



# Rising Up.

From a year of silence and separation to a new season of sounds and sensations, ABS is celebrating its past, present, and future with programming that includes time-honored traditions and new directions.

Enjoy our renewed focus on the brilliant individual artists that inspire us.

Join us as we share glorious music, artistry, and excitement in our holiday concerts that bring "A Baroque Christmas" and Handel's Messiah to Grace Cathedral, and "A Baroque New Year's Eve at the Opera" to Herbst Theatre.

Hear rarely performed paragon works from the most innovative geniuses of the Baroque era in our Connoisseur Series Concerts.

Revel in the thrilling talents of the musicians that are leading us into the next decades of concert experiences in ABS "Exclusives" and our new Artist Showcase.

Together.















"What stood out above all, in this annual rite that drew a huge crowd, was the sense of being addressed directly, personally, confidingly. Conductor Jeffrey Thomas brought it all together, melding his ABS forces with precision and intuitive responsiveness to Handel's capacious 1742 masterwork."

Steven Winn, SFCV

The finely tuned voices of the American Bach Choir and the polished sheen of sonorities brought by ABS's period-instrument orchestra soar within the majestic interior of San Francisco's Nob Hill landmark.

# Celebrate the Holidays with ABS

This season, Maestro Jeffrey Thomas will conduct the period-instrument specialists of ABS, the renowned American Bach Choir, and an internationally acclaimed quartet of brilliant vocal soloists in <u>two different</u> concert experiences.

Our annual tradition of performing Handel's *Messiah* in San Francisco's historic Grace Cathedral perennially provides a treasured December holiday event to capacity audiences.

Now in its 23rd year, ABS's performances of Handel's timeless work have become an essential part of the musical year for many music lovers and have attracted audiences of more than 50,000 from around the world.

americanbach.org/holidays

#### A BAROQUE CHRISTMAS IN GRACE CATHEDRAL

Handel: Messiah (Christmas portion – Part I) Corelli: "Christmas Concerto" & Charpentier: Noëls Handel: "Hallelujah Chorus"

In this special *abridged* evening performance, you'll hear the Christmas portion (Part I) of Handel's *Messiah* along with music of the season by Arcangelo Corelli and Marc-Antoine Charpentier, and a rousing finale including Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.

Wednesday December 15 2021 7:30 p.m. Grace Cathedral • San Francisco



Nola Richardson soprano



Sarah Coit mezzo-soprano





James Reese tenor

Alex Rosen bass

#### HANDEL'S MESSIAH IN GRACE CATHEDRAL (complete)

No other Bay Area performances come close to offering the visual, aural, and emotional qualities that have made ABS's *Messiah* in Grace Cathedral so superlative.

Thursday December 16 2021 7:30 p.m. Friday December 17 2021 7:30 p.m. Grace Cathedral • San Francisco

Additional performance: Sunday December 19 2021 3:00 p.m. Green Music Center • Rohnert Park



americanbach.org/NYE



Back by popular demand, "A Baroque New Year's Eve at the Opera" will usher in the new year within San Francisco's beautiful Herbst Theatre. Start an early night on the town with a delightful program of arias, duets, and instrumental music from Baroque opera and concert, with plenty of time left for more celebrations in the evening or an early return home for a peaceful night. Bring your family and friends to celebrate a New Year full of wonderful music. Liv Redpath is one of the most promising young sopranos on the opera and concert stage today. During the 2021-22 season, she returns to the Metropolitan Opera and will make her debut at Switzerland's Verbier Festival. She has performed with Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, and with Sir Andrew Davis at the Edinburgh International Festival. A long list of engagements include those with The Santa Fe Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Seattle Symphony, Cincinnati Opera, Aspen Music Festival, Scottish Opera, New York Festival of Song, Wolf Trap Opera, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Alex Rosen has quickly risen to international prominence in concert, operatic, and song repertoire. Recent engagements include Haydn's *Creation* with Orchestre National de Metz, Handel's *Radamisto* with Opera Lafayette, and Bach's *Saint John Passion* with Les Arts Florissants and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under the direction of William Christie. He has appeared in Handel's *Messiah* with the Houston Symphony, and has sung the role of Seneca in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with Cincinnati Opera, Polyphemus in Handel's *Acis and Galatea* with Les Arts Florissants, and the dual roles of Somnus/ Cadmus in Handel's *Semele* with Opera Philadelphia.

