

23 / 24 Subscription
Season

a Night at the Theatre

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023

6:00PM | Private Residence | Bedford NY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

7:00PM | Nathaniel Topliff Allen House | Newton MA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023

7:00PM | John Wesley United Methodist Church | Falmouth MA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

3:00PM | St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport MA



SKYLARK

a Night at the Theatre

Charity Wicks, piano

Don't Rain on My Parade from *Funny Girl*
Soloist: Sophie Amelkin

Jule Styne/Bob Merrill

On the Street Where You Live from *My Fair Lady*
Soloist: Erik Gustafson

Frederick Loewe/Alan Jay Lerner

Corner of the Sky from *Pippin*
Soloist: Nathan Hodgson

Stephen Schwartz

Agony from *Into the Woods*
Soloists: Matthew Goinz, Dana Whiteside

Stephen Sondheim

Omar Sharif from *The Band's Visit*
Soloist: Carrie Cheron

David Yazbek

Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You? from *The Music Man*
Soloist: Sarah Moyer

Meredith Willson

It Takes Two from *Into the Woods*
Soloists: Tynan Davis, Dana Whiteside

Stephen Sondheim

Try to Remember from *The Fantasticks*

Harvey Schmidt/Tom Jones
Arr. Gene Puerling

The Song That Goes Like This from *Spamalot*
Soloists: Sophie Amelkin, Erik Gustafson

John Du Prez/Eric Idle

The Impossible Dream from *Man of La Mancha*
Soloist: Dana Whiteside

Mitch Leigh/Joe Darion

She Used to Be Mine from *Waitress*
Soloist: Carrie Cheron

Sara Bareilles

The Girl in 14G
Soloist: Sarah Moyer

Jeanine Tesori/Dick Scanlan

Move On from *Sunday in the Park with George*
Soloists: Carrie Cheron, Erik Gustafson

Stephen Sondheim

Being Alive from *Company*
Soloist: Matthew Goinz

Stephen Sondheim

Gimme Gimme from *Thoroughly Modern Millie*
Soloist: Tynan Davis

Jeanine Tesori/Dick Scanlan

You Will Be Found from *Dear Evan Hansen*
Soloists: Carrie Cheron, Nathan Hodgson

Benj Pasek/Justin Paul

Program Notes

Tonight's concert is a delightful return to my own theatrical roots. Long before I developed a passion for classical vocal and choral music, I was at heart a "theatre kid" - I am somewhat embarrassed to admit that I knew every word of *Les Misérables* at the age of 16. My parents and I used to vacation in New York for a week and see **TEN** Broadway shows (a show at literally every time possible during the week - every evening, and every matinee). This performance is thus a bit of a "guilty pleasure" homecoming for me, a chance to indulge in my love for the stage, and if I could, I'd be down there in the pit, waving a conductor's baton.

We've assembled an exceptional ensemble of Skylark artists who are as passionate about musical theatre as I am. This evening is all about showcasing a different facet of their performing careers, and it's a joyous celebration of the songs that have touched our hearts and stirred our souls.

Creating this program was a true collaboration. Every artist brought their unique insights and suggestions to the table, resulting in a selection of songs that we believe will leave you thoroughly entertained. It's a testament to the diversity of talent within Skylark's ranks.

I want to extend special thanks to Sophie Amelkin and Matt Goinz, two Skylarks with a rich level of theatre expertise. Sophie recently wowed audiences in the off-Broadway comedic version of *The Office*, while Matt recently served as a music director for a show in New York. Their input and creativity were instrumental in shaping this program, and we're thrilled to have their talent on display tonight.

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to our fabulous pianist, Charity Wicks, whose virtuosic talents span both classical and Broadway genres. With an impressive career on Broadway as a Music Director, Conductor, and Pianist for shows like *Come from Away* and *Girl from the North Country*, Charity's expertise has enriched our concert in countless ways. Her ability to bring out the best in our artists and her collaborative spirit have been invaluable.

So, sit back, relax, and let Skylark transport you to the enchanting world of Broadway. Join us as we share our love for musical theatre, and enjoy an evening filled with heartwarming melodies, soaring vocals, and, above all, the sheer joy of Broadway.

-Matthew Guard, Artistic Director

About the Artists



Three-time GRAMMY®-nominee Skylark, “the cream of the American crop” (BBC Radio 3), is a premier chamber choir comprised of leading American vocal soloists, chamber musicians, and music educators. Skylark’s dramatic performances have been described as “gripping” (The Times of London), “exquisite...thrilling” (Gramophone Magazine), and “awe-inspiring” (Boston Music Intelligencer). Skylark’s mission is to be the most exciting and innovative vocal ensemble for audiences and artists alike, and to provide inspiring educational activities that positively impact students’ lives. Skylark sets the standard for innovative and engaging programs that re-define the choral experience for audiences and singers alike – three of its most recent albums have received GRAMMY® nominations, and Artistic Director Matthew Guard’s well-researched and creative programs have been described as “engrossing” (WQXR-NY) and “original, stimulating, and beautiful” (BBC Radio 3).



