras throughout Texas and Florida.

• Former adjunct professor at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

• Teaches at Antonio Strad Violin and

has consulted with Northside Independent School District.

• Active in the teaching program at Victoria College.

• Soloist in Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47 with the Kingsville Symphony Orchestra (February 2026).



Turner Partain
Violin

• Assistant concertmaster of the Texas Symphony

• Performs with Austin, Tulsa and San Antonio Symphonies

• Holds music degrees from UT Austin and University of Houston



Karen Stiles
Violin

• Founding musician of the San Antonio Philharmonic, established in the wake of the San Antonio Symphony's bankruptcy

• Served in multiple leadership roles with the San Antonio Philharmonic, including Treasurer and Board Member, and currently as Auditions Coordinator and Education Director

• Assistant Director of the Young Artists Program at the Cactus Pear Music Festival, a three-week, tuition-free intensive chamber music program for musicians ages 14-20



Meghan Birmingham
Viola

• Member of the Dallas Opera

• Performs with Opera in the Ozarks (principal) and Texas Winds Musical Outreach

• Former principal violist of the Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theater

• Active freelance artist in the Dallas area



Meghan Beaudry
Viola

• Orchestral violist with various orchestras throughout Southeast Texas

• Chamber musician with Clear Lake Chamber Ensemble

• Leading private teacher in the Houston area



Colin Garner
Viola

• Current Section Violist in the Dallas Opera Orchestra

• Former Principal Violist of the West Texas Symphony

• Former Assoc. Principal of the CO Springs Philharmonic

• MM from the University of Southern California



Valeriya Sholokhova
Cello

• Concerto soloist for two North American premieres: Pēteris Vasks' Cello Concerto No. 2 and Camille Pépin's "The Sound of Trees"

• Cellist and co-founder of Trio Fadolin

• Founder of the Ukrainian Music Initiative

• Principal Cellist with New Orchestra of Washington, The Refugee Orchestra Project, and the WHCO Chamber Orchestra



Dieter Wulfhorst
Cello

• Performs with the "Freeway Philharmonic": symphony orchestras of Santa Rosa, Monterey, Sacramento, Bakersfield, Stockton, Modesto and others

• Performs chamber music concerts and teaches in Germany every summer

• Taught at universities in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, and California

• Studied with David Soyer, Evelyn Elsing, the Guarneri Quartet, Friedrich-Jürgen Sellheim



Andrew Potter
Bass

• Earned degrees in Music Performance and Music Education from Michigan State University.

• Serves as Principal Double Bass of the Victoria Symphony and the Victoria Bach Festival, and maintains an active freelance career throughout Central Texas.

• Teaches a private studio of bass students and, outside of music, enjoys biking and attempting ambitious cooking projects.



Gregory Eaton
Harpsichord / Organ

• Gregory Eaton has been featured on KMFA radio in two full recitals from the Butler School of Music, UT.

• Mr. Eaton played weekly recitals on the Peabody Memorial Organ Series in Brooklyn, from 1999 to 2014.

• Gregory has performed a repertoire of over 650 pieces, and is constantly learning new works.

• Gregory Eaton has preside over the regrowth of the Butler School of Music Organ/Harpsichord studio from one student in 2019 to ten students in the current academic year.



Chris Carrillo
Trumpet

- Principal Trumpet, Philharmonie Austin
- Principal Trumpet, Madison Brass
- Baroque trumpet with Atlanta, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Kansas City Baroque Orchestras



Lauren Eberhart
Trumpet

- Lauren Eberhart is Assistant Principal Trumpet of the San Antonio Philharmonic and formerly served for many years as Second Trumpet of the San Antonio Symphony.
- She also performs as Second Trumpet with the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music and has appeared with orchestras and brass ensembles across the United States.

• Lauren holds degrees from Baldwin Wallace University and Southern Methodist University and has presented solo recitals throughout the country.



Ron Ledbetter
Trumpet

- Ron Ledbetter is a Texas-based professional trumpeter originally from Cuero, Texas, whose early musical training began in church, community choirs, and public school band programs.

