



2023 EMERGING ARTISTS

Thursday, June 8, 2023 | noon
First United Methodist Church
407 N. Bridge Street

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685 – 1750)
Allemande, from Lute Suite in E minor, BWV 996
Gigue, from Violin Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004

Brandon Berlanga, *marimba*

GEORGE FREDERIC HANDEL (1685 – 1759)
Tu sei il cor, from Julius Caesar

David Womack, *baritone*
Faith DeBow, *piano*

EMMANUEL SÉJOURNÉ (b. 1961)
Prelude No. 1

Brandon Berlanga, *marimba*

GERALD FINZI (1901 – 1956)
Let Us Garlands Bring, Op. 18

- Come away, come away, death
- Who is Silvia?
- Fear no more the heat o' the sun
- O mistress mine
- It was a lover and his lass

David Womack, *baritone*
Faith DeBow, *piano*

ROBERT XAVIER RODRIGUEZ (b. 1946)
there are so many tictoc clocks

David Womack, *baritone*
Brandon Berlanga, *marimba*



SPONSORS

Dodie Griffin

John Griffin & Lynn
Knaupp

This concert is generously supported by our concert sponsors and by donors to the Victoria Bach Festival's Annual Fund. Many thanks to our generous supporters!

ALEJANDRO VIÑAO (b. 1951)

Khan Variations

Brandon Berlanga, *marimba*

FRANCIS POULENC (1901 – 1956)

Chansons Gaillardes

- La Maîtresse Volage
- Sérénade
- Madrigal

David Womack, *baritone*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

SEBASTIAN ZHANG (b. 2003)

Snapdragon

Brandon Berlanga, *marimba*

REYNALDO HAHN (1874 – 1947)

L'heure exquise

NEY ROSAURO (b. 1952)

Memories II

David Womack, *baritone*

Brandon Berlanga, *marimba*

Texts and Translations

– George Handel – Tu sei il cor ~ You Are the Heart

Tu sei il cor

Tu sei il cor di questo core,
sei il mio ben, non t'adirar!

Per amor io chiedo amore,
più da te non vuò bramar.

You are the Heart

You are the beating heart of my heart;
Do not get angry, my love!

I seek nothing more than love from you
In response to my love.

Translation © 2018, Andrew Schneider

Ma maîtresse volage

Ma maîtresse est volage,
Mon rival est heureux;
S'il a son pucelage,
C'est qu'elle en avait deux.

Et vogue la galère,
Tant qu'elle pourra voguer.

Sérénade

Avec une si belle main,
Que servent tant de charmes,
Que vous devez du dieu malin,
Bien manier les armes.
Et quand cet Enfant est chagrin
Bien essuyer ses larmes.

Madrigal

Vous êtes belle comme un ange,
Douce comme un petit mouton;
Il n'est point de cœur, Jeanneton,
Qui sous votre loi ne se range.
Mais une fille sans têttons
Est une perdrix sans orange.

The Unfaithful Mistress

My mistress is unfaithful,
My rival is happy;
If he took her virginity,
It's because she had two.

So sails the ship
As long as it can sail.

Serenade

With a hand so beautiful,
that offers so many charms,
That you received from the malicious god,
You must handle a weapon well.
And when that child is sad,
wipe all of its tears.

Madrigal

You are as beautiful as an angel,
Sweet as a little lamb;
There is no man, Jeanette,
Who doesn't follow your rule.
But a girl without breasts
Is a partridge without orange.

Translation © 2013, Simon Chalifoux

L'heure exquise

La lune blanche
Luit dans les bois
De chaque branche
Part une voix
Sous la ramée

Ô bien aimée

L'étang reflète,
Profond miroir
La silhouette
Du saule noir
Où le vent pleure

Exquisite Hour

The white moon
Gleams in the woods;
From every branch
There comes a voice
Beneath the boughs...

O my beloved.

