

Ars Lyrica Houston 2021/22 Season

TURNING POINTS



*TIMELESS
STORIES*

*TRANSCENDENT
MUSIC*

Matthew Dirst
Artistic Director

ARS
LYRICA
HOUSTON 

Ars Lyrica Houston 2021/22 Season

TURNING POINTS



FROM THE DIRECTORS

Many timeless stories revolve around a singular transformative event. That's how last season's brochure began. Little did we know that a global pandemic lay just around the corner. Though that brochure never got mailed, our *Turning Points* theme retained its relevance, and so in 2021/22 we pick up where we left off: with programming that highlights crucial moments in the lives of individuals and cultures, fictional and real. We hope you are ready to enjoy Ars Lyrica's return to live period-instrument music-making, in a season that includes two new operatic productions, major works by Bach and Handel, a musical soirée in Paris, and a tuneful trip across our southern border.

In addition to our annual subscription series at the Hobby Center, Ars Lyrica now has a chamber series at Rienzi, the MFAH house museum for European decorative arts. The following pages include descriptions of all 2021/22 subscription programs plus an order form. For the best seats and prices, subscribe now and take full advantage of early discounts and perks.

With thanks for your continued patronage during a challenging time and our best wishes,



Matthew Dirst

Matthew Dirst
Artistic Director



Kinga Ferguson

Kinga Ferguson
Executive Director

Season Branding & Design by Field of Study (.design)



BACH, HANDEL, and HERCULES



Ars Lyrica returns to the Hobby Center with a morality tale set to music by both Bach and Handel. The iconic strongman Hercules earned his place in the pantheon not through conquests but rather for his wisdom and honor. A pillar of mythology since Antiquity, Hercules faces a familiar dilemma, one that found significant resonance in the Baroque era, when ancient stories were a principal source of moral instruction. Both composers treat Hercules' temptation and ultimate embrace of virtue with ravishing arias and grand ensembles.

- G. F. Handel, *The Choice of Hercules*, HWV 69
- J. S. Bach, *Hercules at the Crossroads*, BWV 213

Matthew Dirst
conductor

^o Ars Lyrica debut

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 | 7:30 PM

Zilkha Hall, The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts



Nola Richardson
soprano^o



Leia Lensing
mezzo-soprano



**Aryeh Nussbaum
Cohen**
countertenor



Steven Brennfleck
tenor

ETERNITY and the UNDER- WORLD



Bach's meditation on death in Cantata 82 depicts the great beyond as a peaceful refuge. One of his best-known vehicles for solo voice, *Ich habe genug* also blends the melancholy sound of the Baroque oboe with accompanying strings, to magical effect. In contrast, Jonathan Dove's *L'altra Euridice (The Other Eurydice)* transports us to the underworld, from which Pluto exposes the treachery of humanity in a remarkable chamber opera for bass-baritone plus a mix of period and modern instruments. Ars Lyrica's provocative new staging of both works will provide plenty of food for thought about the next world.

- J. S. Bach, *Ich habe genug*, BWV 82
- Jonathan Dove, *L'altra Euridice* (2001)*

Matthew Dirst
conductor



Meg Bragle
mezzo-soprano



Douglas Williams
bass-baritone^o



Tara Faircloth
stage director

* Houston première ° Ars Lyrica debut

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 13, 2021 | 7:30 PM

Zilkha Hall, The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

CROSSING BORDERS



Crossing Borders explores a crucial moment in the musical history of the New World: when European musical traditions began to mingle with indigenous musical practices. This festive program for the holiday season includes *villancicos* and *romances* for voices and ensemble plus instrumental works drawn from the rich repertoire of 17th- and 18th-century colonial and Latin American cultures. Musical selections by Roque Ceruti, José Duran, Antonio de Salazar, Manuel Joseph Quiroz, Sebastián Duron and others illustrate the multiple and creative ways music traverses cultural and national borders.



Camille Ortiz
soprano



Cecilia Duarte
mezzo-soprano

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 17, 2021 | 7 PM

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

AN UNCOMMON CHEVALIER



An accomplished composer, violinist, conductor, fencer, and dancer, Joseph de Bologne became the toast of Paris in the early 1770s. The son of a plantation owner and an African slave, the younger mixed-race Bologne acquired the title Chevalier de Saint-Georges thanks to Louis XV, in whose personal guard he briefly served, and eventually became a favorite of Marie Antoinette. With a tuneful violin concerto from Saint-Georges, a comparable work from a contemporary, and a symphony commissioned by the Chevalier, this program transports us to a lively Parisian concert hall in the mid 1780s, just before the Revolution changed everything.

