Our 37th Season 2022–2023

Sponsors

Please see our full list of donors and supporters on our digital programs.

This performance funded in part by a grant from the Boulder Arts Commission, an agency of the Boulder City Council.

Three performsances:

Reflections
Explore the powerful movement and vibration of sound, featuring a cluster of early and contemporary works that explore rich, multi-voice choral textures. An eclectic, uniquely Ars Nova program, with a cappella music by William Byrd, Gustav Mahler, Howard Skempton, Eric Whitacre, Bill Douglas, and more.

The song speaks to us. It says: “Stop. Stop with what you are doing, stop thinking, be still for a while, and just be.” We are not created for endless worry and struggle. Remember who you are. We are born from the stars, not from downtrodden earth. We are the light that shines through us.

Thursday, April 13 – Sacred Heart Cathedral, Pueblo
Friday, April 14 – Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque
Saturday, April 15 – New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe
Friday, April 21 – First Church, Boulder
Saturday, April 22 – Bethany Lutheran Church, Denver
Saturday, June 3 – The Tank Center for Sonic Arts, Rangeley

Ascent
A Boulder Soundwalk
FREE at Scott Carpenter Park, Boulder.

This active and immersive nature concert invites listeners to move with the music as they explore a sonic landscape on a self-guided soundwalk in Boulder’s Scott Carpenter Park. Discover vibrant musical experiences as you venture throughout the park. Bring your sense of curiosity and adventure—along with some good walking shoes!

Composed by Devas Maus featuring Ars Nova Singers, conducted by Tom Morgan.

All ages and mobility levels welcome!
March 18 – September 4

Upcoming Performances
Information on our website, www.arsnovasingers.org

Ars Nova Singers present

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – Choral Dances

Haeck Dies
William Byrd
(1343–1623)

Choral Dances from Gloriae
Benjamin Britten
(1913–1976)

1. Time
2. Concord
3. Time and Concord
4. Country Girls
5. Rustics and Fishermen
6. Final Dance of Homage

Straighten Up and Fly Right
NAT ‘KING’ COLE, arr. Jim Cunnnings
(1919–1965)

Cheek to Cheek
Irving Berlin, arr. Jim Cunnings
(1888–1989)

Bogoroditse Devo
Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873–1943)

Let My Love Be Heard
Jake Runestad
(1956)

Calling
Paul Fowler
(1978)

All Sky (from Songs from the Japanese)
Steinher Paulus
(1949–2011)

Caledonia
Doug Maclean, arr. Blake Morgan
(1954)

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The 2023 Grammy-nominated British vocal ensemble VOCES8 is proud to inspire people through music and share the joy of singing. Touring globally, the group performs an extensive repertory both in its a cappella concerts and in collaborations with leading musicians, orchestras, conductors and soloists. Versatility and a celebration of diverse musical expression are central to the ensemble’s performance and educational ethos which is shared both online and in person.

VOCES8 has performed at many notable venues since its inception in 2005 including Wigmore Hall, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Cité de la Musique Paris, Vienna Konzerthaus, Tokyo Opera City, NCPA Beijing, Sydney Opera House, Marinsky Theatre Concert Hall, Victoria Concert Hall Singapore, Palacio de Bellas Artes Mexico City amongst many others. This season they perform over 100 concerts in the UK and across Europe and visit the USA for 3 major tours.

VOCES8’s entrepreneurial and community spirit and its innovative approach are fostered by Co-Founders Paul and Barnaby Smith. The Covid-19 pandemic gave the impetus for VOCES8 to further transform its already exceptional offerings, nurturing a new audience community providing hope, resilience and a chance to engage with classical music in new ways. Pioneering initiatives included the LIVE From London online festival and the VOCES8 Digital Academy. LIVE From London was created as a specific response to the pandemic. Winning praise for its collaborative approach from artists, press and audiences around the world, the team has delivered seven digital festivals to date, broadcasting 90 concerts and selling 150,000 tickets in over 75 countries. The VOCES8 Digital Academy is an online choral programme for high schools, colleges and individuals featuring live interaction with members of the ensemble, live and recorded lectures, and video resources to learn and perform music from the Renaissance to today.

Alongside this online work on its own platforms VOCES8 is heard regularly on albums, international television and radio. The ensemble is a Decca Classics artist and alongside that releases projects on its own label, VOCES8 Records. The latest Decca Classics album is the Grammy-nominated The Lost Birds featuring music by Christopher Tin. New album projects for 2023 include albums with Eric Whitacre, Paul Simon, and Christmas arrangements for VOCES8 and orchestra by Taylor Scott Davis.