The pool reflects,
Deep mirror,
The silhouette
Of the black willow
Where the wind is weeping...

Rêvons, c'est l'heure

Un vaste et tendre

Apaisement

Semble descendre

Du firmament

Que l'astre irise

C'est l'heure exquise

Let us dream, it is the hour.

A vast and tender

Consolation

Seems to fall

From the sky

The moon illumines...

Exquisite hour.

Translation © Richard Stokes, from *A French Song Companion* (Oxford, 2000)

About the Artists



BRANDON BERLANGA,
MARIMBA

Brandon Berlanga (b. 2000) is a Mexican-American percussionist and musical educator currently based out of Austin, Texas. As both a soloist and chamber musician, he has been invited to perform across the United States, including Indiana, Oklahoma, Hawaii, New York, and California. Growing up in central Texas, Brandon found initial inspiration and success in percussion through the marching arts, before his exposure to both contemporary and traditional repertoire during his time at the Butler School of Music. During his time there, he developed a fascination and devotion to new music for both solo percussion and chamber music, refining his skills and knowledge under the mentorship of renowned soloist Dr. Thomas Burritt, and acclaimed percussionist/composer Ivan Trevino. Under their mentorship and guidance, Brandon has been able to help co-found the newly established, Blacktop Percussion, an Austin based percussion ensemble striving to provide a voice for ambitious composers and exploring the bounds of contemporary percussion literature.

Selected as the Network for Diversity in Concert Percussion's (NDCP) first Emerging Artist in 2021, Brandon has had the opportunity to work closely with numerous notable percussionists such as Alana Wiesing Jon Bisesi, Dinesh Joseph, Nancy Zeltsman, and Leonardo Soto, receiving their mentorship and support for over a year. Since then, Brandon has been selected as a Fellow in the inaugural Ted Atkatz Percussion Festival in 2021, performed as part of the University of Texas Percussion Ensemble at the Percussion Arts Society International Convention 2021 - Percussion Ensemble Showcase, invited to compete as a semi-finalist in the collegiate solo division of the Great Plains International Marimba Competition in 2022, and selected as a finalist and 2nd Prize winner in the Coltman Chamber Ensemble Competition with his group, Blacktop Percussion.

Brandon's admiration and devotion to new and contemporary projects shines through most in his recent endeavors giving world and US premiers of large ensemble, chamber, and solo works by Gordon Stout, Hila Plitman, Jack Frerer, Quinn Mason, and rising composers such as Sebastian Zhang, John Tadlock, and Gabriel Araújo. Brandon has received his Bachelor of Music in Orchestral Percussion Performance from the University of Texas at Austin - Butler School of Music and will be pursuing a Master of Music in Percussion Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music beginning in the Fall of 2023.



DAVID WOMACK,
TENOR

David Womack is a young lyric baritone equally at home in a wide range of contexts: from the music of the early modern period to 21st-century opera and choral repertoire. Growing up in Austin, TX, he was inspired through his exposure to groups such as Conspirare and Ensemble VIII, as well as his studies with Laura Mercado-Wright. He decided to pursue an education in Vocal Performance at Lawrence University (LU). Under the tutelage of acclaimed countertenor John Holiday, David quickly found success as both a soloist and ensemble singer.

In 2019, he made his professional debut as a soloist singing *The Nine* by Randall Standridge with the Appleton North High School Wind Ensemble. Beginning his sophomore year, he was cast in Lawrence University's main stage opera as a principal each year: Antonio in *The Marriage of Figaro* (2020), Dr. Ferguson in *The Nefarious, Immoral but Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke and Mr. Hare* by Julian Grant (2021), and Ferryman in Britten's *Curlew River* (2022). Meanwhile he was a simultaneous member of multiple vocal ensembles including LU Vocal Spectrum, a small jazz vocal ensemble, and LU Concert Choir, the university's premier mixed choir.

