

# Harmonies of the Heart

## Epic Choral Masterpieces

featuring

## Octava Chamber Orchestra

directed by Matt Weiss

&

## **Spotlight Concert Choir**

directed by Jeffrey Moidel



Saturday, April 5, 2025

7:00pm

Pine Lake Covenant Church in Sammamish, WA

&

Sunday, April 6, 2025

7:00pm

Maple Park Church in Lynnwood, WA



## Octava Chamber Orchestra

## **Opera Favorites**

with the Spotlight Concert Choir

featuring soloists Frances Garcia Hoffman, Gianugo Rabellino, and Charles Robert Stephens

**Mozart:** Marriage of Figaro

Andre Van Haren: "Ave Maria"

**Mozart: Laudate Dominum** 

Bach: "Jauchzet, frohlocket"

Handel: Hallelujah Chorus

~ intermission ~

**Bizet: Carmen** 

**Puccini: "Humming Chorus"** 

Verdi: "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves"

Verdi: "Brindisi" drinking song



Jeffrey Moidel, conductor/pianist/composer/vocal coach/singer, is a graduate of the Mannes College of Music in New York City, Jeff has taught and coached for Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program for emerging professionals, the Aspen Music Festival, the Vocal Institute at UCSB, The Peter Harrower Opera Program at Georgia State University, and for other schools and festivals. He was Assistant Professor at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle for many years as well as Assistant Music Director and Chorus Master for Tacoma Opera and Skagit Opera. As a pianist, Jeff has performed throughout the United States, Europe and South America. He is currently the music director of the Spotlight Concert Choir in Sammamish, where they premiered his piece, "The New Colossus" in March, 2024.

As a composer, Jeff's song cycle, Neruda Love Sonnets received "First Place for the Nation: USA" representing Washington State in the International Ravel Composition Competition, Bergamo, Italy in 2015 and was advanced to the Semi-Finals. This song cycle was premiered by Charles Robert Stephens in Seattle with Jeff at the piano. Charles subsequently sang the orchestrated versions with Octava Chamber Orchestra and Lake Union Civic Orchestra. Jeff's song, "And Now You're Mine" was given the award of "Stand-Out Song" by the NATS Art Song Composition Award panel of judges— a designation ASCA created specifically to honor this song. Jeff's piece, "In Flanders Fields" was premiered by the Lake Union Civic Orchestra in May, 2023. Of Jeff's compositions for the Paul Taylor Dance Company, the New York Times wrote, "[Mr. Moidel's music]...waxes nostalgic without false sentimentality."

Jeffrey has received awards and commissions from 4Culture, King County, Jack Straw Studios, Seattle Music Teachers Association, and Artist Trust in Seattle.

Jeff also believes it's important for children to develop an early appreciation for the arts and has written six children's musicals and other concert works for young audiences.

## **Matt Weiss, Conductor**



Matt Weiss graduated from the University of Washington School of Music, Seattle USA in 1991 earning a degree in Violin Performance while studying with Steven Staryk and serving under the baton of Maestro Peter Eros. He previously studied violin with Walter Schwede, Gwen Thompson, Mara Dvonch, Emanuel Zetlin, Denes Zsigmondy, Mari Nakamura, and Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. Matt studied music theory with Ken Benshoof, Diane Thome, and James Beale at the University of Washington and privately with William McGreal and James William Clarke who also instructed him in piano and conducting. Matt is currently studying Cello with Benjamin

Louwersheimer, Conducting with Bobby Collins, Acting and Accents with Jim Johnson, Voice Lessons from Jeffrey Moidel, and previously studied Acting with Robert Beltran and a bit of Shakespeare with Armin Shimmerman.

Matt is a strong supporter of the Suzuki Method, especially for young violinists wishing to develop all the skills they need to become successful musicians, students, and well-rounded human beings. Dr. Suzuki's method is based on the development of a deep love of classical music from a very early age. Children exposed to the Suzuki Method live and breathe great music absorbing it like a sponge in the same way that they learn their original spoken language or "Mother Tongue".

An active composer of classical music, Matt's largest works are his Concerto For Cello and Orchestra to be premiered in June 2022 with Matt as the soloist, Fantasy for Cello and Orchestra premiered in the Summer of 2019 with soloist Chris Worswick, Overture to La Primavera premiered by the Octava Chamber Orchestra in March 2020, and his Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra premiered by clarinetist Jeffrey Brooks in February 2008.

