

Thursday, May 9, 2019

For Immediate Release

The Thirteen

www.TheThirteenChoir.org

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THE THIRTEEN LAUNCHES 2019-20 SEASON: "THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS"

Washington, DC (May 9, 2019) – The Thirteen announces their 2019-20 season, "Through the Looking Glass."

The eighth season of DC's all-star professional choir, The Thirteen, *Through the Looking Glass*, reaffirms our commitment to diverse and life-affirming programming. "This year's season draws inspiration from Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*, in which the protagonist climbs through a mirror and enters a fantastical world replete with new perspectives. Likewise, each subscription concert reflects compelling concepts and spectacular compositions full of new perspectives," writes Artistic Director, Matthew Robertson.

Season highlights include Monteverdi: *The Lost Vespers* (1641), Scott Ordway's *The Outer Edge of Youth*, and Kile Smith's *The Consolation of Apollo*.

In the 2019-20 season, The Thirteen offers three performances of each program. Friday concerts will be held in Alexandria, Virginia, Saturday in downtown DC, and Sunday in Bethesda, MD.

THE THIRTEEN 2019-20 SEASON CALENDAR

TALLIS THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS

Britten *Hymn to St. Cecilia*

Tallis *Gaude gloriosa Dei mater*

Shaw *Fly Away I*

American Sacred Harp

Join The Thirteen for an exploration of our most beloved English-language composers. Featuring Tallis' symphonic-in-scope *Gaude gloriosa Dei mater*, Britten's touching and powerful *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw's *Fly Away I*, selected repertoire from the distinctly-American Sacred Harp repertoire, and more, this concert promises to be a display of virtuosity and artistry.

Friday, October 25, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Virginia Theological Seminary | Immanuel Chapel | 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Church of the Epiphany | 1317 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005

Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 5:00 PM

Bradley Hills Church | 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817

Additional performances in Cleveland, OH and Frederick, MD.

MONTEVERDI: THE LOST VESPERS (1641)

Much as J.S. Bach was to do a century later in his *B Minor Mass*, Monteverdi assembled many mature compositions toward the end of his life into one massive volume. *Selva morale e spirituale* – the moral and spiritual wood. Hidden in plain sight within this monumental volume is a “*Vespers of 1641*” that The Thirteen has assembled with the well-loved motet *Beatus vir* at its core. Unlike Monteverdi’s *Vespers of 1610*, which sees performances yearly in nearly every major metropolitan area, the gems in *Selva morale et spiritual* are virtually unknown: and yet, they rival his earlier composition in virtuosity, invention, and beauty.

Join The Thirteen and many of the country’s finest period instrumentalists for *Monteverdi: The Lost Vespers* in a concert replete with artistry, elegance, and exploration.

Friday, November 15, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Episcopal High School Chapel | 1200 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302

Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Live at 10th & G | First Congregational U.C.C. | 945 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 5:00 PM

Bradley Hills Church | 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817

SILENT NIGHT, STARRY NIGHT

Smith *The Consolation of Apollo*

Holiday Carols

This holiday season accompany The Thirteen’s song-filled journey through the cosmos and the Christmas story. Featuring your favorite holiday carols, The Thirteen’s own arrangement of *Silent Night*, and contemporary composer Kile Smith’s driving and touching *The Consolation of Apollo*, this concert can’t be missed. Hailed as “ecstatically beautiful,” *The Consolation of Apollo* pairs the words of the Apollo 8 astronauts on Christmas Eve 1968 with the writings of the Roman philosopher Boethius for a fantastical take on the Christmas story. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing, this performance will be accompanied by projected images from NASA’s Hubble telescope.

Friday, December 20, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Episcopal High School Chapel | 1200 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302

Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Live at 10th & G | First Congregational U.C.C. | 945 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 5:00 PM

Bradley Hills Church | 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817

MYSTIC

Hildegard von Bingen

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Alonso Lobo

Arvo Pärt

Mason Bates

Join The Thirteen as we explore humanity’s search for the spiritual across time and space. With nearly a millennium of music, featuring German composer Hildegard von Bingen, Spanish composers Victoria and Lobo, Estonian minimalist Arvo Pärt, and contemporary American composer Mason Bates, this concert is sure to provide a sublime, reflective, and passionate evening.

Friday, March 6, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Virginia Theological Seminary | Immanuel Chapel | 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304 **Saturday,**

March 7, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Live at 10th & G | First Congregational U.C.C. | 945 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Bradley Hills Church | 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817

THE OUTER EDGE OF YOUTH

Ordway *The Outer Edge of Youth* World Premiere

The Outer Edge of Youth is a major, semi-staged, new choral opera from acclaimed composer-writer-director Scott Ordway commissioned by The Thirteen. Called “exquisite” and “a marvel” by critics, even “an American response to Sibelius” (The Boston Globe), the composer has conceived a look at how boys and young men interact with one another and toward the natural world. Finding inspiration in the natural world and in the story of St. Francis talking to the birds, Ordway’s concept bends the boundaries between opera and choral music to riveting effect. His dramatic work promises a celebration of friendship, youth, landscape and memory and of connections with people we love, places we feel at home, and the living earth surrounding us all.

Friday, May 1, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Virginia Theological Seminary | Immanuel Chapel | 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Live at 10th & G | First Congregational U.C.C. | 945 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Bradley Hills Church | 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817

TICKETS

Season or individual tickets for The Thirteen may be purchased by visiting

<https://www.thethirteenchoir.org>. Individual tickets available after September 1: \$35/30/15. General Admission, members of DC-area choirs, and students (with valid ID) \$5 off if purchased in advance.

ABOUT THE THIRTEEN

Based in Washington, D.C., the all-star professional choir The Thirteen, celebrates its eighth season with dramatic and moving concert experiences. Under the dynamic direction of conductor Matthew Robertson, The Thirteen captivates audiences with innovative programming and engaging storytelling. The Thirteen’s growing discography includes 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” which was submitted for a Grammy® award.

END

For more information, please contact Valerie Simonsen at valerie@thethirteenchoir.org

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