Together these dynamic and vocally gifted singers will perform beautiful and thrilling excerpts from theatrical works by Handel, Purcell, Rameau, and Vivaldi, along with orchestral works performed by American Bach Soloists conducted by Jeffrey Thomas.

Friday December 31 2021 4:00 p.m. Herbst Theatre • San Francisco



Liv Redpath soprano

"unforgettable delicacy" - Opera West "soaring upper range highlighted with polished crystal notes" - Opera Chaser Alex Rosen bass

"richly resonant" - *The New York Times* "pure-toned grace" - *The Independent* "potent and virile" - *Parterre* 

### **Connoisseur Series**

January through May 2022 brings our annual Subscription concerts.

Known as the "Connoisseur Series," it provides opportunities for our audiences to delve deeper into the amazing repertoire of the Baroque era, offering the anticipation and excitement of works that may be less wellknown than some, but that are spellbinding, enchanting, and powerful in their effectiveness.

This season, three distinctive programs will focus on a wide variety of rarely performed compositions along with a few enduring classics. **Sweet Harmony** presents two demanding works by Bach along with some of Handel's most celebrated music.

**Passion & Joy** offers a unique and almost never performed setting of the Saint Matthew Passion that ABS presented only once before, and it has been remembered to this day with crystal-clear realism by those who heard it 25 years ago.

**Pious & Profane** takes us to early 17th-century Italy to hear bravura vocal works by Monteverdi and stunning compositions for three violins, in one sonata spaced antiphonally throughout the concert hall.

americanbach.org/connoisseur





### Sweet Harmony

Johann Sebastian Bach Missa in A Major Trio Sonata from The Musical Offering

#### **George Frideric Handel**

Water Music Suite in G Major Look Down, Harmonious Saint Concerto Grosso in G Major, Opus 3 No. 3

Bach greatly admired the music of his forebears and was often criticized for his traditionalist approach to composition. Nevertheless, we find in his music many works that were forward-looking and innovative, favoring the rococo and galant styles that were taking hold throughout Europe.

The **Missa in A Major** is a curious amalgam of the traditional and contemporary, featuring a pair of a relatively "new" instrument on the scene, the *flauto traverso*. Bach's explorations into the most up-do-date styles of his era came to monumental fruition in his last works, including **The Musical Offering**, a lofty zenith of Bach's practically scientific application of musical forms that culminates in his most superbly crafted Trio Sonata.

Handel's **Water Music** Suite that features the Baroque flute is paired with his charming **Concerto Grosso in G Major**, another work that brings the sweet-toned traverso front and center. Handel's mellifluous setting of **Look Down, Harmonious Saint**, a paean to harmony by the 18th-century Irish author and poet, Newburgh Hamilton, praises music's ability to "charm the soul, delight the ear, give us hope, and conquer fear."



Yulia Van Doren soprano

Gabrielle Timofeeva López mezzo-soprano



Jacob Perry Jr tenor



Mischa Bouvier bass



Tekla Cunningham violin



Sandra Miller flute

Friday January 21 2022 8:00 p.m. • Belvedere Saturday January 22 2022 7:00 p.m. • Berkeley Sunday January 23 2002 4:00 p.m. • San Francisco Monday January 24 2022 7:00 p.m. • Davis

