

Monteverdi and the Glory of Venice

David Fallis, conductor
Charles Daniels, tenor
University of Toronto Schola Cantorum
Choristers from the Theatre of Early Music

Sunday, March 10, 2019 7:30 pm Trinity College Chapel, 6 Hoskin Avenue

The Historical Performance area concerts are made possible in part by a generous gift from Ethel Harris.

This concert made possible in part by a generous gift from Jean Patterson Edwards.

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

PROGRAM

Monteverdi and the Glory of Venice

O Jesu mea vita

Dixit Dominus

Kayla Ruiz, Emily Zixin Wang, Sinéad White, Annie Bird, Ian Sabourin, Arieh Sacke, Nick Veltmeyer, Jonathan Wong, Wes Hui, *soloists*

Christe adoramus te

Cantate Domino

Laudate Dominum

Charles Daniels, soloist

Sanctus & Agnus Dei from Messa a quattro voci

Beatus vir

Intermission

Si ch'io vorrei morire

Kayla Ruiz, Rachel Allen, Ian Sabourin, Arieh Sacke, Wes Hui, soloists

Zefiro torna e'l bel tempo rimena

Zefiro torna e di soavi accenti

Charles Daniels, Nick Veltmeyer, soloists

Act I and final scene from Orfeo

Pastore II: Josh Clemenger

Pastor I: Arieh Sacke Ninfa: Rachel Allen

Euridice: Loren Graziano Orfeo: Charles Daniels

Pastore III: Ryan McDonald & Ian Sabourin

Pastore IV: David Walsh Pastore V: Matthew Li Apollo: Nick Veltmeyer

ARTISTS

David Fallis, conductor

SCHOLA CANTORUM

Sopranos:

Rachel Allen

Saige Carlson

Alex Caroll

Anna Julia David

Loren Graziano

Roanna Kitchen

Michaela O'Connor

Nikki Puchkov

Kavla Ruiz

Nevalea Tkachuk

Emily Wang

Sinéad White

Altos:

Annie Bird

Rina Khan

Ryan McDonald

Danielle Nicholson

Kurtis Ny

Ian Sabourin

Erica Simone

Tenors:

Josh Clemenger

Arieh Sacke

Jacob Thomas

Nick Veltmeyer

David Walsh

Basses:

Alex Halliday

Wesley Hui

Adam Kuiak

Matthew Li

Jonathan Wong

Burak Yamen

CHORISTERS FROM THE THEATRE OF EARLY MUSIC

Sopranos:

Lindsay McIntyre

Carrie Loring

Altos:

Daniel Taylor

Peter Mahon

Simon Honeyman

Bass:

Keith I am

ORCHESTRA

Jeanne Lamon, violin I

Kailey Richards, violin II

Matthew Antal, viola I

Jimin Shin, viola II

Felix Deak, viola da gamba

Joel Tangjerd, cello

Juliane Bruckmann. violone

Chris Bagan, organ

Adrian Ross, harpsichord

Lousie Hung, harpsichord

Lucas Harris. theorbo

Jonathan Stuchbery, theorbo

BIOGRAPHIES



Photo credit: Paul Orenstein

David Fallis

David Fallis is a Canadian conductor and music director renowned for his work in both early and contemporary music. He has conducted for the Royal Opera House in Versailles, the Luminato Festival, the Glimmeralass Festival, the Singapore Festival, Festival Vancouver. Houston Grand Opera, the Seoul Arts Centre, Cleveland Opera, Wolftrap Theater, Utah Opera, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Nova Scotia, and in major opera houses in Japan. As Music Director of Toronto's Opera Atelier he has led critically-acclaimed productions of operas by Mozart, Handel, Rameau, Weber, Lully and Monteverdi in Toronto, France, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and the United States. From 1990-2018 he was Artistic Director of the Toronto Consort. Canada's leading chamber group specializing in the music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. With the Consort he toured extensively in Canada, the US and Europe, and led the ensemble in their numerous recordings. He directs Soundtreams Choir 21.

a vocal ensemble specializing in contemporary choral music. He has recently accepted a two-year appointment as conductor of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and this season he directs the MacMillan Singers at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto.

For the Luminato Festival in Toronto, he conducted Murray Schafer's music-theatre epic *Apocalypsis* at the Sony Centre in 2015, and was the Music Director for the world premiere of R. Murray Schafer's *The Children's Crusade*, also at the Luminato Festival. He has been the historical music producer for two acclaimed TV series, *The Tudors* and *The Borgias*. He lives in Toronto with his wife Alison Mackay.



Photo credit: Annelies van der Vegt

Charles Daniels

The tenor Charles Daniels is best known as an interpreter of Baroque music, but his narrative gifts have been praised for music as diverse as Machaut Virelais from the 1360s and Graham Treacher's *Divine Madness* (2016). He was born in Salisbury and studied at King's College Cambridge and under Edward Brooks at the Royal College of Music.

His extensive discography includes Bach's *Matthäus-Passion* with the Bach-Stiftung, Monteverdi *L'Orfeo* with Andrew Parrott, Handel *Messiah* and Schütz' *Christmas Story* with the Gabrieli Consort, Wojciech Kilar's *Missa Pro Pace* with the Warsaw Philharmonic, much Purcell and Bach, and more intimate discs such as Senfl *Tenorlied* with Fretwork, *Heracleitus* with the Bridge Quartet, Lambert airs with Fred Jacobs.

Recent concert appearances include Lawes songs with Les Voix Humaines in Utrecht, St Matthew Passion semi-staged in the York Early Music Festival, Handel Chandos Anthems in their original setting of the Canons Estate church, domestic music of Bach for the Nederlandse Bach Vereniging, previously unheard Vivaldi in Venice with La Serenissima and the Academy of Ancient Music's radical look at Purcell King Arthur.

He is delighted to collaborate frequently with Canadian musicians and besides these concerts, future projects include the St Matthew Passion in Halifax N.S. and a tour of an ornithologically themed programme with Les Voix Humaines.

Charles' completion of Purcell's Ode *Arise my Muse* was performed in Montreal in 2009 and his reconstructions of Gesualdo's *Sacrae Cantiones* à6 have been performed in Amsterdam's Muziekgebouw. He is married with two daughters and is an avid cyclist.

PROGRAM NOTE

The Glory of Monteverdi

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) is rightly considered one of the most influential and innovative composers of all time. Born in the late Renaissance, he was at the forefront of the dramatic musical changes that ushered in the Baroque era of music. He was equally at home in the worlds of sacred music, chamber music (especially vocal chamber music) and theatre music of all kinds: opera, ballet and intermezzo. Tonight's program has been chosen to reflect some of this incredible variety.

We begin each half with related pieces. O Jesu mea vita is a sacred contrafactum made with Monteverdi's blessing of his erotic madrigal Si ch'io vorrei morire. Following O Jesu mea vita, two of his larger psalm settings, both of which would have been used in Vespers services at San Marco in Venice, frame the remainder of the first half, replete with dramatic effects, solo voices and instrumental accompaniment. The first half, all sacred, also includes some of his shorter motets, and two movements from the serene Messa a quatro voci, which shows he could write in renaissance style with equal ease and beauty.

In the second half, all secular, we present another of two his madrigals with the theme of "spring is here, why doesn't my heart go dancing?", including the famous duet *Zefiro torna*,

which created a fascination with the ground bass known as the ciaccona that would last for over a hundred years. (Even Mozart writes pieces called ciaccona!) And no evening of Monteverdi's music would be complete without something from his extraordinary operas. We present the first Act and final scene from *Orfeo*, written in 1607, but as fresh and daring today as it was then.

David Fallis

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