

Meritage
Vocal Arts Ensemble

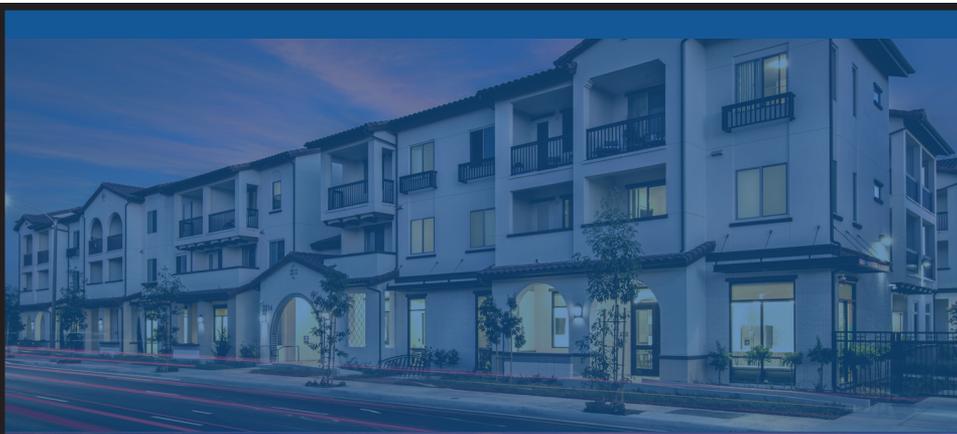
Her Voice Sears!

Artistic Director, **Brian Dehn**
Special Guest Accompanist, **Grant Rohr**



Sunday, October 8, 2023 4 pm

Anaheim United Methodist Church
1000 South State College Boulevard, Anaheim, CA, 92806



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Welcome

Greetings, Supporters and Friends of Merit age Vocal Art Ensemble,

I am thrilled to extend to you a warm and heartfelt welcome to the 27th season of the Merit age Vocal Art Ensemble! As we embark on this exciting journey into the 2023-2024 season, I am filled with anticipation and enthusiasm for the exceptional musical experiences that lie ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Jamboree Housing and Todd Priest and Associates (TPA). Thank you so much for your support of Merit age.

This Season promises to be a captivating blend of classical masterpieces, innovative contemporary works, and inspiring collaborations. Our goal is to transport you on a musical voyage that will touch your hearts and souls.

Over the past 26 seasons, our ensemble has flourished, enchanting audiences with our harmonious voices and captivating performances. Each year has been a testament to the dedication and talent of our members and the unwavering support of our cherished patrons. Whether you are a generous donor, a dedicated volunteer, or simply a music lover who attends our concerts, you are an integral part of the Merit age family, and we are grateful for your presence. None of this would be possible without your continued support.

I invite you to stay connected with us throughout the season. Follow us on social media, subscribe to our newsletter, and join us at our concerts and events. With your continued support, we will create memorable moments, forge lasting connections, and continue to inspire through the power of music. Thank you for being a part of our remarkable journey.

With warmest regards,

JOEY BAITAL, PRESIDENT

Board of Directors, FOCM dba
Merit age Vocal Arts Ensemble

Program

Karitas..... St. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Hannah Park, soloist

Miserere Mei, Deus..... Raphaella Aleotti (c.1570-c.1646)*

I obey thee, O Lord (Lacrimosa) (from *Da Vinci Requiem*)..... Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Abendfeier in Venedig..... Clara Schumann (1819-1896)*

Schifflied..... Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel (1805-1847)*

Hymne au soleil..... Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

Meghan Riopelle, soloist

Despedida..... María Grever (1885-1951)

Andrea Flores

The Year's at the Spring..... Amy Marcy Cheney Beach (1867-1944)

Shawn Taylor

It Comes as No Surprise (from *Doctor Zhivago*)..... Lucy Simon (1940-2022)

Grace Lee and Janet Lewis

Life Has Loveliness to Sell..... Phyllis E. Zimmerman (1934-2012)

(from *Four Lyrics of Sara Teasdale*)

Andrea Flores, soloist

The Music of Stillness..... Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

***** INTERMISSION *****

Past Life Melodies..... Sarah Hopkins (b. 1958)

The Mi'kmaq Song..... Lydia Adams (b. 1953)

Grandmother Moon..... Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

Warum sind denn die Rosen so Blass..... Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel

Meghan Riopelle

Case of You..... Joni Mitchell (b. 1943)

Mark Peter

A Soft Place to Land..... Sara Bareilles (b. 1979)