• He earned his Bachelor of Music from Southwest Texas State University, where he studied trumpet, served as

principal trumpet in major ensembles, and was recognized with awards including a concerto competition win and national jazz honors.

• He currently performs as principal trumpet with multiple ensembles including the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony Orchestra, and the Mozart Festival Texas, while also working as a freelance musician and educator across Central and South Texas



Mary Thorton
Trumpet

- Recipient of the Regents Professor Award, one of the highest academic honors of the A&M system.
- Co-organizer of "Songs for a Friend" recording project supporting the Ryan Anthony/Cancer Blows Foundation
- Certified Suzuki Trumpet Instructor



Hilary Janysek Piña
Flute

- Victoria Bach Festival Emerging Artist in 2011
- Professor of Flute at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
- Performs with Orchestras throughout Central Texas
- Supports the arts community through the Austin Flute Society and Flute Choirs



Ian Davidson
Oboe

- GRAMMY® Nominee
- Texas State University Regents' Professor
- Perincipal Oboe - Austin Opera Orchestra
- English Horn and Associate Principal Oboe - Austin Symphony Orchestra



Sara Renner
Oboe

- Assistant Professor of Oboe and Music History, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
- Performed with symphonies around the United States, including Omaha, Springfield (MO), South Dakota, Sioux City, El Paso, and Corpus Christi
- Featured on the MSR Classics recording of Parable of a Stormy Sea, an oboe trio by renowned composer Alyssa Morris.

• Released a solo album of commissioned unaccompanied works, Oboe: Unfolded, in 2019



Jaleene Sheshedri
Oboe

- Freelance Oboe and English Horn in Austin TX
- Founding member of Duo da Capo; harp and oboe chamber duo
- Official Laubin Oboes artist
- Educator and reedmaker at JSESHADRI Oboe Studio in Round Rock TX, ages 10-18



Daniel Chrisman
Bassoon

- Professor Chrisman has performed as a concerto soloist with 3 different orchestras, playing Mozart's Concerto in Bb Major, von Weber's Concerto in F Major, and von Weber's Andante and Hungarian Rondo.

• Daniel's first professional gig was for a performance of Mozart's Requiem in 2003, a piece he got to play at the Victoria Bach Festival in 2018.

• Francis Poulenc's Gloria was the first piece that Daniel performed at the Victoria Bach Festival, in 2011.



Hector Alfonso Torres Gonzalez
Theorbo

- Associate Professor of Music at Tarrant County College - Trinity River Campus.
- Toured across the United States, Puerto Rico, South America, Europe, and China.
- Completed DMA at the University of North Texas.

• Multiple award winner both as a soloist and an ensemble musician.



Sherry Rubins
Timpani

- Professor of Practice and coordinator of the Percussion area at UT San Antonio
- Principal Timpanist with the Mid-Texas Symphony
- Artist/clinician with Yamaha, Zildjian, Vic Firth and Remo



Adrienne Pedrotti Bingamon
Soprano

- Soprano in Conspirare, VAMP, Philharmonie Austin, Texas Early Music Project, and others
- Artistic Director of Austin Cantorum, an auditioned chamber choir in Austin
- Won the Innovative Programming Award from the Texas Music Educators Association in 2025 for Austin Cantorum's "Bedtime Stories" concert (2024)

Cantorum's "Bedtime Stories" concert (2024)



Lilly Boessen
Soprano

- Ms. Boessen recently earned her Master's degree in Choral Conducting from Texas State University, where she studied with Craig Hella Johnson and Joey Martin.

• She performs regularly with Conspirare and Austin Cantorum, and serves as Assistant Conductor of Chorus Austin.

• In spring 2026, she will join the faculty of Austin College, her alma mater, as a Visiting Professor of Music.



Ivy Cantu
Soprano

- Assistant Director at South Austin Academy of Vocal Arts
- Singer at Opera San Antonio
- Singer at Conspirare



Mary Ashton Gray
Soprano

- Mary Ashton Gray is a Central Texas-based soprano performing since 2010 and a founding member of the treble vocal ensemble VAMP.