### Passion & Joy

Johann Sebastian Bach Psalm 115: Der Herr denket an us

**Dieterich Buxtehude** Jesu, meine Freude

Johann Pachelbel Christ lag in Todesbanden

**Johann Theile** Saint Matthew Passion

This program of soulful and moving compositions by four of the German Baroque's most masterful composers begins with a 10-part setting of Christ lag in Todesbanden by Johann Pachelbel. Its seven movements unfold the deep richness of the composer's reflections on the Easter text that Bach would later use for one of his earliest cantatas. And from the pen of one of Bach's favorite composers, Dieterich Buxtehude, comes a bittersweet setting of the famous Eastertide chorale, Jesu, meine Freude, that would have been a great inspiration to Bach when he composed his own motet setting of the same verses several decades later. One of Bach's earliest surviving cantatas, Der Herr denket an uns (Psalm 115: "The Lord is mindful of us") is a joyful celebration of gratitude and blessedness that was probably composed to celebrate the wedding of the minister who had officiated at Bach's marriage to Maria Barbara about a year earlier. The Passion-themed orbit of this program finds its greatest resonance in a truly hypnotic and almost trance-inducing setting of the Saint Matthew Passion by Johann Theile. From its first movement to its last, Theile's music mesmerizes the listener and grippingly captivates that attention until the final note.



Nola Richardson soprano



Elijah McCormack male soprano



Jav Carter



**Curtis Streetman** bass



Mark Bonney

tenor

**Jeffrey Thomas** conductor

Friday March 25 2022 8:00 p.m. • Belvedere Saturday March 26 2022 7:00 p.m. • Berkeley Sunday March 27 2002 4:00 p.m. • San Francisco Monday March 28 2022 7:00 p.m. • Davis

### Pious & Profane

**Claudio Monteverdi** Magnificat a 6 from Vespers of 1610 Beatus vir Madrigals of Love and War Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda

Giovanni Gabrieli • Biagio Marini • Giovanni Legrenzi Sonatas for 3 Violins

Isabella Leonarda Sonata Duodecima

The Early Baroque era of Italian music brought a zenith of dramatic and technical display in the hands of new generations of virtuoso singers and instrumentalists. Composers and performers united in their course of revealing new depths of expression, color, and theatrical effects through music that is immediately thrilling and enthralling.

From the delicate and spatial interplay of three violins in Marini's **Sonata in Ecco** to the full-throated and lovelorn dramatic vocal works of Monteverdi — including two epic narratives from his **Madrigals of Love and War** — this is a program that moves from mystery to magic and from the sacred to the secular.

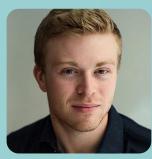
Headliner works are Isabella Leonarda's entrancing Sonata XII, Monteverdi's Magnificat a 6 from the Vespers of 1610, and the same composer's powerfully arresting setting of Torquato Tasso's Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda. An ensemble of evocative ABS artists brings this passionate music to light in a program featuring vocal and violinistic fireworks.





Hélène Brunet soprano

Julie Bosworth soprano



Nicholas Burns countertenor



David McFerrin baritone



William Meinert bass

Friday April 29 2022 8:00 p.m. • Belvedere Saturday April 30 2022 7:00 p.m. • Berkeley Sunday May 1 2002 4:00 p.m. • San Francisco Monday May 2 2022 7:00 p.m. • Davis



# Artist Showcase

The American Bach Soloists are enthusiastically dedicated to the development of new generations of superb musicians. This season we inaugurate the ABS ARTIST SHOWCASE SERIES as a new addition to our robust program of artist support which already includes the ABS Academy and The Jeffrey Thomas Award. This new annual feature of our concert seasons will present rising stars in a full recital program in the beautiful setting of the Green Room above San Francisco's Herbst Theatre. Enjoy wine and cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and an exclusive opportunity to meet and greet the performers.



# Sarah Coit mezzo-soprano with Steven Bailey piano

#### Sunday April 10 2022 3:00 p.m. Presented in The Green Room of the San Francisco War Memorial

At our "A Baroque New Year's Eve at the Opera" concert in 2019, mezzo-soprano Sarah Coit brought the house down with her dazzling performances of arias from Handel's *Giulio Cesare, Riccardo I ré d'Inghilterra, Theodora,* and *Ariodante*. Two months later, she became the recipient of the 2020 Jeffrey Thomas Award, and will be heard in December 2021 in ABS's concerts of Handel's *Messiah* in Grace Cathedral and the Green Music Center.