Lianna Koepel-Taylor, Abby Taylor, and Paige Taylor

Richard Ullrich, guitar

Someone to Watch Over Me..... George & Ira Gershwin

arr. Teena Chinn

You've Got a Friend..... Carole King (b. 1942)

Sing to Me..... Andrea Ramsey (b. 1977)

Grace Before Sleep..... Susan Labarr (b. 1981)

Artistic Director's Note

Welcome to what I feel is an extraordinary musical journey that honors the exceptional creativity, resilience, and innovation of women composers throughout our history. We gather here tonight, we lend our voices of Merit ge, to hear the "voice" of these wonderful composers. From our first rehearsal we knew this would be a concert that reverberates with the enduring legacies of these visionary artists who have enriched the world of choral music, a realm traditionally dominated by male composers, with their distinctive voices, unique perspectives, and unwavering determination. Their compositions, often marginalized or underestimated, stand as testaments to their brilliance and deserve not just recognition but profound celebration and reverence. Tonight, we invite you to immerse yourselves in the profound beauty, emotional depth, and historical significance of their work.

Our musical odyssey commences with the hauntingly beautiful "Kantus" by Hildegard of Bingen, a medieval mystic, composer, and polymath. While she was firmly grounded in the realities of her time, she is also the first composer we have with a name written upon the chants she composed. What we hope you notice is the flowing, free-form ethereal chant that expresses the texts so effortlessly and expressively. We then follow it with a motet of by Rafaella Aleotti. As alluded to before, her time and life was extremely complicated, yet there is restraint, respect, and reverence in all her work. We then jump more than a few hundred years to Cecilia McDowall and her setting, accompanied by the organ, of the Lacrimosa from the Requiem Mass along with text of da Vinci (just a few decades prior to Aleotti!). It is a passionate composition that matches the expression, albeit more overtly, than our Medieval and Renaissance settings with which we opened.

Clara Schumann, a virtuoso pianist and composer, graces our program with one of her exquisite choral compositions. Her profound musicality, poignant lyricism, and enduring legacy unveil a woman who defied societal norms to become a luminary of the Romantic era. We follow it with exquisite songs of Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel and Lili Boulanger. Both women easily earn the moniker "genius" and these are two of my favorite compositions.

Of particular interest are the two settings of Sara Teasdale that we are performing for you. I encourage you to research her life and her poetry. Never have I read of someone so willing to lose themselves to love. All that she was, all that she could be, was defined by love. There is beauty, but also immense pain in her poetry and I think Zimmerman and Hagenberg have set her texts beautifully.

We touch on some of the very creative sounds and texts from other cultures as we begin our second half of the concert. "Past Life Melodies" is fascinating, "The Mi'kmaq Song," specifically the "I'ko" tune, is a fantastic way to escape the concert hall, and the haunting "Grandmother Moon" is a wonderful setting of a Mi'kmaq poem as it honors that community's animistic view of the controller of all female life.

Our last set includes some wonderfully pleasant jazz, pop, and lighter musical fare. And while we savor the rich tapestry of music by women composers, let us remain cognizant of the numerous hurdles they surmounted in their creative journeys. These composers forged ahead with unwavering determination, defying conventions, and societal norms to share their unique musical voices with the world – and we are all the richer for it!

Tonight's concert stands as a testament to the enduring power of music to transcend time, gender, and cultural boundaries. It also serves as a poignant reminder that creativity should know no bounds and that the voices of women composers deserve not merely to be heard but to be celebrated and wholeheartedly embraced. We hope that these "soaring voices" inspires you to delve further into the opulent realm of music by women composers and encourages your support for the continued advancement of women in the sphere of classical music.



BRIAN DEHN
Artistic Director

Texts & Translations

KARITAS, ANTIPHON D 157, R466a

St. Hildegard of Bingen, trans. Beverly R. Lomer

Karitas

habundat in omnia,

de imis excellentissima

super sidera

atque amantissima

in omnia,

quia summo regi osculum pacis

dedit.

Divine Charity

abounds in all things,

Most excellent of all

from below to above the stars

and very loving

in all things,

She gave the highest king

The kiss of peace.

MISERERE MEI, DEUS

Raphaella Aleotti (c. 1570-c.1646)

From Sacrae Cantiones (book 1), Venice, 1593.

Lyrics: Psalm 57, v.1

*Miserere mei Deus, quoniam in te confidit anima
mea: et in umbra alarum tuarum [sperabo] donec
transeat iniquitas.*

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto
me, for my soul trusteth in thee: and under the
shadow of thy wings shall be my refuge, until this
tyranny be over-past.

