

# Ars Nova

## SINGERS

Our 38<sup>th</sup> Season  
2023-2024

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We extend our thanks  
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Please silence your cell phones.

Kindly note that no video  
recording, audio recording, or  
photography is permitted.  
Program subject to change.

# EVERGREEN



### PROGRAM

O frondens virga	Hildegard of Bingen
Nowell! Dieu vous garde / Ecce quod natura	Anon, 15 <sup>th</sup> c. English carols
In dulci jubilo (à 8)	Hieronymus Praetorius
O magnum mysterium	William Byrd
Serenity (O magnum mysterium)	Ola Gjeilo
Capriccio No. 1	Joseph Dall'Abaco
Caminante	Andrea Casarrubios
Solstice	Taylor Scott Davis

### INTERMISSION

Rivers of Light	Eriks Ešenvalds
Mother's Song	Jocelyn Hagen
The Sun Never Says	Dan Forrest
Julie-O	Mark Summer
The Little Road to Bethlehem	Michael Head
Sleigh Ride	Leroy Anderson, arr. Alexander L'Estrange
Walking in the Air (from <i>The Snowman</i> )	Howard Blake, arr. Joanna Forbes
Silver Bells (WORLD PREMIERE)	Livingston and Evans, arr. Tom Morgan
Deck the Halls	Traditional, arr. James McKelvy

Charles Lee, *cello*

Tom Morgan, *Artistic Director and Conductor*  
Elizabeth Swanson, *Associate Conductor*  
Kimberly Brody, *Executive Director*

[www.arsnovasingers.org](http://www.arsnovasingers.org)



# Ars Nova Singers

Tom Morgan, *Artistic Director and Conductor*

Elizabeth Swanson, *Associate Conductor*

Kimberly Brody, *Executive Director*

## Soprano

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Zoe Myers\*  
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Karen Ramirez  
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Brant Foote  
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Eric Pahlke  
Don Wilson  
Steve Winograd  
Joshua Young

\* *High School Apprentice*

<sup>1</sup> Ensemble for Davis, *Solstice* and *L'Estrange, Sleigh Ride*

**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 a performance at The Tank Center for Sonic Arts in Rangely, Colorado (June 2023; selections viewable on our YouTube channel); presenting and performing with VOICES8 (March 2023); 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 Spera (June 2022); *Made Fragile*, featuring music by Reena Esmail and Gabriel Fauré (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 Dusingher; the Colorado Saxophone Quartet; the renowned Kronos 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. In 2016, 2019, and coming up in 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 culminating 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 Douglas.



## Guest Artist



**Dr. Charles C. Lee** is a cellist, conductor, and teacher. He received his Bachelor's degree in composition and piano from the Eastman School of Music, where he won the Bernard Rogers composition award, and received his Master's degree in cello performance at Temple University under Jeffrey Solow. He then moved to Boulder to join the graduate quartet program at the University of Colorado, where he received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 2004.

Dr. Lee has been principal cellist of the Boulder Philharmonic since 1998 and co-principal cellist of the Colorado Ballet orchestra since 2002, and joined the Opera Colorado orchestra in 2011. In addition to actively performing in the region as a chamber musician and soloist, he is a sought-after teacher. Dr. Lee is on the faculty at Metro State University of Denver as instructor of cello; he is also on the faculty of Regis University where he serves as director of the string orchestra and chamber music programs and teaches applied cello. His private studio continues to produce leading young cellists and his current and former students can be found in prestigious youth orchestras in the region as well as nationally recognized professional ensembles.



