

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

MCINTIRE DEPARTMENT of **music**

presents

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
**CHAMBER
SINGERS**
CONDUCTED BY MICHAEL SLON

Fall Concert 2022

Music for St. Cecilia

with special guest

Three Notch'd Road

Sunday, November 20, 2022

8:00 pm

Old Cabell Hall

Program

O Ignee Spiritus

Hildegard von Bingen

A Hymn for St. Cecilia

Herbert Howells
(text by Ursula Vaughan Williams)

Welcome to All the Pleasures

(Ode for St. Cecilia's Day, 1683)

Henry Purcell
(text by Christopher Fishburn)

I. Symphony

II. Verse, chorus & ritornello: Welcome to all the Pleasures

III. Song & ritornello: Here the deities approve

IV. Verse & ritornello: While joys celestial their bright souls invade

V. Song & chorus, verse & chorus: Then lift up your voices

VI. Instrumental interlude

VII. Song & ritornello: Beauty, thou scene of love

VIII. Song & chorus: In a consort of voices while instruments play

Soloists: James Atkins, Rachel Bohannon, Amanda Hellwig,
Miles Jackson, Jack Kehoe, Ryan Poquis, Ethan Sheffield, & Jack Siegel

Hymn to St. Cecilia

Benjamin Britten
(text by W.H. Auden)

Soloists: Margaret Berberian, Miles Jackson,
Jack Kehoe, & Hunter McGuire

From Harmony, from Heav'nly Harmony

(Chorus from *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*)

G.F. Handel
(text by John Dryden)

Let Beauty be our Memorial

(Written for a St. Cecilia day concert)

J.A.C. Redford

*A special piece of reflection may also be added to the program in light of recent events

UVA Chamber Singers

Michael Slon, Director

Deke Polifka, Accompanist

Karen Dalton, Choral Administrator

Rachel Bohannon & Miles Jackson, Student Managers

Sopranos

Margaret Berberian
Rachel Bohannon
Rosalie Daval
Ally Harbourt
Amanda Hellwig
Evaline Mitchell
Christine Schueckler
Andrea Tache Lopez

Altos

Bethany Bazemore
Audrey Blanchard
Amanda Kopf
Maddy Martin
Abigail Ronsonet
Zoe Tekeian
Holly Teti
Abby Uveges
Megan Vandre

Tenors

Miles Jackson
Jack Kehoe
Zubin Kaul
Patrick Kilgannon
Matt Lyons
Ryan Poquis
Brendan Shea
Ethan Sheffield

Basses

Andrew Alexis
Anthony Asuncion
Brian Christner
Kevin Duan
Andy Heil
Nathan Hershberger
Hunter McGuiire
Harrison Monahan
Jack Siegel

UVA Chamber Singers

The UVA Chamber Singers is a select ensemble drawn from the University Singers (UVA's flagship chorus), and committed to broad programming perspectives, performs a wide variety of repertoire ranging from early music to contemporary compositions. In addition to a performance for the Governor and other distinguished guests at UVA's 2017 Bicentennial Celebration, performances have included Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* (with Three Notch'd Road Baroque ensemble), programs of Latin American choral music, choral music from film and Broadway, and new music by Meredith Monk (with the Meredith Monk Vocal Ensemble.) Other collaborations include concerts with the Staunton Music Festival, Victory Hall Opera (in a pioneering presentation of Poulenc opera scenes with deaf actors), the Charlottesville Chamber Music Festival, and a 2022 presentation of *Defiant Requiem* (honoring the prisoners at Terezin who performed the *Verdi Requiem*) at the Strathmore Music Center with five other universities. They've sung in workshop with UVA Chamber Singers Peter Phillips and members of the Tallis Scholars, and in 2014, were honored to perform for composer Philip Glass. They've also been heard in major works, at VMEA, and on tour in the U.S. and Europe with the University Singers. Founded in 2005, the ensemble is led by Michael Slon, Professor and Director of Choral Music at UVA.

Auditions: held at the beginning of each semester

For more information visit: <http://music.virginia.edu/chamber-singers>

To make a gift: <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/21729/donations/new> or write the ensemble at: university-singers@virginia.edu or use the below QR code



Michael Slon



Active as a conductor of choral, orchestral, and operatic/musical theatre repertoire, Michael Slon is Director of Choral Music and Professor at the University of Virginia, where he leads the University Singers, UVA Chamber Singers and also guest conducts the Charlottesville Symphony. Having led the University Singers and Charlottesville Symphony in a gala performance for UVA's 2017 Bicentennial Lanch Celebration (which included Copland's *Appalachian Spring* with the Martha Graham Dance Company), he and the Singers presented theregional premiere of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* at UVA in 2018. His UVA ensembles have also performed for composer Philip Glass and the creators of *Les Misérables*, taken a two-week European concert tour, and received more than half a million views on social media platforms. During the pandemic, he has likewise remained committed both to the fundamental values of the choral art, and to developing new platforms to engage singers and audiences, including the 2020 virtual Family Holiday Concert, and master classes with distinguished artists including Alice Parker, Jake Runestad, and Eric Whitacre.