Matt is the concertmaster/conductor of the Octava Chamber Orchestra, concertmaster of the Seattle Bach Cantata Society, the first violinist of the Trio Con Brio, and former concertmaster of a number of orchestras including the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra, the University of Washington Symphony Orchestra, and the world-renowned Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Vilem Sokol, and lead singer of The Macadamians Party Band.

Matt occasionally does session work in the Seattle area with local bands of various genres, his biggest claim to fame being part of the Grammy nominated triple-platinum album "Jar of Flies" by the Seattle grunge band Alice in Chains. Matt plays violin on "I Stay Away" and "Whale & Wasp".

## Frances Garcia Hoffman, Soprano



Ms. Garcia Hoffman, an award-winning singer and performer with more than 25 years of stage experience, is focusing her passion for sharing music and the performing arts to the East Side. Ms. Garcia Hoffman is currently on the Performing Artist Roster for 4Culture and has served as a 4Culture Grant Panelist. She holds a master's degree of Vocal Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University, and she is currently an instructor of voice and acting in Sammamish, WA. She is the Director, Producer, and Performer of various Spotlight musical programs such as Hansel and Gretel and Opera Olé. She is the recipient of awards such as the Drama Logue Critics Award, Finalist in Metropolitan Opera Regional

Competition and received the Sammamish Sammi Award for Outstanding Artistic Support of

the City for creating and running a successful annual local Teen Talent Show for several years.

As a professional, Ms. Garcia Hoffman has performed in roles and as a soloist in Opera, Musical Theater, and Oratorios with several companies large and small all over the country such as Santa Fe Opera, LA Opera, Sundance Theater, and Orlando Opera. Her greatest passion is sharing the joy of theater and music in its various forms and is honored to be working alongside such gifted and talented members of the community.

Gianugo Rabellino, Tenor



Gianugo is a singer, vocal coach and music director. After completing his studies with celebrated singers such as Daniela Aimale and Luciano Saldari, he performed in several opera roles spanning from Renaissance to 20-th century opera in his native Italy and created Operaweb, one of the first and a multiple award-winning website dedicated to opera. His passion for innovation, open source and accessibility fueled a long and successful career in technology that eventually brought him all the way to the USA and the beautiful Pacific Northwest, where he spent more than a decade as a principal in Microsoft. After retirement, he is grateful for the opportunity to go back to his long standing love for music, as well as to pursue his new

found passion for teaching students how their voice can be a powerful way to express themselves, be it in classical music, opera, jazz or musical theater.

## **Charles Robert Stephens, Baritone**



Charles has enjoyed a long career spanning a wide variety of roles and styles in opera and concert music. In his 20 years in New York City, he sang leading roles with the New York City Opera and was reported by the New York Times to be "a baritone of smooth distinction." He also appeared frequently in Carnegie Hall with the Opera Orchestra of New York in a variety of roles and was active in regional opera throughout the US. On the international stage, he sang opera roles in Montevideo Uruguay, Taiwan, Santo Domingo, and Mexico City.

Now based in Seattle, Charles has sung with the Seattle Symphony, Northwest Sinfonietta, Tacoma and Spokane Symphony, Spokane Opera, Portland Chamber Orchestra and many other orchestras and opera companies in the Pacific Northwest.

Career highlights include the role of Tiresias in the Boston Early Music Festival's lavish production of Steffani's Niobe, Queen of Thebes. With the New York City National Company, he sang the role of Germont in La Traviata in forty-three performances across the US. Among his ten appearances with the Seattle Symphony include Beethoven's 9th, Messiah and "Opera Festival."

He premiered and recorded the role of Rudyard Kipling in John Muehleisen's world premiere cantata entitled But Who Shall Return to Us Our Children? A Kipling Passion.

The 2022-23 season included performances of the Vaughan Williams Sea Symphony and Messiah (Spokane Symphony), Judge Turpin in Sweeny Todd (Helena Symphony), Bach B Minor Mass(St. Paul Music Guild, Salem, OR), Mozart Requiem, Bellingham Symphony, Mozart C minor Mass, Seattle Pro Musica, Haydn The Seasons(Harmonia Seattle), Verdi Requiem (Symphony Tacoma) and a Paris debut in Bach's St. John Passion(Les Fetes Galantes).

## Mozart: Marriage of Figaro Overture and Final Scene

SUSANNA:

"Perdono, perdono!" "Forgive me, forgive me"

**COUNT:** 

"No, no, non, sperarlo!" "No, no, don't hope for it!"

FIGARO:

"Perdono, perdono!" "Forgive me, forgive me"

**COUNT:** 

"No, no, non, vo'darlo!" "No, no, 1 won't!"

