

ARS
LYRICA
HOUSTON



2023/24 SEASON

20
YEARS OF
MAGIC

Matthew Dirst
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ars Lyrica Houston 2023/24 Season

20 Years of Magic

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Twenty years ago, an enterprising group of musicians and their supporters launched into the Houston arts ecosphere something new: an ensemble devoted to music from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the “golden age” of lyric art for voices and instruments. Since that time, Ars Lyrica Houston has grown steadily—from a small nucleus of musicians-for-hire into an organization with an international reputation for creative excellence. *20 Years of Magic* celebrates this milestone with musical wizardry of various kinds, from wondrous choral works by Carissimi and Charpentier to miraculous chamber pieces by Biber and Bach. We’re especially pleased to offer a new production of a “magic” opera: Handel’s *Amadigi di Gaula*, in its Houston premiere.

More information on our 2023/24 season may be found in the following pages along with information on how to subscribe or purchase individual tickets. Early subscribers enjoy the best benefits, including complimentary tickets to Zilkha Hall performances, discounts on the Post-Opera Soirée, choice of seating in Zilkha Hall, and priority seating for programs at St Philip Presbyterian Church and Rice University. Subscribers are also invited to attend post-concert receptions with the artists.

Ars Lyrica’s 20th anniversary owes much to a network of generous supporters, who have made possible increasingly ambitious programming, a portfolio of diverse outreach activities, newly commissioned period instruments, and biennial operatic productions. Please consider a one-time, tax-deductible gift—or, better yet, a three-year pledge to the ALH Opera Circle—as you subscribe or renew for 2023/24. Become part of the Ars Lyrica family as you ensure a bright future for period-instrument performance and world-class Baroque opera in Houston.

With gratitude,



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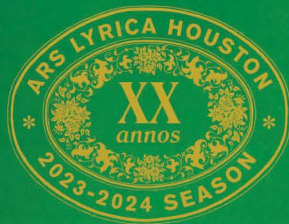
Matthew Dirst
Artistic Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Kinga Ferguson
Executive Director

FALLEN ANGELS

A circular artwork depicting a winged figure, possibly an angel or a fallen angel, in a dynamic pose. The figure is rendered in shades of blue and green, with a golden halo or aura. The background is a deep blue with lighter, ethereal shapes.

Fallen Angels highlights the paranormal in Baroque music, from Giacomo Carissimi's harrowing *Judgement of Solomon* to spirited masques from Henry Purcell's *Fairy Queen*. With four extraordinary singers and a colorful Baroque orchestra of period strings and winds, this otherworldly program inaugurates an entire season devoted to musical magic of various kinds.



Nola Richardson
soprano



Jay Carter
countertenor



Thomas O'Neill
tenor



Enrico Lagasca
bass-baritone*

*Ars Lyrica debut

Friday | September 22 at 7:30 pm
Zilkha Hall

ECSTATIC VISIONS



Handel's *Silete venti*, the major work on this program, is a spectacular solo motet for soprano and Baroque orchestra, one that rivals his best operatic scenes. It places a deeply religious soul within a naturalistic context, where rustling leaves and blooming flowers prompt a lush meditation on love and happiness. *Ecstatic Visions* spotlights members of the ensemble as well, in rapturous instrumental music by Ciprano da Rore, Johann Schmeltzer, and Jean-Philippe Rameau.



**Sherezade
Panthaki**
soprano



Kathryn Montoya
recorder and oboe



Andrew Fouts
violin

Friday | November 3 at 7:30 pm
Zilkha Hall

AWE & WONDER

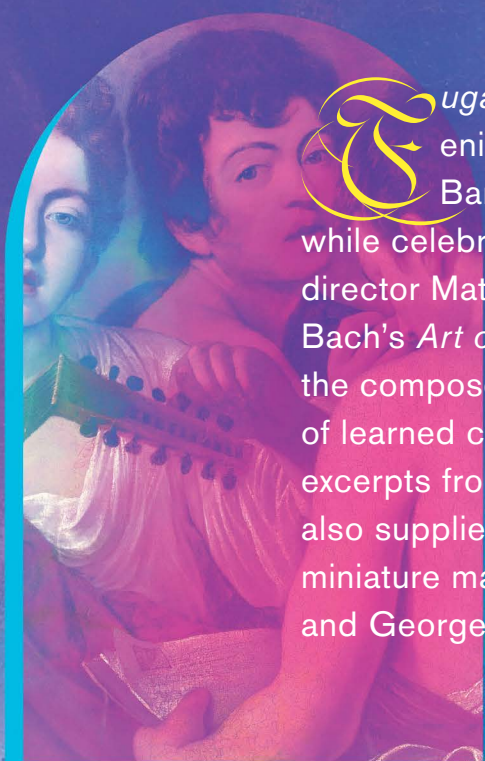
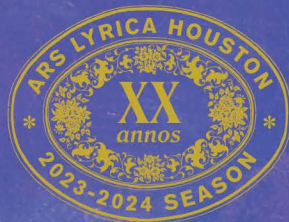