• She has performed with leading regional ensembles including the Texas Early Music Project, Austin Baroque Orchestra, and the San Antonio Chamber Choir.

• In addition to her classical work, she occasionally performs in musical theatre with organizations such as Zilker Theatre Productions and Austin Shakespeare.



Renee Rybolt
Soprano

- Renée Rybolt is a Houston-based soprano with a dynamic career as a soloist and ensemble singer, performing with respected groups including Cantare Houston, Houston Chamber Choir, Spire Chamber Ensemble, Harmonia Stellarum, and is one of the longest standing members of Bach Society Houston. Renée has had

the privilege of being featured soloist with Conroe Symphony, Skagit Symphony, Ars Lyrica, Mercury Chamber Orchestra, and ROCCO.

• She has been a member and frequent soloist with Bach Society Houston for 15 years. Among the highlights were being a part of the the first American choir to sing for Bachfest in Leipzig, Germany in 2017 and premiering a New-American English translation of Bach's St. John Passion with the group in 2022.

• Renée received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Saint Joseph's College and Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Southern Illinois University.



Katrina Burggraff
Alto

- Being a part of Dallas' #1 performance of 2025-SHAMS with Verdigris (D Magazine)
- Recording the soundtrack for the video game "That Dragon, Cancer"
- Recording solos for Verdigris' Ensemble's "Betty's Notebook"
- Hiking and singing in Ireland, Colorado, Scotland and Spain with Vox Peregrini

- Singing several residencies with Church of the Incarnation in Washington DC, NYC, Westminster Abbey and throughout Great Britain
- Singing twenty six seasons with Orpheus Chamber Singers
- Leading "yoga for musicians" classes around DFW



Page Stephens
Alto

- Dr. Page Stephens is an Austin-based mezzo-soprano, voice teacher, and arts administrator with a strong focus on contemporary and new music.

- She has premiered works by composers including Reena Esmail, Matthew Lyons, Donald Grantham, Katherine Pukinskis, and others, and has performed with ensembles such as Austin Symphony Orchestra, Voices of Change, and Texas Early Music Project.

- She is a founding member of VAMP, serves on the voice faculty at Austin Community College, and is Assistant Director for Operations at the University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music.



Erin Roth Thomas
Alto

- Erin Roth Thomas is a lyric mezzo-soprano praised for her expressive vocal artistry and dramatic presence, performing repertoire spanning early music through the 20th century.

- She has appeared as a soloist in major works including Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, Mozart's and Verdi's *Requiem*, and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, and has performed operatic roles such as Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* and Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*.

- She performs regularly with ensembles and organizations including Portland Opera, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and the Orpheus Chamber Singers.



Laura Mercado-Wright
Alto

- Laura Mercado-Wright is an Austin-based multi-genre vocalist, composer, and two-time GRAMMY® nominee.

- She is a founding member of the treble vocal quintet VAMP, Owner and Executive Director of the vocal jazz company Tinsel, and Associate Professor of Voice at Austin Community College.

- She performs actively with ensembles including Conspirare Company of Voices and maintains an active national and international performance and composition career.



Stevie Dugdale
Tenor



Mark Istrate
Tenor



Barrett Radziun
Tenor



Jason Vest
Tenor

- Dean of the Sam Houston State University College of Arts and Media
- Principal artist with Cincinnati Opera and more than a decade with Conspirare, VAE, and other professional choral organizations
- 26 scholarly and professional publications in the field of classical singing



Michael Follis
Bass



Rick Gabrillo
Bass



Michael Hawes
Bass

- Austin-based GRAMMY®-nominated vocalist, trumpeter, and keyboardist known for a versatile career spanning solo, ensemble, and orchestral performance.
- Director of Music at St. Thomas More Parish, where he leads music as cantor, choir director, trumpeter, and keyboardist, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Texas at Austin.

