



4th of July

C O N C E R T

Celebrate the Fourth of July with
Delaware ChoralArts!

David Christopher · Conductor
Gabriel Benton · Collaborative Pianist



Monday, July 4, 2022 • 4:00pm
Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew & Matthew
719 N Shipley Street, Wilmington, DE
DelawareChoralArts.org

*Music
gives a soul
to the universe,
wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination
and life to everything.
-- Plato*



*With appreciation for the music presented by
Delaware ChoralArts*

Program

- The Last Words of David ...Randall Thompson
Based on text from 2 Samuel 23:3-4
- Old American Songs ...arr. Aaron Copland
- The Boatmen's Dance *Martin Hargrove, soloist*
 - Simple Gifts *Chorus*
 - At the River *Augustine Mercante, soloist*
 - The Little Horses *Kimberly Doucette, soloist*
 - Long Time Ago *Chorus*
 - I Bought Me a Cat *Augustine Mercante, soloist*
 - Zion's Walls *Chorus*
- Negro Spirituals ...Traditional
- Wade in the Water
 - Oh! What a Beautiful City
- He's Got the Whole World ...arr. Margaret Bonds
- Roll Down Justice ...words and music by Mark Miller
- American Heroes ...arr. Carl Strommen
- Patriotic Sing-Along (see insert for words)
- The Star Spangled Banner ...John Stafford Smith
Text by Francis Scott Key
 - My Country 'Tis of Thee ...Unknown
Words by Samuel Francis Smith
 - O Beautiful for Spacious Skies ...Samuel Augustus Ward
Words by Katherine Lee Bates
 - Lift Every Voice and Sing ...J. Rosamond Johnson
Words by James Weldon Johnson
- American Anthem ...Words and music by Gene Scheer
Kimberly Doucette and Augustine Mercante, soloists
- God Bless America ...Words and music by Irving Berlin
arr. Roy Ringwald

Biographies



David Christopher, *Artistic Director*, has an active career as conductor, organist, church musician and voice teacher. Born in Philadelphia and raised in southern Delaware, David received his undergraduate degree in vocal performance from West Chester University and a graduate degree in organ performance from John Hopkins University's Peabody Institute. Known for his keyboard skills, understanding of the singing voice, and skill with the baton, David's passion for teaching

and facility for communicating ideas of interpretation, technique and artistry bring a unique perspective to the many aspects of his musical career. David has been performing as an organ recitalist since the age of 14 and has studied with notable organ teachers including the late Dr. Robert Elmore, Alan Morrison and Donald Sutherland. Having held a number of organ positions of distinction in the Philadelphia and Wilmington areas, David has served as the organist and director of music for The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew in Wilmington since April of 2001. Also a recognized leader in training children's voices, David founded The Wilmington Children's Chorus in 2002 in collaboration with the Mayor of Wilmington's Office of Cultural Affairs and The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. Now a multi-cultural ensemble with over 500 children and staffed by some of the area's finest music educators, the Wilmington Children's Chorus has become the premiere children's choir in the region. A complete biography and list of upcoming performances and musical projects can be found on David's web site at www.davidchristopher.us.

Biographies



Gabriel Benton, *Collaborative Pianist*, enjoys a multifaceted career in music as an early music specialist, accompanist, and church musician. Deeply passionate about music of the baroque and earlier eras, he studied harpsichord performance at Oberlin Conservatory and The Juilliard School. As a harpsichordist, he frequently performs with his group Corda Nova Baroque as well as with ensembles across the country, including American Baroque

Orchestra (New England) and American Bach Soloists (San Francisco). With the latter, he has recorded two CDs. Past performances include concerts with Venice Opera Project, Juilliard415, Yale Baroque Opera Project, York Symphony Orchestra, and New World Symphony. Gabe has been accompanying worship services since he was a teenager, but after a life-changing experience working as director of music at St. John's Episcopal Church in Yonkers, NY, he felt called to devote his time more deeply to church music. He went on to study organ performance at Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music, where he served as organist at the University Church and received the Charles Ives Award for outstanding work as an organ major. He is currently the Principal Organist and Accompanist at Grace Untied Methodist Church in Wilmington.



