

2021 ST. LOUIS BACH FESTIVAL  
THE BACH SOCIETY  
OF SAINT LOUIS

BACH SINGS: A CONCERT OF ARIAS

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

6:00 P.M. CT

FEATURING:

JOSEFIEN STOPPELENBURG, SOPRANO

JAY CARTER, COUNTERTENOR

GENE STENGER, TENOR

ELIJAH BLAISDELL, BARITONE

ALEXANDER DOBSON, BASS

PRESENTED BY **CENTENE**  
*Charitable Foundation*

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GRACE WEBER, TYREE & LINDA DERRICK

A. DENNIS SPARGER, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

# CONCERT PROGRAM

## "GEBT MIR MEINEM JESUM WIEDER"

FROM THE *ST. MATTHEW PASSION*, BWV 244. J.S. BACH  
ALEXANDER DOBSON, BASS; JULIEN LEBLANC, PIANO

## ARIAS FROM THE *ST. JOHN PASSION*, BWV 245. J.S. BACH

No. 7. "VON DEN STRICKEN MEINER SÜNDEN"  
JAY CARTER, COUNTERTENOR; KEITH WEBER, PIANO

No. 9. "ICH FOLGE DIR"  
JOSEFIEN STOPPELENBURG, SOPRANO; STEPHEN ALLTOP, ORGAN

No. 13. "ACH, MEIN SINN"  
GENE STENGER, TENOR; MATT HARRISON, PIANO

No. 19. "BETRACHT MEINE SEEL"  
ELIJAH BLAISDELL, BARITONE; ELISABETH ELLIS, PIANO

No. 20. "ERWÄGE, MEINE SEEL"  
GENE STENGER, TENOR

No. 30. "ES IST VOLLBRACHT"  
JAY CARTER, COUNTERTENOR

No. 32. "MEIN TEURER HEILAND"  
ELIJAH BLAISDELL, BARITONE

No. 40. "ZERFLIESSE, MEIN HERZE"  
JOSEFIEN STOPPELENBURG, SOPRANO

## "DIE WELT MIT ALLEN KÖNIGREICHEN"

FROM CANTATA: *WER MICH LIEBET, DER WIRD MEIN WORT HALTEN*, BWV 59, J.S. BACH  
ALEXANDER DOBSON, BASS

## "FROHE HIRTEN, EILT, ACH EILET"

FROM *CHRISTMAS ORATORIO*, BWV 248. J.S. BACH  
GENE STENGER, TENOR

# ARTISTIC BIOGRAPHIES

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## A. DENNIS SPARGER, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR



DENNIS SPARGER WAS CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED ALREADY IN HIS SECOND SEASON AS "A CONDUCTOR EQUIPPED WITH INSIGHT AS WELL AS CRAFTSMANSHIP." IN THE PAST THREE AND A HALF DECADES HE HAS RECEIVED EVEN MORE PRAISE FOR HIS PERFORMANCES WITH THE BACH SOCIETY CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA, CONDUCTING THEM IN WELL OVER 175 PERFORMANCES OF MAJOR WORKS BY BACH AND OTHER COMPOSERS.

UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP THE BACH SOCIETY WAS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS AWARD BY THE ARTS & EDUCATION COUNCIL OF GREATER ST. LOUIS, THE FIRST CHORUS TO BE SO HONORED. HIS LEADERSHIP WAS ALSO A DRIVING FORCE IN THE CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS BEING SELECTED AS "ONE OF THE TOP 20 LIVE CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN NORTH AMERICA" BY BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE.

HE INTRODUCED A YOUNG ARTISTS AWARD PROGRAM FOR SINGERS UNDER THE AGE OF THIRTY TWO, ESTABLISHED A PROFESSIONAL CORE OF PAID PRINCIPAL SINGERS, AND DESIGNATED A POSITION FOR COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE TO PROMOTE THE CREATION OF NEW WORKS.