I OBEY THEE, O LORD (LACRIMOSA)

(from Da Vinci Requiem)

Cecelia McDowall

Missa pro defunctis

The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

Lacrimosa

Dies illa,

Qua resurget ex,

Ex favila

Judicandus homo reus,

I obey thee, O Lord, first because of the love which
I ought to bear thee:
secondly, because thou knowest how to shorten
or prolong the lives of men.

Tears, tears, tears come from the heart,
Tears, tears, tears come not from the brain.

Huic ergo parce Deus:

Pie Jesus Domine,

Dona eis requiem.

Our body is subject to heaven,
And heaven is subject to the spirit.

Lacrimosa

ABENDEFEIER IN VENEDIG

Clara Schumann

No. 1 from Drie gemichten chore (1848)

*Ave Maria! Meer und Himmel ruh'n,
Von allen Türmen hallt der Glocken Ton.
Ave Maria! Laßt vom ird'schen Tun,
Zur Jungfrau betet, zu der Jungfrau Sohn!
Des Himmels Scharen selber knieen nun
Mit Lilienstäben vor des Vaters Thron,
Und durch die Rosenwolken wehn die Lieder
Der sel'gen Geister feierlich hernieder.*

Ave Maria! Sea and sky are at rest,
Bells ring out from all the towers.
Ave Maria! Leave all earthly activity,
Pray to the Virgin, to the Virgin's Son!
The angelic throng now is kneeling
With lilies wrapped around their staves,
And through the roseate clouds, the songs
Of blessed spirits float ceremoniously down.

SCHILFLIED

Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel

*Drüben geht die Sonne scheiden,
Und der müde Tag entschlief.
Niederhangen hier die Weiden
In den Teich, so still, so tief.*

Texts & Translations

Und ich muß mein Liebstes meiden:

Quill, o Träne, quill hervor!

Traurig säuseln hier die Weiden,

Und im Winde bebt das Rohr.

In mein stilles, tiefes Leiden

Strahlst du, Ferne! hell und mild,

Wie durch Binsen hier und Weiden

Strahlt des Abendsternes Bild.

On the pond, the motionless pond,

The moon's fair radiance lingers,

Weaving its pale roses

Into the reeds' green garland.

Red deer wander there on the hill,

Looking upwards through the night;

Dreamily in thick reeds

Birds will sometimes stir.

I must lower my tearful gaze;

Through the very depths of my soul

Sweet thoughts of you pass

Like a silent evening prayer!

HYMNE AU SOLEIL (HYMN TO THE SUN)

Lili Boulanger

Du soleil qui renaît bénissons la puissance.

Avec tout l'univers célébrons son retour.

Couronné de splendeur, il se lève, il s'élançe.

Le réveil de la terre est un hymne d'amour.

Sept coursiers qu'en partant le Dieu contient à peine,

Enflamment l'horizon de leur brûlante haleine.

O soleil fécond, tu parais!

Avec ses champs en fleurs, ses monts, ses bois épais,

La vaste mer de tes feux embrasée,

L'univers plus jeune et plus frais,

Des vapeurs de matin sont brillants de rosée.

Let us bless the power of the reborn sun.

With all the universe let us celebrate its return.

Crowned with splendor, it rises, it soars.

The waking of the earth is a hymn of love.

Seven rushing steeds

that the God scarcely holds back

Ignite the horizon with their scorching breath.

Oh, vivid sun, you appear!

With its fields in bloom,

its mountains, its thick forests,

The vast sea set ablaze by your fires,

The universe, younger and fresher,

With morning vapors are glistening with dew.

LIFE HAS LOVELINESS TO SELL

(from *Four Lyrics of Sara Teasdale*)

Phyllis E. Zimmerman

Life has loveliness to sell

Life has loveliness to sell,

All beautiful and splendid things,

Blue waves whitened on a cliff,

Soaring fire that sways and sings,

And children's faces looking up

Holding wonder like a cup.

Life has loveliness to sell,

Music like a curve of gold,

Scent of pine trees in the rain,

Eyes that love you, arms that hold,

And for your spirit's still delight,

Holy thoughts that star the night.

Spend all you have for loveliness,

Buy it and never count the cost;

For one white singing hour of peace

Count many a year of strife well lost,

And for a breath of ecstasy

Give all you have been, or could be.

