

2023

February 2023
Orpheus Chamber Singers

May 2023
Santa Fe Desert Chorale – Salon Recital

Soprano Alissa Ruth Suver and pianist Nathan Salazar present a program of love songs.

May 2023
Skylark – Clear Voices in the Dark

Francis Poulenc's *Figure Humaine* is one of the greatest works ever composed for unaccompanied choir – composed in 1943 in occupied France, and based on resistance-inspired poems by Paul Éluard, it is a stunning 8-movement exploration of the grim realities of war, culminating in an optimistic and embattled cry for liberty in the face of oppression. Skylark's innovative concert program, *Clear Voices in the Dark*, is a powerful cross-cultural statement about the expressive power of the arts, and specifically the human voice, in times of tragedy. Interspersed between Poulenc's stirring and complex settings, Skylark offers far simpler (but no less beautiful) musical images from the American Civil War era. Skylark shares some well-known pieces that have remained in the popular consciousness, as well as beautiful war-inspired songs that have long since been forgotten (and only found thanks to the Duke University Historical Archives).

July 2023 / August 2023
Santa Fe Desert Chorale – The Tudors and the Medici

Step back in time into the extravagant and dramatic world of two of the wealthiest families of the Renaissance. These two European dynasties left a substantial imprint on the cultural landscape with their patronage and brought to fruition some of the greatest artistic achievements of their time. Sixteen Desert Chorale singers accompanied by period instruments will perform works fit for Queen Elizabeth's court by composers such as Thomas Tallis and William Byrd. Songs written by King Henry VIII himself will also make an appearance.

The splendor continues with a musical reenactment from one of the most spectacular weddings in Italian history, including works from opera's founding father Jacopo Peri. Come and experience compelling stories of political intrigue and extraordinary music interwoven in this tour of London, Florence, and beyond.

July 2023 / August 2023

Santa Fe Desert Chorale - The Ecstasies Above

Prepare to be transported by two virtuosic works for strings and voices from the celebrated George Frideric Handel and award-winning living composer Tarik O'Regan.

The program opens with O'Regan's work, *The Ecstasies Above*, which is a setting of Edgar Allen Poe's poem "Israfel," describing an angel whose "heart strings are a lute, and who possesses the sweetest voice of all God's creatures."

"I'm truly delighted that the Desert Chorale will be performing *The Ecstasies Above*, a piece very close to my heart," said O'Regan. "The work is really about perspective, about how sometimes distance is required to see beauty, and about how the immediate can be misleading. It's a piece which requires concurrently immense rhythmic precision and textural warmth, and as a long-time admirer of the work of the Desert Chorale who embodies precisely this extremely rare combination in all that they do, I've long wanted the Chorale to interpret the work. Well, I'm excited to say that the day has come!"

We then continue into *Dixit Dominus*, showcasing Handel at his most Italianate with exciting ornamentation and rhythmic drive. Several Desert Chorale artists step out of the full ensemble texture for impressive solos throughout the piece. A chamber orchestra joins the 24 voices of the Chorale for this masterful program filled with musical acrobatics and ethereal soundscapes you won't forget.

July 2023 / August 2023

Santa Fe Desert Chorale- The American Immigrant Experience

The unique musical language of the United States is rooted in the songs brought to her shores by successive waves of immigrants. Listeners will embark on a musical journey that explores how their contributions have influenced and defined our country's music, and given us the rich tapestry of American song. Combining the power of the spoken word with choral music,

the full 24 voices of the Desert Chorale and collaborative pianist Nathan Salazar give voice to the complex stories of uncertainty and hope from those moving from one home to another. This program will also feature the world premiere of *Northland*, a piece written especially for the Desert Chorale by the GRAMMY-nominated composer Kile Smith. The text of this new work consists of four poems by Harlem Renaissance writer Claude McKay (1890-1948) in which he wrestles with his own immigrant experience.

August 2023

Ensemble Altera - Dazzling Light

An exploration of illumination in the physical and metaphysical worlds

September 2023

Ensemble Iona - Inaugural Performance

The music of Byrd, Tallis, Gibbons, Weelkes, Philips, and Whitacre.

October 2023

Ensemble viii - Echoes of Heaven: Music of 16th Century Rome

November 2023

American Baroque Opera - Semele

Music by John Eccles, Libretto by William Congreve

December 2023

Santa Fe Desert Chorale - A Glimpse of Snow and Evergreen

This year's program, *A Glimpse of Snow and Evergreen*, includes music honoring the beauty of our winter mountain landscape alongside beloved holiday carols. The Desert Chorale is thrilled to be joined once again by collaborative pianist Nathan Salazar for this program.