HE WAS AWARDED A DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS DEGREE IN CHORAL CONDUCTING BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, AND EARNED BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES FROM EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY.

DR. SPARGER IS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN BACH SOCIETY, ACDA, CHORUS AMERICA, THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS & LETTERS, AND IS A PAST BOARD MEMBER OF ARTIST PRESENTATION SOCIETY.



## JOSEFIEN STOPPELENBURG, SOPRANO



DUTCH SOPRANO JOSEFIEN STOPPELENBURG IS BEST KNOWN FOR HER DAZZLING VOCAL AGILITY AND HER PASSIONATE AND INSIGHTFUL INTERPRETATIONS. STOPPELENBURG IS CURRENTLY PERFORMING ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES AS A SPECIALIST IN BAROQUE MUSIC AND ORATORIO AND AS A CONCERT SINGER.

HER APPEARANCE ON CHICAGO'S CLASSICAL RADIO PROGRAM, "LIVE FROM WFMT", WAS SELECTED AS ONE OF THE 10 BEST PERFORMANCES IN 2016. AS A BAROQUE SPECIALIST AND RECITALIST, SHE HAS PERFORMED THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, ASIA, SOUTH AMERICA, AND IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

STOPPELENBURG HAS PERFORMED MOST MAJOR ORATORIO WORKS BY HANDEL, HAYDN, BACH AND MOZART, AND MANY WORKS BY SCHUBERT, MENDELSSOHN, MONTEVERDI.

JOSEFIEN RECENTLY APPEARED TO GREAT ACCLAIM IN *ANNELIES*, AN ORATORIO ABOUT ANNE FRANK BY COMPOSER JAMES WHITBOURN.

THIS ENGLISH COMPOSER PRAISED STOPPELENBURG'S OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE, STATING: "I HAVE HEARD MANY PERFORMANCES BUT FEW SO ACCOMPLISHED AND SO FULL OF UNDERSTANDING AS HERS."

STOPPELENBURG FREQUENTLY TEACHES MASTERCLASSES IN BAROQUE VOCAL PERFORMANCE, SUCH AS AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY (JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC), UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, CINCINNATI CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, AND ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY. SHE OFTEN PERFORMED FOR THE DUTCH ROYAL FAMILY.

JOSEFIEN IS ALSO A PAINTER. HER COLORFUL ART HAS BEEN USED IN OPERA SETS, CD BOOKLETS, MUSIC FESTIVAL POSTERS, AND AS NOTE CARDS. [WWW.JOSEFIENSTOPPELENBURG.COM](http://WWW.JOSEFIENSTOPPELENBURG.COM), [WWW.JOSEFIENSTOPPELENBURG-ART.COM](http://WWW.JOSEFIENSTOPPELENBURG-ART.COM)

## JAY CARTER, COUNTERTENOR



JAY CARTER IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE NATION'S FINEST COUNTERTENORS AND IS A LEADING INTERPRETER OF BAROQUE REPERTOIRE, LAUDED FOR HIS LUMINOUS TONE AND STYLISH INTERPRETATIONS. HE HAS APPEARED WITH MANY ACCLAIMED CONDUCTORS, INCLUDING MAASAKI SUZUKI AND THE BACH COLLEGIUM JAPAN, NICHOLAS MCGEGAN LEADING THE ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY, AND DANIEL HYDE WITH THE CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS, ST. THOMAS CHURCH, AND HAS PERFORMED IN MANY TOP PERFORMANCE VENUES.

HE HOLDS A DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI KANSAS CITY CONSERVATORY. HE EARNED A MASTERS IN MUSIC FROM THE YALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC, AND AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE, WHERE HE STUDIED WITH ARNOLD EPLEY.