Since 2011, he has also served as Music Director of the Oratorio Society of Virginia. In that time, he has created a series of new artistic partnerships with the chorus, including a 2014 semi-staged production of Bernstein's *Candide* with Ash Lawn (now Charlottesville) Opera, performances with regional orchestras and youth choruses, an Adolphus Hailstork-Rita Dove commission for the group's 50th anniversary (later featured on regional PBS), and a Community Sing-In to benefit local charities. He has also participated regionally as an artist with the Heritage Theatre Festival, Charlottesville Chamber Music Festival, Staunton Music Festival and Wintergreen Performing Arts Festival, and as a musician committed to the education of young musicians, remains active as a guest conductor for honors choirs and orchestras.

Prior to UVA, he served as visiting conducting faculty at the Oberlin Conservatory, and assistant conductor of the Cornell University choruses and Cincinnati's May Festival Chorus, where he prepared and co-prepared choruses for concerts with the Cleveland Orchestra and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. His ensembles have worked with artists including Moses Hogan,

Bobby McFerrin, Meredith Monk, Peter Phillips, and Franz Welser-Möst, and commissioned composers including Stephen Paulus, Forrest Pierce, Adolphus Hailstork, Eric Whitacre, and Judith Shatin. Also a pianist, composer, and writer, he holds degrees from the Indiana University School of Music and Cornell University. His first book, *Songs from the Hill*, has been cited in a variety of other publications, and his work on Leonard Bernstein has recently appeared in the *Choral Journal* and also won the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Julius Herford Prize. As a composer, he has had work presented by the Vocalis Chamber Choir in concert at NYC's Merkin Hall, and at the 2018 ACDA Eastern Convention.

Deke Prolifka



Deke Polifka is Director of Music at St. Paul's Memorial Church (Episcopal) on The Corner, where his duties include directing choirs for children and adults, serving as principal organist, and overseeing all aspects of the parish's music. Deke accompanies the University Singers and Chamber Choir at UVA, and has enjoyed recent collaborations

with The Oratorio Society of Virginia and The Virginia Consort. Previously, Deke served for eleven years as Organist and Choirmaster at Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, and was Assistant Conductor and accompanist for The Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble.

An active performer, he has presented organ recitals in venues such as the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and has appeared with orchestra for performances of Barber's *Toccata Festiva*, the Poulenc *Concerto* and organ symphonies by Widor and Guilmant. Deke holds degrees in piano performance from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and earned an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance from The University of Denver. In 2013, he spent a summer sabbatical in France, playing many of the significant instruments in and around Paris and studying French organ repertoire with Marie-Louise Langlais. Deke is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists (AAGO) and has served in various leadership positions for that organization. He and his wife Joyce have three children and very much like spending time outdoors, cooking, and making music together.

Three Notch'd Road: The Virginia Baroque Ensemble

Fiona Hughes, *baroque violin*

Sophie Geneviève Lowe, *baroque violin*

Brian Shoop, *baroque viola*

Ryan Lowe, *baroque cello*

Named for a colonial route through central Virginia, Three Notch'd Road: The Virginia Baroque Ensemble specializes in the performance of historical repertoires from both sides of the Atlantic. Their musicianship is founded on a vigorous historical approach, offering little-known music of the baroque as well as incisive performances of well-known favorites. In addition to their subscription series, Three Notch'd Road musicians perform in schools throughout central Virginia.

Three Notch'd Road has appeared at the Garth Newel Music Center Concert Series, Waterford Concert Series, the Ewell Concert Series at the College of William & Mary, Shenandoah University's Bach-Handel Festival, the Boston Early Music Festival Fringe Concert Series, and the Tuesday Concert Series at Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C. They have collaborated twice previously with the University of Virginia Chamber Singers under the direction of Michael Slon. In 2016, Three Notch'd Road was featured on the prestigious Music at Dumbarton Oaks concert series, and in 2013, they presented the music of Salamone Rossi at the Italian Embassy (both in Washington, DC).

Upcoming Choral Events

Family Holiday Concerts

With the Charlottesville Symphony and UVA University Singers
Saturday, December 3, 8:00 pm & Sunday December 4, 3:30 pm,
Old Cabell Hall

Messiah Sing-In

Tuesday, December 6, 8:00 pm
Old Cabell Hall

For tickets, visit:

<https://artsboxoffice.virginia.edu/> | (434) 924-3376

For more information about any of our events visit

music.virginia.edu/events,

or subscribe to our weekly music e-mail at music.virginia.edu/subscribe,
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