Biographies



Kimberly Doucette is an active singer, conductor and educator in the Wilmington area. She has sung professionally throughout the region, most notably with OperaDelaware, Delaware ChoralArts, The Chestnut Hill Orchestra, and the DuPont Clifford Brown Jazz Festival. Concert and oratorio credits include Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Mozart's *Grand Mass in C Minor*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, Carissimi's *Jepthe*, Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Ellington's *Best of the Sacred Concerts*. Past roles in opera and operetta include Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Casilda in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, Frasquita in *Carmen*, the Second Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* and Amore in Gluck's *Orfeo*.

Kimberly is also the Director of Education for OperaDelaware and Artistic Director of the Wilmington Children's Chorus, which serves over 300 youth from the Wilmington area. Under her leadership, the WCC has solidified its reputation for vocal artistry, music literacy and professionalism in performances throughout the mid-Atlantic region and in Germany, France, and the Czech Republic. She also maintains a private vocal studio at her home in Wilmington, Delaware.



Described by The New York Times as a "glowing countertenor," **Augustine Mercante** enjoys an active career performing repertoire from the Baroque to the newly-created. This season he is heard with the Serafin String Quartet, Kent Chamber Choir, The Arts at Trinity, Delaware ChoralArts, Brandywine Baroque, and the Mid-Columbia MasterSingers, as well as in recital in Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, New York, and throughout Delaware.

Gus is a frequent soloist with the American Spiritual Ensemble, with which he has toured Ireland, Spain, France and the United States, including his debut in New York's

Lincoln Center. He works regularly with instrument maker and composer Aaron Grad and premiered Grad's *Old-Fashioned Love Songs* for counter-tenor and electric theorbo, a performance praised by the Washington Post for "full-bodied sweetness, exemplary pitch, and a reliably musical imagination." As a Vocal Fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center, his performance in the American premiere of George Benjamin's *Written on Skin* was described by the Wall Street Journal as "riveting" with a voice that "soared above the texture, lining the text with the haloed elegance of gold-leaf inscription". He is also a fellow of the Delaware Division of the Arts, most recently being awarded an Individual Artist Fellowship in 2013.

Gus completed his Artist Diploma in Germany as a Fulbright Scholar. He holds degrees from the University of North Texas and the University of Delaware, where he was honored to be the inaugural recipient of the Robert King Memorial Scholarship.

Gus and his husband, Justin, live in Wilmington, Delaware where Gus maintains a private teaching studio and is on the voice faculty at both The Music School of Delaware and Wesley College.



Martin Hargrove has performed opera, musical theater, recitals and concerts throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, and South America. His operatic roles include Colline in *La Boheme*, Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Sparafucile and Monterone in *Rigoletto*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, Jake in *Porgy and Bess*, Zarastro and the Speaker in *Die Zauberflote*, Masetto and Il Comendatore in *Don Giovanni*, and Colatinus in *The Rape of Lucretia*. In

Oratorio Concerts he has performed Handel's *Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Faure's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Haydn's *Creation*, many Bach cantatas, and Alice Parker's *Sermon on the Mountain*. His recitals often feature German lieder, American and British folksongs, Negro spirituals, and Broadway selections. Educated at Westminster Choir College and Trenton State College, Martin is also an active church soloist, lecturer, and music workshop leader.

The Singers

SOPRANO

*Kimberly Doucette
Stephanie Downey
Jamie Fleetwood
*Isabel Gray
**Kathryn Hearn
Mary Reppy
Elizabeth Rhoads
Sandy Sarjeant

BASS

George Fresolone
*Martin Hargrove
Chip Hazel
**David Hearn
Vincent LaMonaca
Alan Rothenberg

**Staff singers*

***Guest singers*

ALTO

Diane-Louise Casson
Sandra Aiken Chack
Janet Geiger
Katherine Gibson
Bridget Kirk
Martha Kirkpatrick
Debbie Landers
*Augustine Mercante
Fran Nimeck
Irene Plotzker
Marilyn Reiner
Lori Wadman
Jean Wakefield

TENOR

**Xander Costas
*Philip Doucette
Eric Hoffman
Frank Norris



Non-Singing Members

Joan Beck
Larry Beck
Harriet Flynn
George Fresolone
Madelyn Hagerman
Pat Hampton
Kristen Joseph
Jeannine Laughman

Mary Lou May
Lisa Nichols
Donna Pelletier
Don Potter
Mikey Reppy
Tim Rodden
Bill Sammons
Jenny Warren