**CHORUS:** 

"Perdono, perdono!" "Forgive me, forgive me"

**COUNT:** 

**CHORUS:** 

"O Cielo, che veggio! Deliro!" "Oh Heavens, what do I see! I'm delirious!"

"Vaneggio! Che creder, che creder," "I'm raving! What to believe, what to believe,"

"non so, non so, non so?"

"I don't know, don't know, don't know?"

## IL CONTE:

"Contessa, perdono! Perdono, perdono!"

"Contessa forgive me, forgive me, forgive me!"

## LA CONTESSA:

"Più docile io sono, e dico di sì."

"I am more gentle, and I say yes."

### **CHORUS:**

"Ah, tutti contenti saremo così. Questo giorno di tormenti, Di capricci, e di follia, In contenti e in allegria Solo amor può terminar. Sposi, amici, al ballo, al gioco, Alle mine date foco! Ed al suon di lieta marcia Corriam tutti a festeggiar!"

"Ah, thus we will all be happy.
This day of torments,
Of caprices and folly,
Only love can end
In contentment and joy.
Lovers, friends, to dancing, to play,
Set off the fireworks!
And to the sound of a joyful march,
Let us all rush to celebrate!"

## Andre Van Haren: "Ave Maria"

"Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen."

"Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen."

## Mozart: "Laudate Dominum"

"Laudate Dominum omnes gentes, Laudate eum omnes populi. Quoniam confirmata est super nos misericordia ejus, Et veritas Domini manet in aeternum." "Praise the Lord, all you nations, Praise Him, all you peoples. For His mercy is confirmed upon us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever." "Gloria Patri, et Filio, Et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen."

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen."

## Bach: "Jauchzet, frolocket"

"Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage, Rühmet, was heute der Höchste getan! "Shout, rejoice, arise, praise the days, Glorify what the Highest has done today!

Lasset das Zagen, verbannet die Klage, Stimmet voll Jauchzen und Fröhlichkeit an! Dienet dem Höchsten mit herrlichen Chören,

Abandon fear, banish lamentation, Strike up with shouting and gladness! Serve the Highest with glorious choirs,

Lasst uns den Namen des Herrschers verehren!"

Let us honor the name of the Ruler!"

## Handel: "Hallelujah Chorus"

"Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world Is become the kingdom of our Lord, And of His Christ, and of His Christ;

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of kings, for ever and ever, And Lord of lords, Hallelujah!

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

And He shall reign for ever and ever, Hallelujah!"

## **Bizet: Carmen**

## Overture and "Toreador"

## **ESCAMILLO:**

"Votre toast, je peux vous le rendre, Señors, señors, car avec les soldats Oui, les toréros peuvent s'entendre; Pour plaisirs, pour plaisirs, ils ont les combats!

Le cirque est plein, c'est jour de fête! Le cirque est plein du haut en bas; Les spectateurs perdent la tête, Les spectateurs s'interpellent à grand fracas!

Applaudissements, cris et tapage Croissent dans un vif grondement! Car c'est la fête du courage! C'est la fête des gens de cœur! Allons! en garde! Allons! allons! ah!

Toréador, en garde! Toréador, Toréador! Et songe bien, oui, songe en combattant, Qu'un œil noir te regarde, Et que l'amour t'attend." "Your toast, I can return it to you, Señors, señors, for with the soldiers Yes, the toreadors can get along; For pleasure, for pleasure, they have their fights!

The arena is full, it's a festival day!
The arena is packed from top to bottom;
The spectators lose their minds,
The spectators shout to each other with
great uproar!

Applause, cries, and commotion Grow in a lively roar! For it's the festival of courage! It's the festival of stout-hearted men! Come on! On guard! Come on! Come on! Ah!"

"Toreador, on guard! Toreador, Toreador! And think well, yes, think while fighting, That a dark eye is watching you, And that love awaits you, "Le cirque est plein de sang et de sable, On lutte, on frappe, on tombe, hélas! Et dans l'arène hurle la foule innombrable Autour du taureau qui trépasse à grands pas! "The arena is full of blood and sand, They struggle, they strike, they fall, alas! And in the ring, the countless crowd roars Around the bull that dies in great strides!

Et puis victoire! hourra! la bête est morte!

And then victory! Hurrah! The beast is dead!

Et l'on t'acclame à grands transports! Et cette clameur qui sort de mille portes And they cheer you with great fervor! And this clamor that bursts from a thousand gates

Retentit jusqu'aux sombres bords de la mort!

Echoes to the dark shores of death!

Allons! en garde! Allons! allons! ah!"