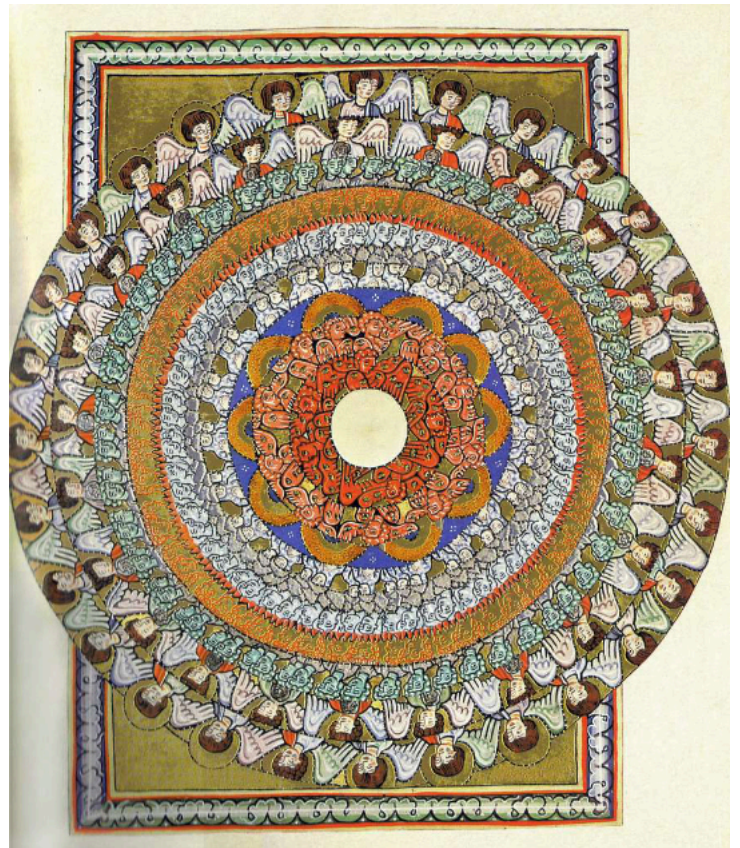
# Program Texts and Translations

## HILDEGARD, *O frondens virga* (Szilvia Schranz, soprano)

*O frondens virga, in tua nobilitate stans  
sicut aurora procedit: nunc gaude et letare  
et nos debiles dignare  
a mala consuetudine liberare  
atque manum tuam porrige ad erigendum nos.*

Oh blossoming bough, standing in all your nobility  
Just as the morning awakens:  
so now rejoice and be glad,  
And though we are frail deem us worthy,  
Keep us from falling into habitual wickedness  
And also extend your hand to help us stand upright.

*Illuminated medieval manuscript page  
from one of Hildegard's books.  
Public domain image.*



## Anon, 15thc. English carol, *Nowell! Dieu vous garde*

“Nowell, nowell!” Who is there that singeth so, nowell?  
“I am here, Sire Christësmas.”  
Welcome, my lord Sire Christëmas!  
Welcome to all, both more and less! Come near, nowell!

*Dieu vous garde, beau sire, (God keep you, good sir)  
Tidings I you bring: A maid hath borne a child full young,  
The which causeth you for to sing: Nowell, nowell.*

Christ is now born of a pure maid,  
In an ox-stall he is laid,  
Wherefore sing we all at a-braide: *Nowell, nowell.*

*Buvez bien par toute la compagnie (Drinks for everyone!)  
Make good cheer and be right merry,  
And sing with us now joyfully: Nowell, nowell!*

## Anon, 15thc. English carol, *Ecce, quod natura*

### BURDEN:

*Ecce, quod natura mutat sua jura:  
Virgo parit pura Dei filium.*

*Vs. 1 Ecce novum gaudium, ecce novum mirum:  
Virgo parit filium que non novit virum.  
Que non novit virum, sed ut pirus pirum,  
Gleba fert saphirum, rosa lilium.*

*Vs. 2 Mundum Deus flebilem videns in ruina,  
Florem delectabilem produxit de spina;  
Produxit de spina virgoque regina,  
Mundi medecina, salus gencium.*

### REFRAIN:

Behold, Nature changes her laws:  
a pure virgin gives birth to the son of God.

*Vs. 1 Behold, a new joy, behold, a new wonder:  
A virgin gives birth to a son, she who knew not man.  
She knew not man, but bore as the pear tree bears a pear,  
A clod of earth, a sapphire; the rose, a lily.*

*Vs. 2 God, seeing the wretched world in ruin,  
Brought forth a delightful flower from a thorn;  
From a thorn she brought forth, virgin and queen,  
Healing to the world and salvation of the peoples.*



## PRAETORIUS, *In dulci jubilo*

*In dulci jubilo,  
Nun singet und seid froh!  
Unsers Herzens Wonne  
Leit in praesepio;  
Und leuchtet wie die Sonne  
Matris in gremio.  
Alpha es et O!*

*O Jesu parvule,  
nach dir ist mir so weh.  
Tröst mir mein Gemüte,  
O puer optime;  
durch alle deine Güte,  
o princeps gloriae,  
trahe me post te.*

*Ubi sunt gaudia?  
Nirgend mehr denn da,  
da die Engel singen  
nova cantica  
und die Schellen klingen  
in regis curia.  
Eia, wärn wir da!*

In sweet rejoicing,  
Now sing and be glad!  
Our hearts' joy  
Lies in the manger;  
And it shines like the sun  
In the mother's lap.  
You are the Alpha and Omega!

O tiny Jesus,  
My heart aches for Thee.  
Console me in my heart and soul,  
O best of boys;  
Through all your good,  
O prince of glory,  
Draw me to you.

Where are joys?  
Nowhere more than there,  
Where angels sing  
New songs  
And the bells ring  
In the courts of the King.  
Oh, that we were there!



## BYRD and GJEILO, *O magnum mysterium*

*O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,  
iacentem in praesepio!  
O beata virgo, cuius viscera  
meruerunt portare  
Dominum Iesum Christum.  
Alleluia!*

O great mystery,  
And wonderful sacrament,  
That animals should see the newborn Lord,  
Lying in a manger!  
O blessed virgin, whose womb  
Was worthy to bear  
The Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!