CARTER IS ON THE VOICE FACULTY OF WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE IN PRINCETON, NJ, WHERE HE LEADS KANTOREI, AN EARLY MUSIC CHAMBER CHOIR. HE ALSO SERVES AS ARTISTIC ADVISOR FOR THE KANSAS CITY CHAMBER CHOIR *MUSICA VOCALE*. [WWW.JAYCARTERCOUNTERTENOR.COM](http://WWW.JAYCARTERCOUNTERTENOR.COM)



## GENE STENGER, TENOR



PHOTO CREDIT ANITA BUZZY PRENTISS

HAILED AS AN "IMPRESSIVE TENOR" (THE NEW YORK TIMES) WHO SINGS WITH "SWEET VIBRANCY" (THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER) AND CREATES "THE MOST LASTING MOMENTS" (THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE) OF THE PERFORMANCE, GENE STENGER'S 2019-2020 SEASON FEATURED HIS DEBUTS WITH THE BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (MOZART'S REQUIEM), ODYSSEY OPERA (WORLD PREMIERE OF ARNOLD ROSNER'S THE CHRONICLE OF NINE), ORCHESTRA SEATTLE AND SEATTLE CHAMBER SINGERS (BACH'S ST. MATTHEW PASSION), CHATHAM BAROQUE (BWV 93), THE MINEOLA CHORAL SOCIETY (HAYDN'S CREATION), AND BACH VESPERS AT HOLY TRINITY NEW YORK (BWV 140 & 144).

HIS RETURN SOLO ENGAGEMENTS INCLUDED PERFORMANCES WITH THE VIRGINIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 9), BACH SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS (MOZART'S REQUIEM, AND BACH'S MAGNIFICAT), WISCONSIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (HANDEL'S MESSIAH), COLORADO BACH ENSEMBLE (HANDEL'S MESSIAH), TENET VOCAL ARTISTS (BACH'S

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO), MADISON BACH MUSICIANS (MONTEVERDI'S VESPERS OF 1610), BACH COLLEGIUM AT ST. PETER'S NEW YORK (BACH'S ST. MATTHEW PASSION), THE YALE CAMERATA (MENDELSSOHN'S ELIJAH), AND BACH AKADEMIE CHARLOTTE (BWV 127 & 77).

ORIGINALLY FROM PITTSBURGH, PA, GENE HOLDS DEGREES FROM YALE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC, AND INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, AND BALDWIN WALLACE UNIVERSITY CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC. HE CURRENTLY RESIDES IN NEW HAVEN, CT, WHERE HE SERVES AS INSTRUCTOR OF VOICE AT YALE UNIVERSITY. [WWW.GENESTENGER.COM](http://WWW.GENESTENGER.COM)

## ELIJAH BLAISDELL, BARITONE



AN EARLY AND NEW MUSIC SPECIALIST, BARITONE ELIJAH BLAISDELL PERFORMS WITH ENSEMBLES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AS BOTH A SOLOIST AND CHORISTER. ELIJAH IS THE FEATURED SOLOIST ON THE 2019 GRAMMY AWARD WINNING ALBUM *ZEALOT CANTICLES* WITH THE CROSSING.

ADDITIONAL SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE PERFORMANCES OF THE NEW CHORAL-THEATER WORK ANIARA WITH THE CROSSING IN PHILADELPHIA, AND AT THE HAARLEM CHORAL BIENNALE AND THE HELSINKI NATIONAL OPERA, THE ADAMS FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CARMEL BACH FESTIVAL, ST. MATTHEW PASSION WITH BACH SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS, MILHAUD'S SERVICE SACRÉ WITH ST. GEORGE'S CHORAL SOCIETY, AND COFFEE CANTATA AND DIDO AND AENEAS WITH MADISON BACH MUSICIANS.

HE ALSO PERFORMS WITH THE SANTE FE DESERT CHORALE, GRAMMY-NOMINATED ENSEMBLE TRUE CONCORD, AND THE GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING SERAPHIC FIRE, AND THIS SEASON JOINS THE ST. THOMAS CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS.