- Joseph de Bologne, Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 3, No. 1
- W. A. Mozart, Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major, K. 216
- Joseph Haydn, "Paris" Symphony No. 83 in G Minor ("The Hen")

Matthew Dirst
conductor

SUNDAY | MARCH 27, 2022 | 2:30 PM

Zilkha Hall, The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

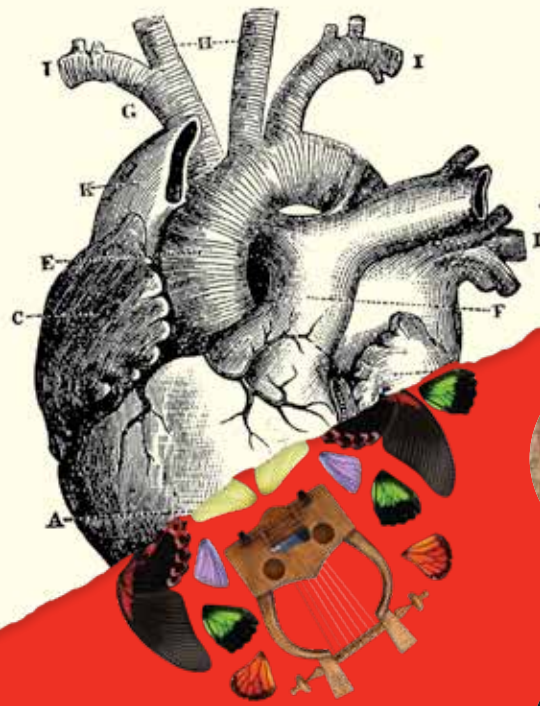


Elizabeth Blumenstock
violin



Cynthia Roberts
violin[°]

[°] Ars Lyrica debut



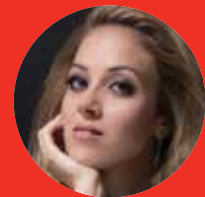
DIDO and AENEAS



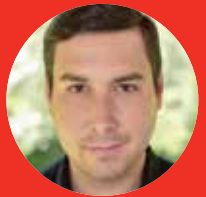
Abigail Fischer
Dido



Mark Diamond
Aeneas



Lauren Snouffer
Belinda



Nicholas Garza
Sorceress[°]



Catherine Turocy
stage director & choreographer



The New York Baroque Dance Company

The 2021/22 Ars Lyrica season concludes with a new production of the first masterpiece of English opera. Henry Purcell, early modern England's greatest musical dramatist, infused his chosen texts with both beauty and pathos. His *Dido and Aeneas* is a miracle of operatic economy, with lively dancing, memorable choruses, and at its center a noble heroine who loves too well: her demise is both tragic and transcendent.

Matthew Dirst
conductor

[°] Ars Lyrica debut

SATURDAY | MAY 21, 2022 | 7:30 PM

SUNDAY | MAY 22, 2022 | 2:30 PM

Zilkha Hall, The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts



Moores School Concert Chorale
Betsy Cook Weber, *director*

THE WELL-TEMPERED CLAVIER at Rienzi

Ars Lyrica Artistic Director Matthew Dirst continues his survey of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* with two performances of excerpts from Book 1 in the sumptuous surroundings of Rienzi, the house museum for European decorative arts of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The featured instrument, inspired by the work of the Gräbner family in Dresden in the early eighteenth century, is visually and acoustically stunning, a perfect complement to the Baroque-era décor at Rienzi.



Matthew Dirst
Artistic Director

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 16, 2021 | 6 PM

SATURDAY | JUNE 4, 2022 | 6 PM

Rienzi | MFAH

Support and Major Funding Provided By

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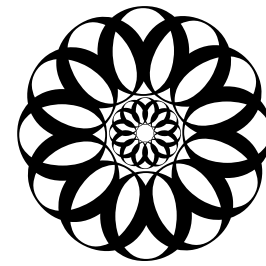
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OPERA CIRCLE it all started in 1600

And it still moves and delights us. Since its inception, opera's signature combination of voices, instruments, and spectacle has also required substantial resources. The Ars Lyrica Opera Circle provides an opportunity for patrons to support this grand legacy of musical storytelling through a multi-year financial commitment. Join the Opera Circle today and make Baroque opera resonate anew with imaginative productions of unusual but compelling repertoire. Perks include exclusive previews with featured artists and annual social events with fellow opera lovers.