William Byrd  
(c. 1540 – 1623)



Ola Gjeilo  
(b. 1978)

# Program Texts and Translations

## CASARRUBIOS, *Caminante*

*Caminante no hay camino  
Caminante, son tus huellas  
el camino y nada más;*

*Caminante, no hay camino,  
se hace camino al andar.*

*Al andar se hace el camino,  
y al volver la vista atrás  
se ve la senda que nunca  
se ha de volver a pisar.*

*Caminante no hay camino  
sino estelas en la mar.*

– poem by Antonio Machado (1875-1939)

Traveler, there is no road,  
Traveler, your footprints  
are the only road, nothing else.

Traveler, there is no road;  
You make your own path as you walk.  
As you walk, you make your own road,

And when you look back  
You see the path  
You will never travel again.

Traveler, there is no road;  
Only a ship's wake on the sea.

– translated by Mary G. Berg and Dennis Maloney



## DAVIS, *Solstice*

come sit in the dark with me  
and look at that moon that  
is so at home in the night  
let us reach deep into the  
pockets of our souls for  
scraps of hope and wonder

come gaze at the firefly  
stars flinging their light  
lay back on the blanket of  
dead leaves and sleeping soil  
oh, that we had a ladder to  
make a constellation of ourselves

a consolation of ourselves  
come sing our favorite song  
softly into this silent night that  
welcomes the first day of winter  
the one about being together  
come sit in the dark with me

– Milton Brasher-Cunningham



Andrea Casarrubios



Taylor Scott Davis



## EŠENVALDS, *Rivers of Light*

*Kuovsakasah reukarih tåkko teki, sira ria,  
tåkko teki, sira ria, sira siraa ria.*

Northern Lights slide back and forth, *sira ria*,  
Back and forth, *sira ria*.

*Guovssat, guovssat radni go, libai libai libaida,  
Ruoná gákti, nu nu nu.*

Northern Lights, blanket shivering, *libai libai libaida*,  
Green coat [traditional Sámi costume], *nu nu nu*.  
– *Sámi folk songs*

Winter night, the sky is filled with symphony of light, the sky is flooded with rivers of light.  
The doors of heaven have been opened tonight.  
From horizon to horizon misty dragons swim through the sky, green curtains billow and swirl,  
Fast-moving, sky-filling, the tissues of gossamer. Nothing can be heard.  
Light shakes over the vault of heaven, its veil of glittering silver changing now to yellow, now to green, now to red.  
It spreads in restless change, into waving, into many-folded bands of silver.  
It shimmers in tongues of flame, over the very zenith it shoots a bright ray  
up until the whole melts away  
As a sigh of departing soul in the moonlight,  
Leaving a glow in the sky like the dying embers of a great fire.

– *Text compiled by the composer after writings by Charles Francis Hall,  
Fridjof Nansen, and various other writings on the Northern Lights*



*Eriks Ešenvalds*



Aurora photos by Emma Vawter (*Ars Nova Singers mezzo-soprano*)





# Program Texts and Translations



## HAGEN, *Mother's Song*

If snow falls on the far field  
where travelers  
spend the night,  
I ask you, cranes,  
to warm my child in your wings.

*-Anonymous, Japanese, translated by Willis Barnstone*

Jocelyn Hagen

## FORREST, *The Sun Never Says*

Even after  
All this time  
The sun never says to the earth,  
"You owe Me."  
Look  
What happens  
With a love like that,  
It lights the  
Whole  
Sky.

*- Daniel Ladinsky, from "The Gift,"  
© 1999; used by permission.*



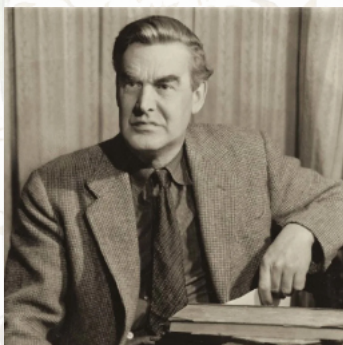
Dan Forrest



Mark Summer



Howard Blake



Michael Head



Joanna Forbes  
Alexander L'Estrange

# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

information on our website, [www.arsnovasingers.org](http://www.arsnovasingers.org)

## Rebirth

Join Ars Nova Singers as we present an unforgettable rendition of Thomas Tallis' monumental Renaissance masterpiece *Spem in alium* (the 40-part motet), and Josef Rheinberger's majestic *Mass in E-flat* for double chorus. Vocal artistry, historical significance, timeless beauty: the art of Ars Nova Singers.

**February 9 & 11, 2024**

Performances in Boulder and Denver



## Bloom

Ars Nova is proud to welcome nationally acclaimed composer and conductor **Joan Szymko**, presenting a program of her own works. As a highly regarded composer and choral conductor, Szymko infuses her works with a deep understanding of the expressive qualities of the human voice, a passion for storytelling, and a commitment to using quality texts that resonate with the audience.

**April 12 & 13, 2024**

Performances in Boulder and Denver



# Ars Nova Singers – 38<sup>th</sup> Season Contributors

Thank You to ALL Our Contributors! Through donations and ticket purchases, individuals account for a significant percentage of Ars Nova's operating budget. Donations listed were received between December 1, 2021 and October 18, 2023.

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SINGERS



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