VOCES8 is passionate about music education and is the flagship ensemble of the music charity The VOCES8 Foundation, which actively promotes “Music Education For All.” Engaging in a broad range of outreach work that reaches up to 40,000 people a year, the Foundation runs an annual programme of workshops and masterclasses at the VOCES8 Centre at St Anne’s & St Agnes Church, London. Dedicated to supporting promising young singers, the group awards eight annual choral scholarships through the VOCES8 Scholars initiative. These scholarships are linked to the annual Milton Abbey Summer School at which amateur singers of all ages are invited to work and perform with VOCES8. Through the separate VOCES8 USA Foundation there is another set of twelve talented Scholars.

VOCES8 is proud to be working with Roxanna Panufnik as the group’s Composer-in-Residence, and Jim Clements as Arranger-in-Residence. The ensemble has premieres commissions from Jonathan Dove, Roxanna Panufnik, Roderick Williams, Paul Smith, Jocelyn Hennessy, Melissa Dunphy, Ken Williams, Taylor Scott Davis, Alexander Levine, Alex Ioannou, Alc Roth, Ben Parry, Oli Gjelde, Mårten Jansson, Philip Stopford, Graham Lack, Thomas Hewitt Jones and Owan Park. As ambassadors for Edition Peters the ensemble publishes educational material including the VOCES8 Method. Developed by Paul Smith, this renowned and unique teaching tool is available in four languages and adapts music to enhance development in numeracy, literacy and linguistics. Also available are anthologies of its arrangements, and an ever-expanding VOCES8 Singles range. General Management of VOCES8 is provided by Robin Tyson at Edition Peters Artist Management. Exclusive North American Booking Representation is provided by Opus 3 Artists. www.voces8.com

“The singing of VOCES8 is impeccable in its quality of tone and balance. They bring a new dimension to the word ‘ensemble’ with meticulous timing and tuning.” – Gramophone

“A perfect blend of calm contentment and soaring spirit.” – The Independent

“Eight beautifully integrated solo voices… persuasive and committed singing.” – BBC Music Magazine Choral and Song Choice

Ars Nova Singers is an auditioned vocal ensemble specializing in a cappella music of the Renaissance and the 20th/21st centuries. Since its founding in 1986, this Denver Metro Area icon has been recognized as one of the nation’s most intrepid professional choirs, bringing together 40 gifted vocalists to tackle challenging works that stretch the boundaries of sound and spirit.

Recent projects include the world premiere of Love Songs from Lonely Letters by Joel Thompson (a consortium commission, February 2023); Made Real, featuring the Colorado premiere of Door Out of the Fire by Christopher Theophanidis, with guitarist Nicolò Spira (June 2022); Made Fragile, featuring music by Reena Esmail and GabrielFaure (April 2022); Wonder, featuring the late madrigals of Carlo Gesualdo (November 2022); and several creative pandemic-inspired video projects including one featuring Ars Nova’s performance of Will Todd’s jazz-infused Mass in Blue.

Past programming highlights include two productions in Boulder’s Fiske Planetarium and two collaborations with Frequent Flyers Aerial Dance Company. Other memorable collaborators include legendary jazz percussionist Jerry Granelli; internationally acclaimed violinist Edward Draszbetere; the Colorado Saxophone Quartet; the renowned Kronsos Quartet, 3rd Law Dance/Theatre company, Boulder Philharmonic; Colorado Music Festival; and Colorado Mahlerfest.

Ars Nova Singers has commissioned dozens of works in its history, and participated in consortium commissioning projects with composers such as Stephen Paulus, Steven Stucky, and Joel Thompson. The ensemble has produced seven Colorado Composer Competitions, inspiring the creation of new choral music by Colorado composers. Winning composers have ranged from a 3rd grade student in Boulder Valley Schoolsto high school students from across the state to professional composers. In 2016 and 2019 (and scheduled for 2024), Ars Nova has presented Shared Visions, an interdisciplinary project bringing together Colorado visual artists, poets, and composers, building a community of artistic inspiration and cultivating in a performance of new choral music.

Ars Nova Singers has been heard in radio broadcasts throughout the world, including such National Public Radio programs as Performance Today, The First Art, Music from the Hearts of Space, and locally on Colorado Spotlight and Colorado Matters. Ars Nova has released ten independent recordings on compact disc and performed on seven internationally released recordings with Boulder composer and instrumentalist Bill Douglass. www.arsnovasingers.org