THE MUSIC OF STILLNESS

Elaine Hagenberg

Text: Sara Teasdale

There will be rest, and sure stars shining

Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,

A reign of rest, serene forgetting,

The music of stillness holy and low.

I will make this world of my devising

Out of a dream in my lonely mind.

I shall find the crystal of peace – above me

Stars I shall find.

Texts & Translations

GRANDMOTHER MOON

Eleanor Daley

She looks into and beyond my soul
The lacy cedar boughs creatg her shadows
Cedar ones weave design of midnight canvas
She looks into and beyond my soul
She a powerful sacred hop of full light
Simplicity against the ebony blues nad blacks
Of night sky land and crystal star people
She looks into and beyond my soul
Her round face of translucent beauty and light
Quiet powers speak out in her name...
we'lalin ("thank you" in Mi'kmaq)

SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME

George Gershwin, arr. Teena Chinn

There's a somebody I'm longing to see
I hope that she turns out to be
Someone to watch over me

I'm a little lamb who's lost in a wood
I know I could always be good
To one who'll watch over me

Although I may not be the man
some girls think of as handsome
to my heart
She carries the key

Won't you tell her please to put on some speed
Follow my lead, oh how I need
Someone to watch over me
Someone to watch over me

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

Carole King

When you're down and troubled
And you need some lovin' care
And nothin', nothin' is goin' right
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest night

You just call out my name
And you know, wherever I am

I'll come runnin'
To see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there
You've got a friend

If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind begins to blow
Keep your head together
And call my name out loud
Soon you'll hear me knockin' at your door

You just call out my name
And you know, wherever I am
I'll come runnin', runnin', yeah, yeah
To see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there, yes, I will

Now, ain't it good to know that you've got a friend
When people can be so cold?
They'll hurt you, yes, and desert you
And take your soul if you let them
Oh, but don't you let them

You just call out my name
And you know, wherever I am
I'll come runnin', runnin', yeah, yeah
To see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there, yes, I will
You've got a friend
You've got a friend

Ain't it good to know you've got a friend
Ain't it good to know, ain't it good to know
Ain't it good to know
You've got a friend
Oh, yeah, now, you've got a friend
Yeah baby, you've got a friend
Oh, yeah, you've got a friend

Texts & Translations

SING TO ME

Andrea Ramsey

Sing to me, sing to me,
Sing to me something of sunlight and bloom
Sing no more of sorrow and gloom
Sing no more of the world's noise and strife,
Sing to the beauty and brightness of life!
Sing to me, sing to me, sing to me.

Sing of the blossoms that open in spring,
How the sweet flowers blow,
 the sweet flowers blow,
And the long lichens cling, the long lichens cling,
And though winter is round about me,
There are bright summers and springs yet to be.
Sing to me, sing to me, sing to me.

GRACE BEFORE SLEEP

Susan LaBarr

How can our minds and bodies be
Grateful enough that we have spent
Here in this generous room, we three,
This evening of content?
Each one of us has walked through storm
And fled the wolves along the road;
But here the hearth is wide and warm,
And for this shelter and this light
Accept, O Lord, our thanks tonight.

Notes from Our Singers

For Brian and
The Choir,
Thanks for this
amazing journey. There
are even greater things
to come.

Henrietta Carter

Congratulations,
Meritage, for
another terrific
season.

Dennis Nasitka
(bass)

Notes from Our Singers

We are so proud
to be a part of this
organization! Party on
Merry Musicians!

*Sheridan and
Kathy Ball*

It remains an absolute
honor to sing with
this group.

Laura Harlan

Thank you, Brian, for
your artistic direction!
You are so talented and
I love singing with you!

Wendy Stokes

Thanks, Mom & Dad, for
instilling in me a love of
music and for always coming
to hear me sing. Love you!

*Janet Lewis to Margery
& Larry Lewis*

Thank you, Merit ge,
for continuing to enrich
my life with the gifts of
music and friendship!

Joey

Sammy and Selena,
Don't talk during
the concert.

Love, Dad 



JoAnn Anderson
Joey Baital
Kathy Ball
Sheridan Ball
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Laura Taylor
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Shawn Taylor
Deanna Torchia
Richard Ullrich
Mary Wissink
Ellen Wright

For details of all forthcoming concerts

Meritage

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In Touch**

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Our Artistic Director



BRIAN DEHN

Brian Dehn has conducted his ensembles in some of the world's most remarkable venues including Carnegie Hall, the Sistine Chapel, St. Mark's in Venice, St. Peter's in Rome, St. Mathias in Budapest, St. Tomaskircke in Vienna, St. Patrick's and The Riverside Church in New York, St. Anne's Cathedral in Sydney, St. Mary's Church in Cambridge, St. Patrick's and St. Mary's in Dublin, and the Beijing Central Conservatory. His selection of top-quality repertoire and special work with vocal development has him in frequent demand as a guest clinician with choirs throughout California and the Western United States.