- Performs regularly with ensembles including the GRAMMY®-winning Conspirare and has released an album featuring works by Florence Price, *Florence Price: Her Song*, available on major streaming platforms.



Tim O'Brien
Bass



Michael Zuniga
Bass

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Bach FEST Breakfast: Dreaming in Silence

Abigail Bellorin *violin* | Ekaterina Tangarov *piano*
Vanguel Tangarov *clarinet*

Nocturne for violin and piano

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

Fantasy on "Là ci darem la mano"
from Don Giovanni for clarinet and piano

Franz Danzi (1763-1826)

The Deserted Garden for violin and piano

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Lento from Sonatina for clarinet and piano

Joseph Horowitz (1926-2022)

Romance, Op. 23 for violin and piano

Amy Beach (1867-1944)

After You, Mr. Gershwin for clarinet and piano

Béla Kovács (1937-2021)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Abigail Bellorin
Violin

Abi Bellorin is an Austin-based violinist, collaborator, and educator committed to building community through music. She co-founded and performs with *Austin Unconducted*, is a regular performer with *Austin Opera* and *One Found Sound* in San Francisco, and has been featured in the Kronos Quartet's annual music festival. Abi has performed across North America and currently leads a vibrant violin studio at Suzuki Strings of Austin. She is also a co-director of *Chamber Academy Austin*, where she shares the art of chamber music with young musicians throughout the city.

When she's not playing violin, Abi can be found going for a run, brewing a fresh French press, or off on a camping adventure with her partner Luis and daughter Luna.



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Ekaterina Tangarov
Piano

Ekaterina Tangarova holds master's degree in piano performance from the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov", Sofia, Bulgaria, studied under the direction of Prof. Anton Dikov. Tangarova is the 1st Prize Winner of the 1991 National Piano Duet Competition in Bulgaria. She also holds a Diploma and a 4th Prize Award from the "Liszt-Bartok" Piano Competition in Bulgaria. Ekaterina Tangarova is the 2nd Prize Winner of the 1996 "Pancho Vladigerov" International Competition in Shoumen, Bulgaria, and the 1st Prize Winner of the 1997 National Academy of Music Concerto Competition. Her solo appearances with orchestra include performances with Rousse Philharmonic and Varna Philharmonic Orchestras in Bulgaria.

Ekaterina Tangarova's piano collaborative artist positions include the Superior School of Music and Dance in Monterrey, the University of Monterrey, and *Liceo de Monterrey* in Mexico, the University of Texas at Austin, and the Texas State University.

Her recent appearances include chamber music recitals at the ICA ClarinetFests 2015-2022, Varna International Music Festival in South Carolina, the Neo-Path International Chamber Music Festival in Kovatchevitsa, Bulgaria, the Balabanov's House Music Days International Festival in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and the Victoria Bach Festival in Texas.

An active collaborative artist, Mrs. Tangarova has performed with a wide range of musicians, including Stanley Drucker, Petko Radev, Vanguel Tangarov, Philippe Cuper, Andrew Marriner, Pedro Diaz, Paolo Beltramini, David Gould, Andre Moisan, Boris Allskhverdyan, Stoyka Milanova, to name a few. Since 2016, Ekaterina Tangarova has been a resident pianist for the International Clarinet Association (ICA).



Vanguel Tangarov
Clarinet

Dr. Vanguel Tangarov is an Associate Professor of Clarinet at Texas State University and serves as Principal Clarinetist for the Austin Opera, Mid-Texas Symphony, and Victoria Symphony Orchestras.

He previously held the position of Principal Clarinet with the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra, *Accademia Chigiana* Symphony Orchestra, *Jeunesses Musicales* World Symphony Orchestra, and the Monterrey Symphony Orchestra. Tangarov has appeared as a soloist with the Győr Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, Symphony of the Hills, Plovdiv Philharmonic, Pazardzhik Philharmonic, Rousse Philharmonic, Varna Philharmonic, Sofia Philharmonic, Constanta Philharmonic, Monterrey Chamber Orchestra, and Monterrey Symphony.