He recently performed the role of Junius in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* at SMU Meadows School of the Arts. David has also recorded with Inversion Ensemble (Austin, TX) and is an active church musician. Upcoming engagements include performances with the Dallas Bach Society in their 2023-24 season. David currently studies with Barbara Hill Moore at SMU Meadows School of the Arts and is a member of the Meadows Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Pamela Elrod Huffman.



FAITH DEBOW,
EMERGING ARTIST
COORDINATOR

Faith DeBow has served as collaborative pianist and Emerging Artist Coordinator on the leadership team of the Victoria Bach Festival since 2010. Faith is sought after for both solo and collaborative performances as well as choral accompaniment and teaching. She enjoys a vibrant career based in the Central Texas region. Her playing has been heard in outer space at the International Space Station, performing Christmas music on video for astronauts working there during the holiday season.

Ms. DeBow has performed with opera singer Renée Fleming; conductors Peter Bay, Anton Coppola, Craig Hella Johnson, and Sebastian Lang-Lessing; and has performed the works of composers Jake Heggje, Libby Larsen, Roberto Sierra, and Michael Schelle. She has also premiered works by Donald Grantham, Cary Ratcliff, Jake Runestad, and John Muehleisen. In 2012, Ms. DeBow commissioned and premiered *Brilliant Sky*, a solo piano work by Colin Sorgi. She has served as rehearsal pianist in premieres composed by Stephen Paulus, Kevin Puts, Nico Muhly, Tarik O'Regan, Dan Welcher, Eric Banks, and Robert Kyr.

Faith maintains a longstanding collaboration with the Grammy®-winning choral ensemble Conspirare. Ms. DeBow has performed with the choir in Texas cities such as San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Fredericksburg, Round Top, and its home base of Austin. Outside

the state, she toured the greater US: New York City, San Francisco, Omaha, Oklahoma City, and Goshen (Indiana); internationally, Copenhagen, Paris, and Saint-Lo (France).

Ms. DeBow also regularly performs with Musica Viva's Susan Doering (violin), and Dieter Wulfhorst (cello) across California's Central Valley.

In 2010, she traveled to Reykjavik to collaborate with Tim Buzbee, Principal Tuba of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. DeBow and Buzbee gave a recital at the Hallgrímskirkja national cathedral and recorded a CD for Albany Records, *Angels and Demons*.

Her performances have been broadcast on PBS, NPR's *Performance Today*, Georgia Public Radio, KPAC San Antonio, KMFA Austin, and Victoria Public Radio. Ms. DeBow appeared in *Conspirare's* one-hour television special for PBS broadcast nationally in March 2009; the CD of that concert, *A Company of Voices: Conspirare in Concert*, was nominated for a 2010 Grammy® Award for "Best Classical Crossover Album."

Faith DeBow has also recorded for Harmonia Mundi with *Conspirare* (*Pablo Neruda: The Poet Sings*, 2015 and *Samuel Barber: An American Romantic*, 2012) and for Albany Records with tuba player Tim Buzbee (*Angels and Demons*, 2012, featuring *Sonata del Angel Caído* by Ferrer Ferran; *Apocalyptic Voices* by James Meador; and *Three Miniatures for Tuba and Piano* by Anthony Plog).

She teaches class piano and collaborative piano as a Senior Lecturer at Texas State University, a position she has held since 2001. She also accompanies instrumental students at Trinity University and is the pianist for the boy choir at the historic San Antonio Academy. Ms. DeBow often plays orchestral keyboard with the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

Emerging Artists

The Emerging Artists program (formerly the New Young Artists program) began in 1992 and has featured over sixty of the nation's most promising young musicians. During Festival week, the Emerging Artists perform a formal recital and a series of outreach concerts at the public library, assisted living centers, and children's summer camps.



Keep Listening!

Stephen Redfield leads the VBF Baroque Ensemble
Thursday, June 8 at First Presbyterian Church with a
pre-concert talk by George Stauffer at 6:45 PM.