

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Thirteen Launches 2020-21 Season: “Transfigured”

Washington, DC (July 7, 2020) — The Thirteen’s 2020-21 season, “[Transfigured](#),” marks a continuation of the group’s commitment to life-affirming performance, to music-making at its finest, and to constant innovation. The thread running through the 2020-21 season is a search for the apotheosis of beauty through transfiguration. Each concert seeks out beauty in a variety of ways new and old.

The Thirteen will be live-streaming each and every one of their concerts. They also hope and plan to be able to offer concerts in downtown Washington, D.C., Bethesda, Maryland, and Alexandria, Virginia. These concerts will feature musicians from around the world and a millennium of music from Monteverdi to Elena Ruehr, and from Bach to Schoenberg.

A highlight of this season is a staged production – meaning fully acted out and memorized – of Bach’s beloved *St. John Passion*. Staged by Timothy Nelson, hailed as “The Future of Opera” by The New York Times, this performance will feature the finest period instrumentalists and singers and the University of Maryland’s Chamber Singers under the direction of Edward Maclary.

Season subscriptions may be purchased at <https://thethirteenchoir.org/concerts>.

THE THIRTEEN 2020-21 SEASON CALENDAR

NOT FOR THE SUN I SING

Friday, September 18, 2020 at 7:30 PM – Alexandria, Virginia

Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 7:30 PM – Downtown Washington, D.C.

Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM – Bethesda, Maryland

Elena Ruehr | *Cassandra in the Temples*

Melissa Dunphy

Amy Beach

Join The Thirteen as we explore works by women composers with American Elena Ruehr’s opera, *Cassandra in the Temples*, as its centerpiece. Using the lens of a Greek drama, *Cassandra in the Temples* explores the natural world and humankind’s relationship to it to riveting effect. Alongside this masterpiece, The Thirteen will feature works by other luminary composers including Melissa Dunphy, Amy Beach, and more. This concert promises to be a display of beauty and invention.

SORROW TO THE STARS

Friday, October 23, 2020 at 7:30 PM – Alexandria, Virginia

Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 7:30 PM – Downtown Washington, D.C.

Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 5:00 PM – Bethesda, Maryland

Arnold Schoenberg | *Friede auf Erden*

Herbert Howells | *Requiem*

Arvo Pärt | *Da pacem Domine*

In times of crisis, humankind has often come together in moments of remembrance and reflection. In Sorrow to the Stars, we seek to explore this quest for memory and the transfiguration that can occur as part of this community ritual.

Arnold Schoenberg wrote *Friede auf Erden* in 1906, long before he turned to the hard-edge sound world of serialism. *Friede auf Erden*, with its whisper-to-wail dynamic range, espouses Schoenberg's belief that "Peace on Earth is possible only if there is the most intense vigilance as to harmony." Howells' *Requiem* is an exquisite and deeply personal expression of loss, written in memory of those killed in the First World War, which was later further developed after the loss of his young son to polio. Paired with other works exploring the concepts of solace, peace, and transcendence, including Arvo Pärt's *Da pacem Domine*, this concert is sure to be an evening of remarkable transcendence.

AN EVENING OF READINGS AND CAROLS

Friday, December 18, 2020 at 7:30 PM – Alexandria, Virginia

Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 7:30 PM – Downtown Washington, D.C.

Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM – Bethesda, Maryland

A Candlelit Christmas

Celebrate the holiday festivities with The Thirteen, as we sing carols from King's College's trove of music for their Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Paired with poetry on the Christmas story by acclaimed poets including Maya Angelou and Margaret Gooding, this concert is sure to delight and excite audiences of all ages. There's no better way to get into the holiday spirit than with The Thirteen!

PASSION TRANSFIGURED

Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 7:30 PM – Downtown Washington, D.C.

An additional performance will take place in College Park, Maryland.

J.S. Bach | *St. John Passion*

Jonas Budris, *Evangelist*

Jonathan Woody, *Jesus*

University of Maryland, College Park, Chamber Singers

Edward Maclary, *director*
Timothy Nelson, *stage director*
Matthew Robertson, *conductor*

Bach's *St. John Passion* was originally written for the composer's first Good Friday services in Leipzig, and it has since firmly established itself as a staple of the choral-orchestral repertoire. Yet the work's dramatic and touching narrative demands that it be staged to bring its dramatic music to life. Timothy Nelson, called "The Future of Opera" by The New York Times, will stage this production by The Thirteen. Of this production, Nelson writes, "I look forward to making Bach's universal themes of glorification through debasement, and the importance of community and ritual palpable and vibrant.

Join the versatile soloists from The Thirteen, singers from University of Maryland's acclaimed Chamber Singers, and many of the country's finest period instrumentalists for *Passion Transfigured*.

MONTEVERDI: THE LOST MASS OF 1641

Friday, April 30, 2021 at 7:30 PM – Alexandria, Virginia

Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 7:30 PM – Downtown Washington, D.C.

Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 5:00 PM – Bethesda, Maryland

Monteverdi | *Selva morale e spirituale*

Following our acclaimed November 2019 production, *Monteverdi: The Lost Vespers of 1641*, The Thirteen returns again to the music of Monteverdi's end-of-life magnum opus, *Selva morale e spirituale* – the moral and spiritual wood. Hidden in plain sight within this monumental volume is a "*Mass of 1641*" that The Thirteen has assembled, with his beloved *Gloria* at its core. Unlike Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, which sees performances yearly in nearly every major metropolitan area, the gems in *Selva morale e spirituale* are virtually unknown; and yet, they rival his earlier compositions in virtuosity, invention, and beauty.

Join The Thirteen and many of the country's finest period instrumentalists for *Monteverdi: The Lost Mass (1641)* in a concert replete with artistry, elegance, and exploration.

#END#

The Thirteen

Described as singing "...with striking color and richness..." ([Anne Midgette, Washington Post](#)), The Thirteen is an all-star professional choir known for inspired and powerful live performance. Since its founding in 2012, the choir has been at the forefront of bringing invigorating performances to the American choral community in repertoire ranging from the Renaissance to

the Romantic, from Bach to Bruckner; and from Gregorian chant to the world premieres of new American composers.

The Thirteen draws its artists from among the finest ensembles in the world, including Chanticleer, Seraphic Fire, Apollo's Fire, Conspirare, I Fagiolini, Opera Philadelphia, Boston Early Music Festival and Trinity Wall Street. The choir's peerless singers are best described by National Public Radio commentator M.D. Ridge: "to talk about the remarkable abilities and sound of the individual singers would...be like trying to say which whitecaps on the ocean reflect the sun most beautifully, or which leaves on a tree dance most gracefully with the wind... I stand in awe."

The Thirteen's growing discography includes "Voice Eternal," which was recently submitted for a Grammy® award, the critically-acclaimed Christmas album "Snow on Snow," "RADIANT DARK," which features the finest works of the late Tudor period and reached #28 on the iTunes Classical Charts, as well as The Thirteen's debut recording "...to St. Cecilia."

In past seasons, The Thirteen has performed and been in residency at Yale University, Bowling Green State University, Eastern Illinois University, the University of Central Oklahoma, York College, The University of Tampa, Virginia Wesleyan University, St. Ambrose University, Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, Guilford College, as well as concerts throughout the United States.

The Thirteen is committed to educating and inspiring the next generation of musicians, and frequently coaches students at the high school and collegiate levels in masterclass, workshop and collaborative performance sessions.

<https://thethirteenchoir.org>



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