

2021-2022 Season

Bartlesville Choral Society

Susan Mueller, guest conductor

presents

Messiah

By **George Frideric Handel**

featuring

Skye Singleton, soprano

Kathryn Stewart, contralto

Jeffery Picón, tenor

André Chiang, baritone

Marjolein Gravley, assistant accompanist

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 2:00 pm

BARTLESVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER



From the Conductor

Never say "Never again" and thank goodness for that! Although I'm loving retirement, being back with my singing family in the Choral Society for this concert has been a great joy! Returning to "Messiah" after a hiatus has been nothing short of eye (or ear)-opening. The complexity of the musical lines, the depth of the text, the reverence, the genius, and even the humor found in this monumental work never grow stale. My deepest gratitude goes to the Choral Society board of directors and to our remarkable chorus for allowing me this opportunity. I wish for them, and for you, dear audience, a most glorious Christmas season!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan".

Susan Mueller, Conductor

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Program

Overture	Orchestra
Comfort Ye My People.....	Tenor Recitative
Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted.....	Tenor Aria
And the Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed	Chorus
Thus Saith the Lord of Hosts	Bass Recitative
But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming.....	Bass Aria
Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive.....	Alto Recitative
O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion	Alto Aria and Chorus
For Unto Us a Child is Born.....	Chorus
Pastoral Symphony.....	Orchestra
There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field.....	Soprano Recitative
And Lo! The Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them	Soprano Recitative
And the Angel Said Unto Them "Fear Not"	Soprano Recitative
And Suddenly There Was With the Angel a Multitude.....	Soprano Recitative
Glory to God	Chorus
Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion	Soprano Aria
Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind Be Opened.....	Alto Recitative
He Shall Feed His Flock	Alto and Soprano Aria
His Yoke is Easy and His Burden Light.....	Chorus

..... Intermission.....

Behold the Lamb of God	Chorus
He Was Despised and Rejected of Men.....	Alto Aria
Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs.....	Chorus
And With His Stripes We Are Healed.....	Chorus
All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray.....	Chorus
He Was Cut Off Out of the Land of the Living	Tenor Recitative
But Thou Didst Not Leave His Soul in Hell	Tenor Aria
Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates	Chorus
Why Do the Nations So Furiously Rage.....	Bass Aria
He That Dwelleth in Heaven Shall Laugh Them to Scorn	Tenor Recitative
Thou Shalt Break Them	Tenor Aria
Hallelujah!.....	Chorus
I Know That My Redeemer Liveth	Soprano Aria
Since By Man Came Death	Chorus
Behold, I Tell You a Mystery.....	Bass Recitative
The Trumpet Shall Sound and the Dead Shall Be Raised.....	Bass Aria
Worthy Is the Lamb That Was Slain	Chorus
Amen	



SKYE SINGLETON

Skye Singleton, Oklahoma native, has received the Marilyn Horne and Dame Eva Turner awards. KUCO's review of her portrayal as the tragic heroine, Lucia, hailed her as "magnificent" with "high D's that topped the ensemble..." Her operatic roles include: Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Queen Shemaka (*The Golden Cockerel*), Norina (*Don Pasquale*), Dido (*Dido and Aeneas*), Galatea (*Acis and Galatea*), and Frasquita (*Carmen*). She sings with Painted Sky Opera as an educational outreach singer. In Austria, Skye sang Madame Herz from Mozart's *Die Schauspieldirektor* in scenes at the Tyrolean Opera Program.

An avid concert soloist, Skye adores singing Handel's *Messiah* with previous engagements at both the Bartlesville Choral Society and the Norman Philharmonic. Skye also specializes in contemporary works. She had the pleasure to work with Michael Daugherty in the Oklahoma premiere of his "*Labyrinth of Love*" with the OU Wind Symphony (2017). Other works include: George Crumb's "*Apparition*" in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth Avery (2019); premiering the title role of the new short opera Yisem for OKC's Opera on Tap (2019); working with Nikki Krumweide on her soundtrack "*Whispers*" for "*The Vexation of Spirit*" Student Documentary by Dylan Larino; premiering Krumweide's song cycle "*Songs of the Sea*" (2020); and premiering an excerpt of Evan Hargraves's "*Diurnal Musings*" (song cycle for Soprano and String Quartet- 2021). Upcoming, she'll premiere Jacob Frost's *How Can I Keep from Singing* in Opera on Tap's 10 Minute Opera Festival (2022).



KATHRYN STEWART

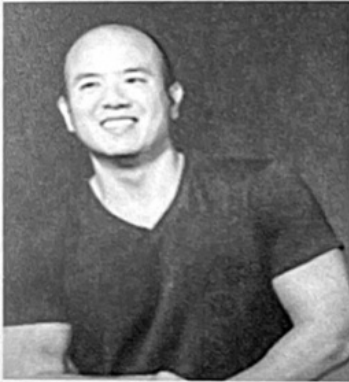
Contralto Kathryn Stewart grew up in Bartlesville, where she studied piano with Martha Boucher, and oboe with Mort Cuplin. She studied music at the Univ. of Oklahoma and the Univ. of Tulsa, where she graduated with a degree in vocal/instrumental music education. She then accepted a scholarship to Yale Univ., where she received her MM in vocal performance. She then moved to Los Angeles, where she sang regularly with the L.A. Opera, and other companies. She toured nationally with Opera Ala Carte which specialized in the repertoire of Gilbert and Sullivan, performing many of the young mezzo roles including, Pitti-Sing (*The Mikado*), Kate (*The Pirates of Penzance*), Hebe (*HMS Pinafore*), and Tessa (*The Gondoliers*). She also toured internationally as an Allied Concert Artist. Kathryn has