Awe and Wonder features two major works for chorus and orchestra, one on the creation story and the other on the incarnation of Christ. As set to music by C. P. E. Bach, Friedrich Klopstock's *Morning Song on the Feast of Creation* blends Enlightenment thought with Christian theology, while Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Midnight Mass for Christmas* enlivens its canonic text with French carol melodies. Heinrich Biber's *Serenade of the Nightwatchman* adds an expectant note to this festive holiday program.



Tuesday | December 12 at 7:30 pm
St. Philip Presbyterian Church

FUGAL GAMES

A circular inset image showing a Baroque-style portrait of a young child with dark curly hair, wearing a white ruffled garment and playing a lute. The image is partially obscured by the text.

Fugal Games takes up an enigmatic though quintessentially Baroque mode of music-making while celebrating the release of artistic director Matthew Dirst's new book on Bach's *Art of Fugue and Musical Offering*, the composer's ultimate demonstrations of learned counterpoint. With significant excerpts from both works, this program also supplies context in the form of miniature marvels by Dietrich Buxtehude and George Philipp Telemann.



Matthew Dirst
harpichord



Elizabeth Blumenstock
violin



Colin St-Martin
traverso

Saturday | January 13 at 4 pm

Duncan Recital Hall, Shepherd School of Music, Rice University

VISIONS & REVERIES



Visions and Reveries showcases a select ensemble of period-instrument specialists and one of our favorite singers in an all-French program. Its delectable *prix-fixe* menu includes lyric cantatas on mythological themes by Elizabeth Claude Jacquet de la Guerre and Jean-Philippe Rameau, whose contributions to the genre elevate it to high art, and a sumptuous instrumental suite by François Couperin.



Lauren Snouffer
soprano



Manami Mizumoto
violin



Eric Taeyang Mun
viola da gamba

Saturday | March 16 at 7:30 pm
Zilkha Hall

AMADIGI DI GAULA



The most ambitious undertaking of our 2023/24 season is a new production of Handel's *Amadigi di Gaula*, one of a handful of "magic" operas he produced during his long career in London. Our cast includes four rising stars of the operatic firmament, all ideally suited to this exceptionally beautiful score. Tara Faircloth directs and Matthew Dirst conducts this Houston premiere.

JOIN US AT THE POST-OPERA

SOIRÉE FOLLOWING THE

SATURDAY PERFORMANCE!



Randall Scotting*
Amadigi



Camille Ortiz
Oriana



Raven McMillon*
Melissa



Nicholas Garza
Dardano

*Ars Lyrica debut

Friday & Saturday | May 24 & 25 at 7:30 pm
Zilkha Hall



OPERA
CIRCLE it all
started
in 1600

Ars Lyrica's Opera Circle provides an opportunity for opera lovers to underwrite biennial Baroque productions through a multi-year fiscal commitment. Your membership allows us to make Baroque opera resonate anew through imaginative staging in collaboration with the world's most respected experts in dance, theater, and music. **Join the Opera Circle today and help us keep our cultural stories and history alive!**

For more information about the Opera Circle, please visit www.arslyricahouston.org/operacircle, or contact Kinga Ferguson, Executive Director at kferguson@arslyricahouston.org.