He earned his Master of Music in Clarinet Performance studying with Petko Radev, former Principal Clarinet of *Teatro alla Scala*, and completed his DMA under the direction of Richard MacDowell.

Tangarov has recorded for Bulgarian National Radio and Television, Radio Nuevo León (Mexico), and the labels Naxos, Harmonia Mundi, and Mark Records. He is a Buffet Crampon & Vandoren Performing Artist.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

SAVE THE DATE

Mariachis & Margaritas
October 18
Club Westerner



Friday | June 5 | Noon

First United Methodist Church
407 N. Bridge St. Victoria, Texas

Visions in the Dark

Renée Anne Louprette *organ*

We dedicate this concert to the memory of **Gary Childress**, a longtime supporter of the Victoria Bach Festival. Gary served faithfully on the Board of Directors, including as Vice-President and Treasurer, and was a generous and devoted patron. His commitment to the Festival and its mission leaves a lasting legacy, and we honor his memory with gratitude through this performance.

Works by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750)

Toccat in D minor, BWV 565

From Clavierübung III

Dies sind die heiligen zehn Gebot, BWV 678
Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist, BWV 671

From Leipzig Chorales
Von Gott will ich nicht lassen, BWV 658

Praeludium in G, BWV 550

From Leipzig Chorales
Jesus Christus unser Heiland, BWV 665

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 73

Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Renée Anne Louprette

Concert Organist

"She presented herself as a communicative player with no shortage of imaginative ideas, with fingers fully capable of backing them up, and with feet which are not just nimble on the pedals, but every bit as expressively articulate as her fingers." (Michael Dervan, *The Irish Times*)

Hailed by The New York Times as "splendid," and "one of New York's finest organists," Renée Anne Louprette maintains an international career as organ recitalist, collaborative artist, conductor, and teacher, and is director of the National Competition in Organ Improvisation. She is a U.S.-Romanian Fulbright Scholar who spent the Fall 2022 season in Braşov, Transylvania, completing research on historic Romanian pipe organs. She is Assistant Professor of Music and College Organist at Bard College where



Concert Sponsor

Doris Childress

she directs the Bard Baroque Ensemble and leads an annual Bach cantata series. She has directed the organ program at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University since 2013 and is a former faculty member at the Manhattan School of Music, The Hartt School of the University of Hartford, and the John J. Cali School of Music of Montclair State University.

Ms. Louprette has performed solo organ recitals at Royal Festival Hall in London, Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, and at festivals in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Denmark, Sweden, Romania, and the United Kingdom. She has appeared as concerto soloist with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in Australia, the Auburn Symphony Orchestra in Seattle, and The Orchestra Now in New York. Additional collaborations have included the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Piffaro, American Brass Quintet, Los Angeles Dance Project, American saxophonist Paul Cohen, Romanian saxophonist Zoltán Réman, and traditional Irish musician Ivan Goff. She has released solo recordings of the music of J. S. Bach and 20th-century French organ masterworks to critical acclaim. Her current recording of Bach's Clavier-Übung III performed on the Craighead-Saunders organ of Christ Church, Rochester, New York, is scheduled for release in 2023.

Renée Anne Louprette holds a Master of Music degree in conducting from Bard College Conservatory, a Bachelor of Music degree summa cum laude in piano performance and Graduate Professional Diploma in organ performance from The Hartt School, University of Hartford. She was awarded a Premier Prix - *mention très bien* - from the Conservatoire National de Région de Toulouse, France and a Diplôme Supérieur in organ performance from the Centre d'Études Supérieures de Musique et de Danse de Toulouse, where she studied with Michel Bouvard, Jan Willem Jansen (interpretation) and Philippe Lefebvre (improvisation).

Renée Anne Louprette is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

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FRIDAY | JUNE 5



A LASTING GIFT: Gary Childress' Legacy Lives On Through the Victoria Bach Festival

In Victoria, Texas, some gifts leave an imprint that can be felt for generations. Through a generous contribution to the Victoria Bach Festival Endowment Trust, the late Gary Stephen Childress ensured that the music he loved will continue to inspire the community he cherished.