Come on! On guard! Come on! Come on! Ah!"

Toréador, en garde! Toréador, Toréador!

"Toreador, on guard! Toreador, Toreador!

Et songe bien, oui, songe en combattant, Qu'un œil noir te regarde, And think well, yes, think while fighting, That a dark eye is watching you,

Et que l'amour t'attend."

And that love awaits you."

## Verdi: Nabucco

## "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves"

"Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate;
Va, ti posa sui clivi, sui colli,
Ove olezzano tepide e molli
L'aure dolci del suolo natal!
Del Giordano le rive saluta,
Di Sionne le torri atterrate...
Oh, mia patria sì bella e perduta!
Oh, membranza sì cara e fatal!

"Go, thought, on wings of gold;
Go, settle upon the slopes and hills,
Where the sweet breezes of our native land
Waft warm and gentle!
Greet the banks of the Jordan,
The fallen towers of Zion...
Oh, my homeland, so beautiful and lost!
Oh, memory, so dear and fatal!

Arpa d'or dei fatidici vati, Perché muta dal salice pendi? Le memorie nel petto raccendi, Golden harp of the prophetic bards, Why do you hang silent on the willow? Rekindle the memories in our hearts, Ci favella del tempo che fu!
O simile di Solima ai fati
Traggi un suono di crudo lamento,
O t'ispiri il Signore un concento
Che ne infonda al patire virtù!
Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate,
Va, ti posa sui clivi, sui colli,
Ove olezzano tepide e molli
L'aure dolci del suolo nata!"

Speak to us of the time that was!
Like the fate of Jerusalem,
Draw forth a sound of raw lament,
Or let the Lord inspire you with a harmony
That infuses virtue into our suffering!
Go, thought, on wings of gold,
Go, settle upon the slopes and hills,
Where the sweet breezes of our native land
Waft warm and gentle!"

## Verdi: La Traviata "Brindisi"

## **ALFREDO:**

"Libiamo ne' lieti calici
Che la bellezza infiora,
E la fuggevol ora
S'inebrii a voluttà.
Libiam ne' dolci fremiti
Che suscita l'amore,
Poiché quell'occhio al core
Onnipotente va.
Libiamo, amore, amor fra i calici
Più caldi baci avrà."

"Let's drink from the joyful cups
That beauty adorns,
And may the fleeting hour
Be intoxicated with pleasure.
Let's drink to the sweet tremors
That love awakens,
For that eye, all-powerful,
Pierces the heart.
Let's drink, for love among the cups
Will find warmer kisses."

### **CHORUS:**

"Ah! Libiamo, amore, amor fra i calici Più caldi baci avrà." "Let's drink, for love among the cups Will find warmer kisses."

### **VIOLETTA:**

"Tra voi saprò dividere
Il tempo mio giocondo;
Tutto è follia nel mondo
Ciò che non è piacer.
Godiam, fugace e rapido
È il gaudio dell'amore;
È un fior che nasce e muore,
Né più si può goder.
Godiam, c'invita un fervido
Accento lusinghier."

"Among you, I'll share
My joyful time;
Everything in the world is folly
That isn't pleasure.
Let's enjoy, for fleeting and brief
Is the delight of love;
It's a flower that blooms and dies,
And can no longer be enjoyed.
Let's enjoy, a fervent
And flattering voice invites us."

### **CHORUS:**

"Ah, godiamo la tazza, la tazza e il cantico,

Le notti abbella e il riso, in questo, in questo paradiso ne scopra il nuovo di."

## **VIOLETTA:**

"La vita è nel tripudio..."

## **ALFREDO:**

"Quando non s'ami ancora.."

## **VIOLETTA:**

"Nol dite a chi l'ignora."

### **ALFREDO:**

"E il mio destin cosi."

## **CHORUS:**

"Ah si, godiamo, godiamo, godiamo la tazza, e il cantico, le notti abbella e il riso, godiamo, godiamo, godiamo in questo paradiso ne scopra, ne scopra il nuovo di, ne scopra, il nuovo,

si, ne scopra, ne scopra, il nuovo di."

"Ah, let's enjoy the cup, the cup and the song,

It beautifies the nights and the laughter, In this, in this paradise May it reveal the new day."

"Life is in the revelry..."

"When one is not yet loved..."

"Don't say it to those who don't know."

"And my fate is thus."

"Ah yes, let's enjoy, let's enjoy the cup and the song, it beautifies the nights and the laughter, let's enjoy, let's enjoy, let's enjoy in this paradise may it reveal, may it reveal the new day, may it reveal the new,

yes, may it reveal, may it reveal, the new day."





