The VCU Choral Ensembles

present

#influencers

Commonwealth Singers, Choral Arts Society, Vocal Chamber Ensemble
Erin Freeman, conductor
David Kim, pianist

Vox Concordia
Lisa Fusco, conductor

Friday, November 5, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall  |  W. E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
922 Park Avenue  |  Richmond, Va.
Streamed at go.vcu.edu/concerthall
Commonwealth Singers

Erin Freeman, conductor
David Kim, keyboard
Zachary Williams, cello

_Jjesu, meine Freude (BWV 227)_
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Chorale: Jesu  Meine Freude
Chorus: Es ist nun nichts
Chorale: Unter deinen Schirmen
Trio: Denn das Gesetz

Allison Yablonski, Anabella Cox, Alexys Weihl

Chorus: Trotz dem alten Drachen
Chorale Fantasie: Weg mit allen Schätzen

Olivia Carlton, Lauren Maho, and Chance Szabo-Bordé with Zachary Williams

Trio: So aber Christus

Katarina Izdepski, Nate Roper, Alexei Staruk via video

Chorale Fantasie: Gute Nacht

Helena Nuckols, Holly Ramia, Aya Reed
Erik Haugen, Asa Abbott

Chorus: So nun der Geist des, der Jesum
Chorale: Weicht, ihr Trauergeister
Wir eilen mit schwachen

From *Jesu, der du meine Seele* (BWV 78)
Soloists: Rylee Hughes and Reilly Leahy
David Kim, piano

Tota Pulchra Es

From *Quatre Motets sur des Thèmes Grégoriens*

My Soul's Been Anchored In The Lord

adapted by Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)

Invitation to Love

Text by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)
Lisa Niemeier, piano

TaReKiTa

Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

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**Vocal Chamber Ensemble**

Vocal Prelude in C Major

Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Gilpin

Lamento d'Arianna

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

I. Lasciatemi morire
II. O Teseo, Teseo mio

Full Vocal Chamber Ensemble

Someone to Watch Over Me

George Gershwin (1898-1937)
arr. Jay Althouse (b. 1951)

Helena Ruiz, Nya Powell, and Nate Roper with Erin Freeman

The Young Galileo

Mark Gresham (b. 1956)

Ally Yablonski, Olivia Carlton, Abigail Córdova, Katarina Izdepski
Choral Arts Society
Erin Freeman, conductor
David Kim, piano
Allison Yablonski, assistant conductor

Ave Verum Corpus  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Allison Yablonski, conductor
Lisa Niemeier, piano

The Parting Glass  
Sarah Quartel (b.1982)

To Sit and Dream  
Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

Sicut Locutus Est  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World  
Arr. Roger Emerson

Over the Rainbow, by Harold Arlen (1905-1986) for The Wizard of Oz
What a Wonderful World, by Bob Thiele (1922-1996) and George David Weiss (1921-2010)

Leila Abad, Liliana Dunn, Margaret Edwards, Brooklynn Morgan, Marilyn Niles, ukulele

Coming up:

Courtyard Concert Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Join us in the Pollak Courtyard for an outdoor concert featuring VCU Choirs. Free!
PROGRAM NOTES: So Much Bach, So Little Time

Each composer on this program has shaped music in some way, hence our theme: #Influencers. While this is an abbreviated list of all the musicians who have left their mark on history, you will notice that Johann Sebastian Bach appears in each ensemble’s set. But what’s so special about him? Well, without Bach’s stature in developing musical styles, other composers may not have had the courage to do their own groundbreaking work.

For a bit of Bachground (#BachPuns): German composer and keyboardist Johann Sebastian Bach is one of the most influential composers of the Baroque period. Primarily a church musician, he was tasked with writing a new sacred cantata each week, totaling over 200 cantatas throughout his compositional career. Bach’s use of counterpoint was considered masterful and inspired other composers to put their skills to the test with fugues, masses, oratorios, cantatas, and more. Despite his expertise, Bach was inspired by the other musicians of his time – going as far as walking over 200 miles to hear the music of Dietrich Buxtehude. #StayHumble.

Each ensemble is exploring a different style Bach composed in; Jesu, Meine Freude (BWV 227) is an 11-movement motet for five voices, complete with chorales, fugues, and chorale fantasies (oh my!). The treble chorus and duet “Wir eilen mit schwachen” comes from one of Bach’s many cantatas: Jesu, der du meine Seele (BWV 78). “Sicut locutus est” from Bach’s Magnificat (BWV 243) is a lively fugue for five voices. “Vocal Prelude in C Major” is adapted from one of Bach’s most famous and intellectual piano works, The Well-Tempered Clavier – but that’s an entirely different set of program notes.

Bach’s compositional fortitude was impressive and can be heard in compositions by Mozart and Liszt, Paul Simon and The Beatles. His works are timeless. His compositional catalog is extensive. Even during a pandemic, even in masks, allowing ourselves to fully invest in the intellect of Bach has been a joy. #Winning.

Program notes written by Allison Yablonski

FALL 2021 CHORAL ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

VOX CONCORDIA

Bailey Blake*  Rylee MacKenzie Hughes*  Alana Riso*
Marie Bonenfant  Reilly Leahy*  Julia Salassi
Jhilian Bremby  Luci Milo*  Angel Suddoth
Cvana Clarkson  Anna Mitchell  Stephanie Yap*
Audrey Fauvel*  Journei Outland*  AJ Yellai*
Frances Frederick  Nya Powell*
CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY

Leila Abad*
Nadia Ali
Anna Isabel Asesor
Allison Barrientos*
Jill Baxter
Mikaela Beidler
Erika Beneke
Alyssa Benfield
Lennox Black
Jhilian Bremby
Jasmyne Burrell*
Katherine Calderon
Hannah Chapman
Maya Collins
Elena Craig*
Ian Devenish
Liliana Dunn*
Margaret Edwards

Wesley Eldridge*
Nadia Elhafdi
Christian Farrace*
Paloma Ferraz
Alana-Marie French
Lily Gray
Janice Guzman*
Emma Jo Hargis
Jamia Holland*
Katherine Jeremiah
Alyssa Johnson
Santima Kargbo
Grayson Kim
Mikayla King*
Lindsey McDonald*
Robert Merriman
Brooklyn Morgan*
Sydney Morrissey

Lisa Ruth Niemeier
Marilyn Niles*
James Norman
Bella Pam*
Amanda Reboucas*
Christian Reid*
Michelle Schwarz
Andrew Scida
Jeffery Simon*
Amari Smith
Angel Thompson
Caroline Villagomez
Valerie Villarreal
Tyler Warren
Alexys Weihl
Ellis Williamson*
Allison Yablonski*

COMMONWEALTH SINGERS

Asa Abbot*
Collin Aloi*
Philip Anderson
Olivia Carlton*
Abigail Córdova*
Annabella Cox*
Caroline Gryder*
Erik Haugen
Katarina Izdepski*
Travis Krickovic*
Connor Loftis*

Lauren Maho*
Kayro Mendoza-Ibarra
Helena Nuckols*
Jordan Osborne
Shuvojeet Paul
Ariela Press
Holly Ramia*
McAllister Reed
Jesse Roberts
Nathaniel Roper*
Zachary Short*

Jeffery Simon*
Alexei Staruk*
Claire Sutliff
Chance A. Szabo-Bordé*
Caitlyn Vidra*
Alexys Weihl
Allison Yablonski*

VOCAL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Olivia Carlton
Abigail Cordova
Katarina Izdepski

Helena Nuckols
Nya Powell
Nathaniel Roper

Zachary Short
Allison Yablonski

*Leadership Team