For Gary, music wasn't just something to enjoy—it was something to share.

Though he built a successful career as an engineer and enjoyed hobbies like fishing and hunting, those closest to him knew another side just as well: a man who found joy in music, from classic rock favorites like The Beatles, The Beach Boys, and The Moody Blues to the timeless works of Bach and Beethoven. It wasn't unusual to hear classical music playing in his truck or throughout his home, woven into the everyday moments of life.

He didn't keep that love to himself though; he passed it on.

One of his daughters remembers how Gary would come home from work and sit down to listen to her practice the piano, filling the room with quiet encouragement. Years later, he created those same moments with his grandchildren—making music something to experience, not just hear.

One granddaughter recalls a summer visit planned around the Victoria Bach Festival, where she dressed up for concerts, attended events, and felt included in something special. Knowing she would soon play the clarinet in school, Gary made sure she met a featured clarinetist during the Festival—turning a single moment into a lifelong memory.

That was Gary's gift: making music personal.

A Life Connected to the Bach Festival

That passion naturally drew him to the Victoria Bach Festival, an organization that has brought world-class orchestral, choral, and chamber music to the Crossroads since the 1970s, while also expanding access through free and educational programming.

Gary's involvement went beyond attendance. He served on the Festival's board, including as Vice President and treasurer, helping guide its growth and sustainability.



A Gift That Carries Forward

Through his support of the Endowment Trust, Gary helped ensure that the Festival will continue to thrive—providing performances, educational opportunities, and meaningful access to music for years to come.

It's a lasting reflection of who he was: someone who believed deeply in the power of music to bring people together and create moments that stay with you.

A Legacy That Will Be Heard

Gary's life was grounded in faith, family, and generosity. But perhaps one of the most enduring ways his legacy lives on is in the music he loved—and the way he shared it.

Because of him, future generations will sit in concert halls, hear the first notes of a performance, and experience something meaningful—just as he once helped others do.

And in those moments, his presence will still be there—carried in the music, and in the memories it creates.



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Friday | June 5 | 7:30 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church
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VAMP Vocals

We Dreamers

A todas las mujeres de mi vida

welcome

O Mother Hold Us

Whooping Crane

Lost Words Blessing

Old Friends

Sweet Radiant Mystery

Their Hearts Were Full of Spring

Tres Hermanicas

Songbird

A Cat Catch on the Midnight Cats

A Cat Catch

Weevily Wheat

Primordial Dream

Pirate Jenny

Warrior

Solo Piece (TBD)

Il vostro dipartir

Dormite, begl'occhi

First Bird

Spiritus sanctus vivificans

Shawn Brogan Allison

Laura Mercado-Wright

Jennifer Bloom
arr. Laura Mercado-Wright

James Tecuatl-Lee

Julie Fowlis, Karine Polwart, Seckou Keita, Kris Drever,
Rachel Newton, Beth Porter, Jim Molyneux, Kerry Andrew

Paul Simon
arr. Fred Sturm

Catherine Dalton

Bobby Troup
arr. Kirby Shaw

Sephardic tune
arr. Daniel Johnson

Sarah Quartel

Michael Wise

Richard Brown

Traditional
arr. Shawn Kirchner

Jennifer Bloom
arr. Laura Mercado-Wright

Kurt Weill
arr. Laura Mercado-Wright

Kim Baryluk

Carolyn Trowbridge

Maddalena Casulana

Luigi Rossi
ed. Victoria Meredith

Laura Mercado-Wright

Hildegard von Bingen

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Teasdale Epigraph

Conceived pre-pandemic and born in March 2020, VAMP is a vocal quintet of formidable female artists touting a motley songbook and a bold red lip. Versatile in style and genre, they are committed to programming and commissioning new work and making classical vocal music relatable for audiences.