Thank you to our Opera Circle Underwriters for making biennial opera productions possible.

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For more information about the Opera Circle, please visit: www.arslyricahouston.org/operacircle, or contact Kinga Ferguson, Executive Director, at 713-622-7443 or kferguson@arslyricahouston.org.

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- **Special discount** on Dido and Aeneas Opening Night Dinner tickets
- **Preferred seating at the MFAH and Rienzi concerts** for six-concert early subscribers only. Very limited seating: Reserve now!

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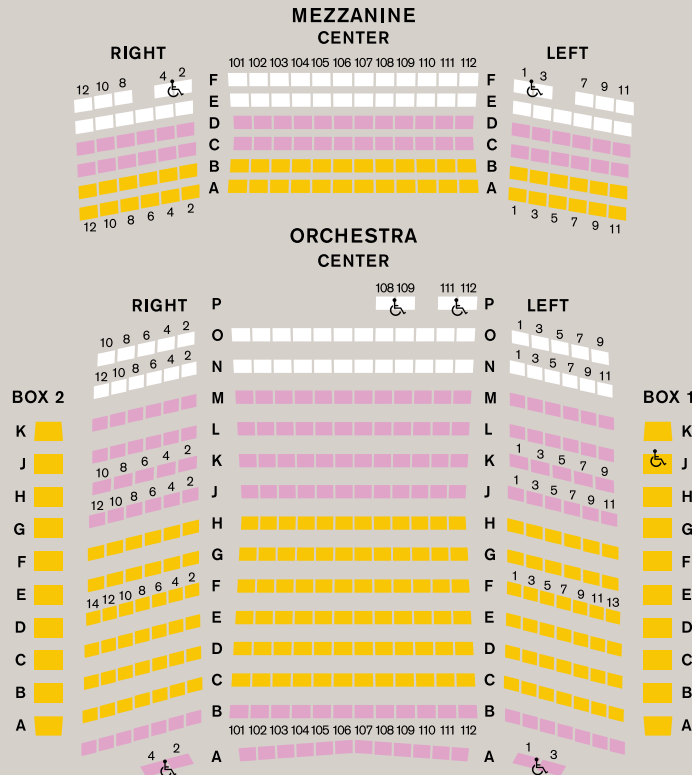
Performances at Zilkha Hall are located at:
The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts
 800 Bagby Street
 Houston, Texas

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

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



2021/22 SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

SUBSCRIPTIONS <small>*Circle One</small>	Seating Section			Qty.	Subtotal
	A	B	C		
6-Concert Subscription 4 Zilkha Hall concerts 9/24 • 11/13 • 3/27 • 5/21 or 5/22* + MFAH 12/17 + 1 Rienzi 10/16 or 6/4*	\$420	\$327	\$222		
4-Concert Subscription 4 Zilkha Hall concerts 9/24 • 11/13 • 3/27 • 5/21 or 5/22*	\$284	\$224	\$148		

EARLY SUBSCRIPTION OFFER Available only through July 30

<input type="radio"/> Renew my seats	circle date for your extra ticket 9/24 • 11/13 • 3/27 • 5/22				
Dido and Aeneas Opening Night Dinner on 5/21/22 following the performance	Regular Price \$300	Subscriber Discount \$250	Qty.	Subtotal	

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Ars Lyrica Houston is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible. TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION	
ORDER FORM TOTAL \$	

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TURNING POINTS

SEPT 24, 2021 *BACH, HANDEL, and HERCULES*

NOV 13, 2021 *ETERNITY and the UNDERWORLD*

DEC 17, 2021 *CROSSING BORDERS*

MAR 27, 2022 *AN UNCOMMON CHEVALIER*

MAY 21 & MAY 22, 2022 *DIDO and AENEAS*

OCT 16, 2021 & JUN 4, 2022 *THE WELL-TEMPERED CLAVIER*

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