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Delaware Choral Arts

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Peter Carlson	David Christopher



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Winifred P. Norris
Michael Brun
David Christopher

by Marilyn Reiner
By Marilyn Reiner
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Deb Landers
Anonymous

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DELAWARE CHORALARTS

Delaware ChoralArts serves the greater Wilmington area by enriching the community through excellent and inspiring performances of great choral literature; supporting its talented and dedicated membership with professional skill and leadership; and nurturing the art of choral music through scholarships, commissions, and showcases. Known for its expressive singing, diverse programming, and often thrilling “wall of sound”, Delaware ChoralArts has brought a rich palate of choral music to the region since its formation in 1984 by David Christopher. DCA strives to nurture and develop young people’s appreciation of the choral art through its side-by-side collaboration with high school choral students as well as its frequent collaboration with the Wilmington Children’s Chorus. DCA is run by a dedicated Board of Directors made up of members of the chorus, with support from members of the community who serve as advisors. Funding comes from a number of sources including a generous grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a growing number of enthusiastic Patrons, a grant from the Delaware Division of Small Businesses, fund-raising projects, and ticket and ad sales. For details about upcoming events, auditions, and how to become a patron of DCA, please visit our website at www.delawarechoralarts.org, check out our page on Facebook, or use the contribution form on page 12 of this program.

Delaware ChoralArts gratefully acknowledges support from the following organizations:



Delaware ChoralArts is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com

Wishing
Deb Landers
&
Delaware Choral Arts
A wonderful season!

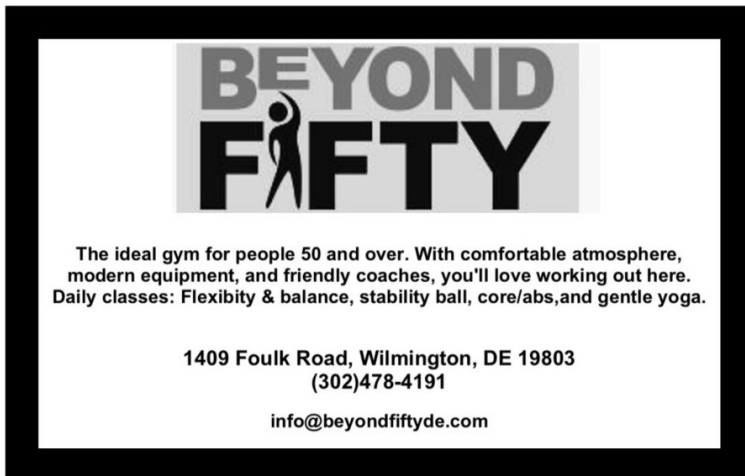
With love,
The Burns Family



Ensemble in Residence at SsAM

Delaware ChoralArts has a strong and synergistic relationship with The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew (SsAM) as the church's community Ensemble-in-Residence. As SsAM's community choral partner, DCA has helped the church establish itself as an intentionally diverse and welcoming center for music and the arts in the greater Wilmington area. Tonight, you will see numerous members of SsAM in the chorus as well as in the audience. Because of this collaborative relationship, many members of DCA enjoy participating in events and programs at the church such as the SsAM Drumming Circle under the leadership of Jonathan Whitney, Tuesday evening Meditation Classes led by The Rev. Canon Lloyd S. Casson, and special services of worship such as the Season of Creation, Jazz Vespers, and Carnival Sunday. SsAM's Director of Music, David Christopher, also serves as the Music Director of Delaware ChoralArts. In addition to rehearsing and presenting most concerts at SsAM, as an Ensemble-in-Residence, DCA frequently collaborates with the SsAM Choir and congregation to bring a variety of choral events to the Wilmington area, present annual Spirituals Concerts, and offer musicianship training classes for members of the chorus as well as singers from the parish and the community.


For more information about Delaware ChoralArts, please visit their website at www.delawarechoralarts.org.



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Preview of the 2022-2023 Season

Specific dates and times to be announced.

Visit delawarechoralarts.com or our
Facebook page for updates.

Fall Concert

featuring *The Armed Man, A Mass for Peace*
by Karl Jenkins
November 2022

Spirituals Concert

in collaboration with the
Wilmington Children's Chorus
February 2023

Spring Concert

featuring *Dettingen Te Deum*
by George Frederick Handel
Spring 2023