VAMP Vocals seeks to create unconventional musical experiences that embrace vulnerability and emotional intensity and provide audiences with a unique women-led perspective and a renewed sense of connection to their community, themselves, and the world.

Appalachian traditional
arr. Linda Kachelmeier

The Secret Sisters

Scottish traditional

Russell Podgorssek



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Adrienne Pedrotti Bingamon
Soprano

Adrienne is a singer, conductor, and arranger based out of Austin, Texas, with a passion for choral music. As a soprano, she has appeared with numerous Texas-based vocal ensembles including Conspirare, Philharmonie Austin, Texas Early Music Project, Verdigris Ensemble, San Antonio Chamber Choir, and the Texas Bach Festival chorus, among others. She is the artistic director of an auditioned chamber choir called Austin Cantorum, a founding member of the all-female professional vocal quintet VAMP, and a member of former Austin dance band the Fontanelles TX. She also sang backup vocals for the movie *The Bikeriders* (2023) and in projects with Eliza Gilkyson, Churchwood, Pocket Fishmen, PONG, and John Drumbo French, and others. Apart from music, her favorite things are Jazzercise, Mr. Darcy, cookies, her husband Brant, and her two cats Remy and Emil.



Mary Ashton Gray
Soprano

Mary Ashton Gray is a versatile soprano who has been performing in Central Texas since 2010. She is a founding member of the treble vocal ensemble VAMP and has performed with groups such as the San Antonio Chamber Choir, Texas Early Music Project, Texas Bach Festival, and Austin Baroque Orchestra. Occasionally, she dabbles in musical theater having performed with Zilker Theater Productions and Austin Shakespeare. The most important music Mary is making these days is at home with her two kids, Cordie and Benji.



Page Stephens
Mezzo Soprano

Dr. Page Stephens is a mezzo soprano, voice teacher and arts administrator based in Austin, TX with a soft spot for new music. Stephens has premiered works by Reena Esmail, Matthew Lyons, Donald Grantham, Thomas B. Yee, Katherine Pukinskis, Dana Lyn, Russell Podgorsek, Mark Kilstofte, and many other composers. Stephens has performed as a soloist and sung roles with a wide range of ensembles, including Copland House in NYC, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, Voices of Change, Austin Symphony Orchestra, line upon line percussion, Sō Percussion, Texas Early Music Project, and with many other ensembles in the Austin area. She is a founding member of VAMP, an all-female vocal quintet which champions music about women and written by women. Stephens is on the voice faculty at Austin Community College and maintains a busy private studio. She is the Assistant Director for Operations at the Butler School of Music at The University of Texas at Austin.



Carolyn Trowbridge
Percussion

Vibraphonist and multi-instrumentalist Carolyn Trowbridge is a vibrant force in Austin's music scene—as a performer, studio musician, composer, and educator. Hailed by the Austin Chronicle as the “vibraphone sorceress,” she moves fluidly across genres, performing with rock bands, Afrobeat ensembles, avant-garde jazz groups, mainstream vocalists, and classical ensembles.



From the US to Australia, her dynamic resume includes collaborations with Grammy-nominated Black Pumas, Adrian Quesada, Boleris Psicodelicos, Graham Reynolds, studio sessions with Stephen Perkins and Mike Portnoy; an appearance with the Grammy-winning choir Conspirare for a PBS special; and an ACL Live performance opening for Snoop Dogg.

Originally from Alexandria, VA, she grew up overseas in Gabon, the Czech Republic, and Norway before earning music degrees in Percussion Performance from James Madison University and The University of Texas at Austin. Her versatility, creativity, and expressive approach to the vibraphone continue to make her one of Austin's most in-demand artists.

Laura Mercado-Wright
Mezzo-Soprano

Multi-genre vocalist, composer, and two-time GRAMMY® nominee Laura Mercado-Wright makes her home in Austin, TX, where she is a founding member of the treble vocal quintet VAMP, Owner and Executive Director of the vocal jazz company Tinsel, Associate Professor of Voice at Austin Community College, and an active performer with a variety of ensembles including Conspirare's Company of Voices. Upcoming engagements include opera performances in Pittsburgh and NYC with Kamratōn and a composer's retreat at The Walden School in New Hampshire.