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## The Spotlight Concert Choir



## **Executive Director of Spotlight Repertory NW:** Frances Garcia Hoffman

Choir Music Director: Jeffrey Moidel Executive Administrator: Marika Galvin

Librarian: Angela Roesler-Lombardi



## **Choir:**

Anna Benjamin Nadine Bolliger Steve Carroll Jum Carroll Marika Galvin Frances Garcia Hoffman **Ingrid Gooding** Jenny Hermanson Petra Johnson **Mattias Johnson** Judith Keyser Jerry Lim Divya Nair **Cassy Patterson** Gianugo Rabellino Sai Ramani Angela Roesler-Lombardi Teresa Rosenberg Helen Tsang Matt Weiss Liam Wheeler Maria Yazykova

## **Soloists:**

Charles Robert Stephens
Frances Garcia Hoffman
Gianugo Rabellino
Liam Wheeler
Angela Roesler-Lombardi
Petra Johnson

## Rehearsal pianists:

Matt Hohensee Steve Carroll

Spotlight Repertory NW would like to publicly thank 4Culture and the Sammamish Arts Commission for their generous support in helping make this event possible. Your partnership is deeply appreciated and vital to bringing our work to life.

## Spotlight Repertory NW

## **About Spotlight Repertory NW**

Spotlight Repertory NW was founded in 2017 by Frances Garcia Hoffman and Nancy L. Grossi to meet a growing need for performing arts opportunities in Sammamish.

Our mission is to create and deepen community connections and elevate spirits through premier live music and performing arts programming. We are dedicated to cultivating the future of the performing arts—and future leaders in the arts—by providing a safe, uplifting, and inclusive environment. Through music and theater productions, educational classes, summer camps, and vocal and jazz ensembles, we serve a diverse community of youth and adults.

Our Board Members; Paul Russo, Patti Tornquist, Susana Valencia, Marika Galvin, Jordan Hoffman, Petra Johnson, and Sreenivas Shetty.

Spotlight Repertory NW is a registered non-profit corporation in the State of Washington and a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

## Thank You

Thank you for attending tonight's concert—your presence and support mean so much.

We are truly grateful to all who have donated to our 501(c)(3) and to our generous sponsors, especially 4Culture and the Sammamish Arts Commission. Special thanks to Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church for graciously providing our rehearsal space.



## **Support Our Mission**

Donations help us grow and continue to offer high-quality programming that inspires, educates, and connects our community through the arts.

Thank you—and don't forget to check for corporate matching!



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## The Octava Chamber Orchestra Personnel

(section members listed alphabetically)

## **Violins**

Sarah Malmstrom \*Concertmaster Jonathan Kuehn \*principal 2nd Violin Andrew Morgan Steven Li

## **Violas**

John Schindler \*principal Charlene Utt

## **Cellos**

Shannon Hamilton \*principal Christy Johnson

## **Bass**

Attila Kiss \*principal

## Piano

Jeffrey Moidel

## **Flutes**

Jared LeClerc \*principal Lisa Hirayama

## **Oboes**

Linnea Wentworth \*principal John Dimond

## **English Horn**

Linnea Wentworth \*principal

## **Clarinets**

Kristin Nygaard \*principal Cameron Lee

## **Bassoons**

Samantha Epp \*principal Eric Shankland

## Horns

Jaime Faucher \*principal Carey LaMothe

## **Trumpets**

Aaron Coe \*principal Rob Rankin

## **Trombone**

Cole Brooking \*principal

## Timpani

Ian Alvarez \*principal

## **Percussion**

Ian Alvarez \*principal



## ~ Our Next Octava Concert ~

## Saturday, June 21st 2025 6:00pm Premiering All New Music

Celebrating Living Composers Local and Abroad

**The Octava Chamber Orchestra** was originally formed by Conductor Emeritus Johan Louwersheimer and President/Concertmaster/Conductor Matthew Weiss in 1991 after they met as students at the *University of Washington School of Music*. After a long hiatus, Octava reformed in the summer of 2007 and we have been going strong ever since!

**The Octava Chamber Orchestra** is a non-profit corporation in the State of Washington, a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

~ Our Board Members ~

Matthew Weiss president Ian Alvarez vice president Charlene Utt secretary Beverly Weiss treasurer Trevor Lutzenhiser advisor
John Dimond advisor
Terri Sandys advisor

The Octava Chamber Orchestra would like to thank everyone at Maple Park Church for their enthusiasm and support in today's concert.

## **Corporate Donations:**

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