ELIJAH HOLDS A MASTER OF MUSIC IN VOCAL PERFORMANCE FROM NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY AND LIVES IN NEW YORK. [WWW.ELIJAHBLAISDELL.COM](http://WWW.ELIJAHBLAISDELL.COM)

## ALEXANDER DOBSON, BASS



BRITISH-CANADIAN BARITONE ALEXANDER DOBSON HAS BEEN PRAISED FOR HIS MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC ARTISTRY ON BOTH OPERA AND CONCERT STAGES. HE WAS LAUDED FOR HIS "GRIPPING EMBODIMENT OF WOZZECK" (*JOURNAL VOIR*) IN A PRODUCTION OF THE BERG OPERA WITH THÉÂTRE DU NOUVEAU MONDE AND ORCHESTRE MÉTROPOLITAIN, CONDUCTED BY YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN. OTHER ROLES OF NOTE INCLUDE THE TITLE ROLE IN *DON GIOVANNI*, THE COUNT/*LE NOZZE DI FIGARO* AND THOMAS BETTERTON/*PRINCE OF PLAYERS*, ALL WITH FLORENTINE OPERA, AND *GUGLIELMO/COSÌ FAN TUTTE*, BELCORÉ /*L'ELISIR D'AMORE* AND NED KEENE/*PETER GRIMES*, ALL WITH L'OPERA DE MONTRÉAL.

ALEXANDER GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO OPERA DIVISION AND THE FACULTY OF MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO WITH HONOURS. HE IS ALSO AN ALUMNUS OF THE MUSIC THEATRE PROGRAM AT THE BANFF CENTRE, MUSIC ACADEMY OF THE WEST IN SANTA BARBARA, THE STEANS INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS AT RAVINIA, AND

L'ATELIER LYRIQUE DE L'OPERA DE MONTREAL.

ALEXANDER IS THE RECIPIENT OF NUMEROUS AWARDS AND PRIZES INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL VOICE COMPETITION OF PARIS (INCLUDING THE EDWARD MARSHALL ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING BARITONE), THE JEUNESSES MUSICALES NATIONAL COMPETITION, THE MARILYN HORNE COMPETITION (MUSIC ACADEMY OF THE WEST), AND THE JACQUELINE DESMARAIS COMPETITION.

[SCHWALBEANDPARTNERS.COM/ALEXANDER-DOBSON-BARITONE](http://SCHWALBEANDPARTNERS.COM/ALEXANDER-DOBSON-BARITONE)

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## ARTISTS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

ALEXANDER DOBSON, BASS

JULIEN LEBLANC, PIANO

JAY CARTER, COUNTERTENOR

KEITH WEBER, PIANO

JOSEFIEN STOPPELENBURG, SOPRANO

STEPHEN ALLTOP, ORGAN

GENE STENGER, TENOR

MATT HARRISON, PIANO

ELIJAH BLAISDELL, BARITONE

ELISABETH ELLIS, PIANO

ADAM REINWALD, VIDEO PRODUCER

OPEN VOICES LLC

DAVID GORDON, TRANSLATOR



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## STAFF

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# 2021 ST. LOUIS BACH FESTIVAL

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## BACH'S ST. JOHN PASSION RADIO BROADCAST

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021 | 12 P.M. CT  
SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021 | 3 P.M. CT

## BACH TALKS: ST JOHN PASSION 4-PART SERIES

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021 | 12 P.M. CT  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021 | 12 P.M. CT  
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 | 12 P.M. CT  
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021 | 12 P.M. CT

## BACH SINGS: A CONCERT OF ARIAS

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021 | 6 P.M. CT

## BACH IN THE GARDEN

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021 | 7 P.M. CT

## YOUNG ARTIST SHOWCASE

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021 | 4 P.M. CT

PRESENTED BY

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**BACHSOCIETY.ORG**

# 2021 ST. LOUIS BACH FESTIVAL

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THE BACH SOCIETY  
OF SAINT LOUIS

THE BACH SOCIETY OF SAINT LOUIS IS FUNDED IN PART BY  
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