A prize-winner from the George London Foundation and the Handel Aria Competition, her repertoire ranges from the Baroque to operas including *The Marriage of Figaro* (Cherubino) with Michigan Opera Theatre and *The Barber of Seville* (Rosina) with Utah Opera. An experienced and captivating recital artist, Sarah will present a varied program of some of her favorite works ranging from bravura arias from Baroque opera and musical drama — including Handel's *Ariodante* and *Hercules*, Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and Vivaldi's *Juditha Triumphans* — to the deeply moving song cycle by Dominick Argento, *From the Diary of Virginia Woolf*.

americanbach.org/showcase

## **ABS** Exclusives

"ABS Exclusives" are opportunities for patrons to meet, greet, and hear ABS musicians in up-close-andpersonal house concert events.

Limited to 25 seats or less on each date, "ABS Exclusives" include a concert, hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of wine.

Following the concert, audience members have an opportunity to visit one-on-one with the musicians.

ABS Exclusives are important fundraising opportunities that support all the programs at ABS.

Support ABS and enjoy one-ofa-kind events with some of our audience's favorite artists performing a wide range of repertoire.



Tatiana Chulochnikova violin with Corey Jamason harpsichord

Sunday January 16 2022 3:00 p.m. Presented at the San Francisco home of Tom Driscoll & Nancy Quinn

A favorite of ABS's Bay Area audiences, violinist Tatiana Chulochnikova has been praised by the press for her "fiercely pointed" (San Francisco Chronicle) and "fine performances" (The Washington Post), and "thrilling technique and bravura style" (San Francisco Classical Voice). Coupled with the hilltop views of this Saint Francis Woods home, you'll be treated to a recital of Bach, Tartini, and Telemann, accompanied by plenty of hors d'oeuvres and a sampling of priceless wines from one of the most spectacular wine cellars in San Francisco.

americanbach.org/exclusives



Tekla Cunningham violin with Corey Jamason harpsichord

**Sunday February 6 2022 3:00 p.m.** Presented at the San Francisco home of Elizabeth Bonney

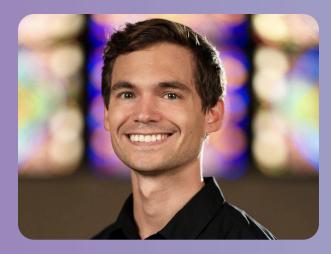
ABS principal violinist Tekla Cunningham — whose playing has been described as "ravishingly beautiful" and "stellar" — will be joined by ABS harpsichordist Corey Jamason in a program of works composed by renowned Dresden composers Pisendel and Veracini, who were famously competitive. The city was also the stage of another notorious duel between harpsichordists Bach and Marchand, who fled the scene rather than face Bach's keyboard genius. Works by all four composers will be performed.



Jesse Blumberg baritone with Steven Bailey piano

**Sunday February 20 2022 3:00 p.m.** Presented at the Orinda home of Jose & Carol Alonso

A favorite of ABS audiences for his performances of Handel's *Messiah* in Grace Cathedral and Bach's Passions, Jesse Blumberg's "focused baritone is perfect for German lieder, with its finely honed, luminous timbres" (*Washington Post*). Acclaimed for his "golden tone" by *The New York Times*, he will present Robert Schumann's *Liederkreis* cycle on nine poems by Heinrich Heine along with a selection of songs by one of the first American composers of international renown, Charles Ives.



#### Gabriel Benton harpsichord

Sunday March 13 2022 3:00 p.m.

Presented at the Mill Valley home of Kwei & Michele Ü

Gabriel Benton enjoys a multifaceted career as a harpsichordist, organist, accompanist, and teacher. He began his relationship with ABS at the 2015 Academy, and since then he has joined ABS on several occasions, including performances of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion*, two recording projects, and as a soloist in Bach's Triple Concerto in A Minor. A featured artist in ABS's recent Connoisseur Series Online Edition films, Gabe will perform works by J. S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, and German composers Heinrich Scheidemann and Georg Böhm.



YuEun Gemma Kim violin and Friends

Sunday June 5 2022 3:00 p.m. Presented at the Belvedere-Tiburon home of Jan Goldberg & Ken Hoffman

Through her breathtaking performances in the recent ABS video, "The Premier Century of the Baroque," and her show-stopping appearances at the 2021 American Bach Soloists Summer Festival, YuEun Gemma Kim has become an instant favorite among ABS audience members. Gemma will present an exclusive private performance under the shade of beautiful garden trees, accompanied by two ABS colleagues. This outdoor musicale will make a beautiful beginning of the summer season.