Brian is also founder and artistic director of Meistersingers, a semi-pro group also based in Orange County. He received his Doctorate of Music Arts (DMA) from Claremont Graduate University in May 2023. He completed 15 years of teaching at the high school level where his ensembles were awarded consistent "Superior" ratings, and invitations to prestigious festivals around the state, including an invitation to perform at the 2018 ACDA Western Region Convention. He took his programs on performance tours to New York, Spain and Portugal, San Francisco, China, Italy, Ireland,

England, and Australia. For over 20 years he has also held positions as Director of Music for a variety of Southern California churches, currently serving as Director of Music Ministry for First Christian Church of Orange.

As an accomplished tenor soloist, Dehn has performed in Chicago Symphony Hall for Chapman University, The New Century Singers, The California Women's Chorus, Pasadena Pro Musica as well as soloist for many other professional music ensembles, colleges and churches throughout Southern California. An accomplished ensemble singer in his own right, he has performed with Zephyr, De Angelis, and the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Dehn maintains membership in a number of music organizations including the American Choral Directors Association, International Federation of Choral Music, Music Educators National Conference, California Music Educator's Association (where he was a presenter in 2016), Chorus America, and the National Association of Church Music, where he served as board member for Church Literature. He lives in Orange, California, with his wife, Chelsea, and their two sons.

Thank You

to all who have contributed
to the success of
Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble
for our 2023-2024 concert season

CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE (\$2500+)

*(includes four tickets to all
Meritage concerts plus four tickets
to our annual fundraiser)*

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*(includes two tickets to all
Meritage concerts plus two tickets
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Margery and
Lawrence Lewis
Dennis Nasitka
Rocket Launch

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Linda Hammontree
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Laura and Kurt Harlan
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Michael Moore
Mary Nimocks
Mark Peter
Teresa Raridan
Marc Russo
Sandra Schaefer
Abby and Paige Taylor

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Holly Desgranges
Nobuko DuVall
Leslie Jensen
The Morris Institute
Lynda Perring
Jesse and Charlotte Raridan
Sandra J. Schaeffer
Richard Ullrich
Elizabeth Ussher

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Friends of Choral Music (FoCM) helps support community choral programs, including funding for music, orchestras, vocalists, venues, school scholarships, and outreach programs. 100% of the profit from board-sponsored events is used to help keep choral arts viable in our community.

Friends of Choral Music meets at least six times a year, and is responsible for governance, finance, and fundraising. The board is also responsible for all operating responsibilities of Merit age and Starlight Carolers. FoCM consists mostly of singing members of these choirs that volunteer their time and services to the board.

Friends of Choral Music is a non-profit IRC 501 (c) (3), Tax Id 95-4584695.

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Ticket sales account for only one-third of the cost of presenting our season each year. Our continued growth and success is only possible through the generous contributions of donors like you. All donations are tax deductible (Tax Id 95-4584695). Your gift will be gratefully acknowledged in our concert programs.

To make your tax-deductible donation, speak with any singer or visit our website,

www.meritage-vocalarts.org

Please mail your contribution to:

Merit age Vocal Arts Ensemble
174 W. Lincoln Ave. Suite 200
Anaheim, CA 92805

Questions? Please call us at
(714) 512-2027 or send an email to:
office@Meritage-VocalArts.org.

Please include your name(s) as you want them to appear in our program



OR

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*Meritage Vocal
Arts Ensemble*

**on its 2023-24
concert season!**

Rocket Launch is a full-service marketing and public relations firm igniting brands and launching campaigns into the next stratosphere of awesomeness.

ROCKETLAUNCHAGENCY.COM

**2023-2024 SEASON
UPCOMING EVENTS**

Christmas Fanfare

December 17 (Sunday)
4:00 pm

**The Hunchback
of Notre Dame**
Concert Version

April 13 (Saturday)
7:30 pm

April 14 (Sunday)
2:00 pm

The Vast Eternal Sky
for choir & strings

June 2 (Sunday)
4:00 pm
and

June 8 (Saturday)
4:00 pm



meritage-vocalarts.org

*Program Design:
Paul Shirts*