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Spellbound

Victoria Bach Festival Orchestra

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez *conductor* | Anton Nel *piano*



The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Paul Dukas

Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58

Ludwig van Beethoven

Anton Nel *piano*

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Andante con moto
- III. Rondo: Vivace

Intermission

Symphonie fantastique, Op. 14

Hector Berlioz

Festival Orchestra

- I. Rêveries – Passions
- II. Un bal
- III. Scène aux champs
- IV. Marche au supplice
- V. Songe d'une nuit du sabbat

Scan Here for Program Notes



ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Akemi Takayama
Concertmaster



Brent Baldwin
Assistant Conductor



Christina Adams
Violin



Emily Averyt
Violin



Melissa Balli
Violin



Elaine Barber
Harp



Meghan Beaudry
Viola



Abigail Bellorin
Violin



Luis Bellorin
Viola



Meghan Birmingham
Principal Viola



Melissa Brewer
Viola



Tom Burritt
Principal Percussion



Joan Carlson
Violin



Chris Carrillo
Principal Trumpet



Bryan Chin-foon
Bassoon



Daniel Chrisman
Contra/Bassoon



Bruce Colson
Violin



Jann Cosart
Viola



Nick Councilor
Clarinet



Jennifer Dalmas
Violin



Ian Davidson
Principal Oboe



Katie Dillinger
Violin



Susan Doering
Violin



Deborah Dunham
Bass



Lauren Eberhart
Trumpet / Cornets



Rachel Ferris
Harp



Chris Flores
Bass



Jose Flores
Violin



Korine Fujiwara
Viola



Andrew Fuhrman
Timpani, Percussion



Maria Lin
Violin



Vincent Marks
Viola



Steven McMillan
Violin



Melissa Melendez
Viola



Rai Morales
Trombone



Austin Gabillo
Violin



Colin Garner
Viola



Barbara George
Cello



Boel Gidholm
Violin



Jackson Guillen
Principal 2nd



William Naranjo
Violin



Anton Nel
Piano



Mauricio Oliveros
Violin



Anna Park
Cello



Turner Partain
Violin



Tom Hale
Principal Horn



Chris Haritatos
Cello



Owen Homayoun
Trombone



Hannah Hunter
Tuba



Kristin Jensen
Principal Bassoon



Hilary Pina
Flute



Andrew Potter
Principal Bass



Zlatan Redzic
Bass



Jill Rodriguez
Horn



Raul Rodriguez
Tuba



Sungho Jung
Violin



Gesa Kordes
Violin



Korrigan Korthauer
Oboe



Brett Kroening
Horn



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Jonathan Rouse
Bass



Peter Rubins
Horn



Sherry Rubins
Timpani



Shawn Sanders
Cello



Jaleene Sheshedri
English Horn



Valeriya Sholokhova
Principal Cello



Arlo Shultis
Percussion



Diana Sipes
Piccolo



Eric Smith
Cello



Nick Stange
Percussion



Karen Stiles
Violin



Ryan Stockhausen
Bass Clarinet / Clarinet



Javier Stuppard
Principal Trombone



Amanda Swain
Bassoon



Vanguel Tangarov
Principal Clarinet



Mary Thorton
Trumpet / Cornets



Krystal Warnock
Bass



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Violin



Rachel Woolf
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Keisha Smith

Eileen Stewart

Emily Weatherly

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Join artists every month for intimate, one of a kind performing arts experiences in the Randall Ewing Kemper Hall at The ROCC.



Nov 20

Sue Foley



Sep 11

Will Taylor and
Strings Attached



Dec 4

Dale Watson



Oct 16

Del Castillo Trio



Dec 11

Pulkingham Layne

Illuminations: *Voices of the Season*

Coming December 6



Sunday | December 6 | 3 PM | Our Saviors Lutheran Church

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YEAR 100



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