performed the title role in "*Carmen*", Berta in "*The Barber of Seville*", Prince Orlofsky in "*Die Fledermaus*", and many others. She has also performed with many symphonies and chorales, including the L.A. Philharmonic, The L.A. Master Chorale, the Phoenix Symphony, the Cambridge Slingers, singing the alto solos in such notable works as *The St. Matthew Passion*, *St. John Passion*, *B minor Mass*, and *Christmas Oratorio* by J.S. Bach, *Requiem* by Mozart, *Elijah* by Mendelssohn, *Requiem* by Durufle, *King David* by Honneger, and many others. Locally Kathryn has performed with the Bartlesville Choral Society and Bartlesville Symphony, the Signature Symphony, Tulsa Chorale, and Tulsa Opera. One of her best experiences was getting to sing back-up to The Three Tenors in Dodger Stadium, which was aired live on PBS.

Kathryn happily moved back to Oklahoma in 1995, and she and her husband welcomed their daughter, Megan, a year later. Kathryn still remains active in the musical community of NE OK, and is blessed to be the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church of Bartlesville, where she inflicts her limited pipe organ skills on the extremely tolerant choir and congregation. She offers a big THANK YOU to Susan Mueller and the Choral Society for this opportunity to participate in the performance today.

**JEFFREY PICÓN**

Jeffrey Picón, tenor, has performed in opera houses and with major symphonies across the United States. He has performed with New York City Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Cleveland Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic, the Naples Philharmonic, the Oregon Bach Festival, the Rochester Philharmonic, Long Island Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Dallas Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Arizona Opera, and the Opera Company of Philadelphia. He is a graduate of The University of North Texas and The Curtis Institute of Music. Mr. Picón is an Assistant Professor of Voice and Diction for the Wanda L. Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University.

**ANDRÉ CHIANG**

Baritone André Chiang was described as “vocally commanding” (*Oregonian*), “handsome of voice” (*Opera News*), and lauded with “let’s hear more from this singer” (*Washington Post*). Chiang’s recent engagements include Masetto (*Don Giovanni*) and Dandini (*La cenerentola*) with Dayton Opera, The Pirate King (*The Pirates of Penzance*) with Tulane Summer Lyric Theatre, Older Thompson (*Glory Denied*) with Painted Sky Opera, and Schaunard (*La bohème*) with Mississippi Opera and Mobile Opera. Previous credits include Young Galileo/Salviati (*Galileo Galilei*), for which he was commercially recorded, Argante (*Rinaldo*), and Ford (*Falstaff*) with Portland Opera; Anthony Hope (*Sweeney Todd*) with Virginia Opera; and Lancelot in the Young Artist Matinee of *Camelot* at the Glimmerglass Festival.

Competition honors include Regional Finalist for the MONC (Metropolitan Opera National Council) Auditions, Winner of the 59th NFMC (National Federation of Music Clubs) 2017 Biennial Young Artist Award, and Winner of the 45th NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) Artist Awards Competition. In concert, Chiang performed as the Baritone soloist in *Carmina Burana* with the Symphony Chorus of New Orleans, Huntsville Symphony, Baton Rouge Symphony, and Canterbury Voices; and the Baritone Soloist in Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony* with the Richmond Symphony. His Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall debut came as the Baritone soloist in the World Premiere of Martin Palmeri’s *Gran Misa*. Upcoming engagements include Baritone soloist with the Canterbury Voices “Duo Lumina” concert, and Silvio (*Pagliacci*) with Painted Sky Opera.

Chiang received his Bachelor of Music from the University of South Alabama, Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts from Louisiana State University. As an educator, Chiang was a 2018 NATS Intern and is an Assistant Professor of Music – Voice at Oklahoma State University. He attended the Contemporary Commercial Institute at Shenandoah Conservatory in 2018 and also attained the designation of a “National Center for Voice and Speech trained Vocologist” in 2019 at the Summer Vocology Institute. Chiang was featured as a presenter and panelist at the 2020 NATS National Conference and serves as the Artistic Director of Opera NexGen. He also maintains a private studio teaching all styles of singing. www.andrechiangbaritone.com

Orchestra

TRUMPET 1

Ben Hay

TRUMPET 2

Kade Goforth

OBOE 1

Madison Pregler

OBOE 2

Julie Mitchener

BASSOON

Andrew Davis

TIMPANI

Shelley Davidson

1ST VIOLIN

Josiah Baker,
Concert Master
Sarah Stogner
Sally Thomas
Corbin Bodley
Sarah Bryant

2ND VIOLIN

David Kazmierzak
Deborah Miller
Dina Litvinova
Laura Duncan

VIOLA

Jeff Smith
Sam Powell
Missy Townsend

HARPSICHORD

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Mary Snider

BASS

Robin Smith

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The Bartlesville Choral Society would like to thank the following individuals who contributed to the organization through the ConocoPhillips, Phillips 66, and ChevronPhillips matching gift program and/or the ConocoPhillips, Phillips 66, and ChevronPhillips volunteer grant program.

Ralph Bergstad
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BARTLESVILLE CHORAL SOCIETY

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