## Learn More About the Music

### Pre-Concert "Insights"

One hour prior to our "Connoisseur Series" performances, ticket holders can enjoy a free and informative lecture given by musicologist and ABS violone player, **Steven Lehning**, an accomplished scholar whose knowledge about Baroque music is consummate. Always a favorite speaker among ABS audience members, he will share his broad and eclectic expertise about the music during these 45-minute talks that include musical examples. And solo artists from each concert will drop by to welcome you with their own insights into the program. Arrive early for the concert to prepare for an enlightened concert experience.

Sweet Harmony • January 21–24 2022 Passion & Joy • March 25–28 2022 Pious & Profane • April 29–May 2 2022

#### **ABS Master Classes**

When talented young performers and ABS mentor/musicians share their experiences and thoughtful insights about effective performance techniques in Master Classes, the results are tremendously exciting artistic transformations. American Bach Soloists will present two Public Master Classes at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music during the 2021–2022 season.

Jeffrey Thomas conductor Monday November 1 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Sandra Miller flute Tuesday January 25 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak Street at Van Ness



Steven Lehning, Pre-Concert lecturer



Jeffrey Thomas coaching Academy Participants



Sandra Miller, Baroque flautist

## **Concert Venues**

#### SAN FRANCISCO

Saint Mark's Church 1111 O'Farrell Street

Grace Cathedral 1100 California Street

Herbst Theatre & Green Room 401 Van Ness Avenue

#### BERKELEY

First Church (formerly First Congregational Church) 2345 Channing Way

#### **BELVEDERE**

Saint Stephen's Church 3 Bayview Avenue

#### DAVIS

Davis Community Church 412 C Street

For more venue information, including seating diagrams, maps, and directions, please visit americanbach.org/venues.

All seats are reserved except Section E in Grace Cathedral.

Section C in Saint Stephen's Church (Belvedere) includes seats with partially obstructed views.

All sales are final.

Programs, artists, and venues are subject to change.

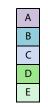
American Bach Soloists are Artists-in-Residence at Saint Stephen's Church, Belvedere.

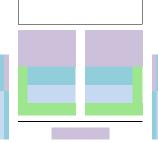
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Sections





Saint Mark's Church San Francisco



Berkeley



Grace Cathedral

San Francisco

Belvedere

**Davis Community Church** Davis

For seating maps of Herbst Theatre and The Green Room, go to: americanbach.org/cbo

## How to Order Tickets

- Handel's Messiah in Grace Cathedral
- A Baroque Christmas
- Connoisseur Series
- ABS Exclusives

Order Online: **americanbach.org/tickets** Order by Phone: (800)-595-4TIX (-4849)

- A Baroque New Year's Eve at the Opera
- ABS Artist Showcase

Tickets for these events are available only through City Box Office

Order Online: **americanbach.org/cbo** Order by Phone: (415) 392-4400

Free Tickets for K-12 Music Educators: Please visit **americanbach.org/educators**.

Student Discounts (25 and under with Valid Student ID) are available for Connoisseur Series performances by calling (415) 621-7900.

#### Subscribe

### Discounted subscriptions are available for Connoisseur Series concerts.

As an ABS Subscriber you receive ...

- Great Seats: Subscribers are guaranteed the best seats in the house, year after year!
- Financial Savings: Subscribers receive an average discount of 15% off individual ticket prices. And you'll never pay a handling charge, all season long.
- Free Ticket Exchange and Replacement: Plans sometimes change. Only subscribers can exchange their tickets for another concert date and location or turn in their unusable tickets before performance date as a tax-deductible donation to ABS.
- Exclusive Perks: VIP priority is available to subscribers for help with special needs or requests. And subscribers receive advance ordering privileges for all concerts before general public sales.

Call us at (415) 621-7900 to order your Connoisseur Series Subscriptions.

Or order online: americanbach.org/subscribe

Discounted prices for "Handel's Messiah in Grace Cathedral" are available to Subscribers only by calling (415) 621-7900.

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# Rising Up. Together.

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2021-2022 33rd Season