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SUBSCRIBE NOW AND SAVE

Subscribe by June 16 for Additional Benefits

- **Guaranteed renewal** of your seats
- **One additional complimentary ticket** to the Zilkha Hall concert of your choice
- **\$50 discount to Opera Soirée** at Diana following the Saturday performance of *Amadigi di Gaula* (Regular price \$350+, Early Subscriber price \$300)

Exclusive Benefits for All Subscribers

- Live and replay access to all Zilkha Hall concert streams
- Invitations to post-concert receptions on stage at Zilkha Hall with artists
- Free Zilkha Hall ticket exchanges
- 10% off additional tickets to all 2023/24 Ars Lyrica Zilkha Hall concerts

Digital subscriptions available at www.arslyricahouston.org

- Live and replay access to all Zilkha Hall concert streams (9/22, 11/3, 3/16, and 5/25)
- Advance access to virtual segments



Performances at Zilkha Hall are located at:
The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts
800 Bagby Street
Houston, Texas

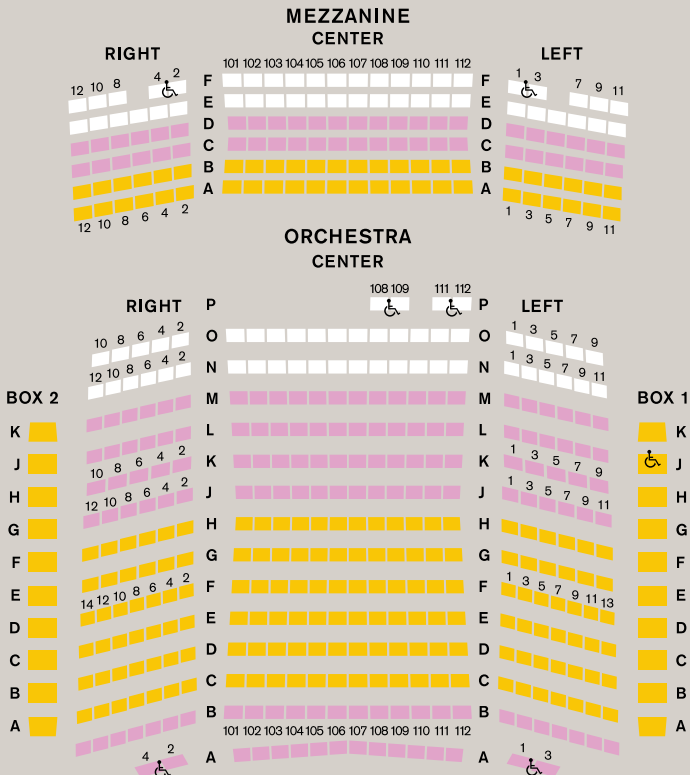
Please use the Zilkha Hall seating chart to select your Seating Sections

- SECTION A
- SECTION B
- SECTION C

SINGLE TICKETS
A \$75
B \$60
C \$39

STUDENT TICKETS
\$15

15% Hobby Center ticketing fee is included in all single ticket and subscription prices.



2023/24 SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

| SUBSCRIPTIONS <small>*Circle One</small> | Seating Section | | | Qty. | Subtotal |
|---|-----------------|-------|-------|------|----------|
| | A | B | C | | |
| 6-Concert Subscription 4 Zilkha Hall concerts 9/22 • 11/3 • 3/16 • 5/24 or 5/25 + St. Philip 12/12 + Rice 1/13 | \$420 | \$327 | \$222 | | |
| 4-Concert Subscription Zilkha Hall concerts 9/22 • 11/3 • 3/16 • 5/24 or 5/25 | \$284 | \$224 | \$148 | | |

EARLY SUBSCRIPTION OFFER Available only through June 16

| | | | |
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| <input type="radio"/> Renew my seats | Circle date for your extra Zilkha Hall ticket: 9/22 • 11/3 • 3/16 • 5/24 or 5/25 | | |
| <input type="radio"/> \$300 ticket to Opera Soirée following Saturday 5/25 <i>Amadigi di Gaula</i> performance | | Qty. | Subtotal |

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Ticket sales cover only a fraction of our costs; most of our income comes from contributors like you.

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For additional sponsorship opportunities and benefits, email Kinga Ferguson at kferguson@arslyricahouston.org

| | | |
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| Ars Lyrica Houston is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible. | TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION | |
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PAYMENT INFORMATION Checks payable to: The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

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NOV 03, 2023 ECSTATIC VISIONS
DEC 12, 2023 AWE & WONDER
JAN 13, 2024 FUGAL GAMES
MAR 16, 2024 VISIONS & REVERIES
MAY 24, 2024 AMADIGI DI GAULA
MAY 25, 2024

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