Matthew Guard, *Artistic Director*

Three-time GRAMMY®-nominee MATTHEW GUARD is widely regarded as one of the most innovative and thoughtful programmers in American choral music. Praised for his “catalyzing leadership” (Q2/WQXR-NY) and “musically creative and intellectually rich” programming (Opera Obsession), Matthew is passionate about communicating something unique in each concert and recording. He scours the world of available repertoire for each program, exhaustively researches each piece, and crafts concerts and printed programs that captivate audiences with their hidden connections and seamless artistry. Matthew lives in Bedford, NY, with his wife Carolyn and sons Harry and Arthur.



Charity Wicks, *Piano*

Charity Wicks is a sought-after pianist whose work crosses all musical genres. She has an active career on Broadway as a Music Director/Conductor/Pianist with such shows as the Broadway-bound LEMPICKA, as well as with current and past shows including KIMBERLY AKIMBO, COME FROM AWAY, GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY, TOOTSIE, FROZEN, SPRING AWAKENING (original production), and many others. Her expertise in the development of new works (both musical theatre and opera) is frequently called upon, and she often collaborates with such organizations as The Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center, La Jolla Playhouse, The Public Theatre, and The American Opera Project. She maintains an active recital career, playing vocal recitals and chamber music throughout the metropolitan area, and is the Director of Music Ministries at Central Presbyterian

Church in Summit, NJ. She holds a BM and MM from Temple University, and a DMA from The Manhattan School of Music in Piano Accompanying.



Sophie Amelkin's recent selected stage appearances include *The Office: A Musical Parody* Off-Broadway, her Carnegie Hall Solo Debut in Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, and an international arena tour singing with a GRAMMY® winning rock band. NYC Musical Readings: *The Pretty Pants Bandit*, *Here I Am*. Regional Theater: *The Buddy Holly Story*. Appearances: Diana in *My Princess Diana*, recitals of Ladino and Yiddish art song, Despina (*Così fan tutte*), St. Teresa of Avila (*Four Saints in Three Acts*), Bianca (*La Rondine*), and Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*). When not singing, Sophie is exploring the city of New York with her beautiful beagle Lucy and her amazing partner Matt. www.sophieamelkin.com



Soprano **Sarah Moyer's** recent and upcoming solo work includes performances with the Colorado Bach Ensemble, Aspen Chamber Symphony, Bourbon Baroque, Lost Dog New Music Ensemble, Emmanuel Music, and Boston Modern Orchestra Project, with American premieres by Melani and Nørgård, and world premieres by Harbison, Kallembach, Theofanidis, and Runestad, among others. She regularly appears with GRAMMY® nominated groups Skylark, Seraphic Fire, Conspirare, Clarion, True Concord, as well as Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Variant 6, and Artefact. She loves being a mom, plays the ukulele, races triathlons, and enjoys hiking with her husband and their beautiful catahoula leopard. www.sopranosarahmoyer.com.



Mezzo-soprano and contemporary vocalist **Carrie Cheron** defies the definition of genre. Praised as "consoling and soulful," for her "mystifying simplicity," Carrie has performed as soloist and ensemble member with such groups as Emmanuel Music, Boston Baroque, Handel + Haydn Society, American Classical Orchestra, Arcadia Players, Eudaimonia, Lorelei Ensemble, The Bach Project, and folk/baroque collective Floyd's Row. She is a nationally recognized, award-winning singer/songwriter and has shared the stage with artists such as Sweet Honey In The Rock and Anais Mitchell. She is an Associate Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music and loves hiking, mushroom foraging, and tending her beloved garden. www.carriecheron.com



Tynan Davis is a playful vocalist and human. She won a GRAMMY® for Best Opera Recording with Boston Modern Orchestra Project's *Fantastic Mr. Fox*; singing a cider-drunk cellar rat named Rita. She's toured with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and the 25th anniversary North American tour of *Phantom of the Opera*. Her solo jazz album *TYNAN* is available on most streaming platforms, and is full of happy tunes you'll know and love. Other favorite musical collaborations include Roomful of Teeth, Cantata Profana, Artefact Ensemble & The All's Well Sisters. Tynan is also a passionate teacher and clinician, the mother of a ridiculously cute kid, and the wife of an insanely creative Broadway Properties Maker.



Tenor **Erik Gustafson** is nationally active as an oratorio soloist and choral artist, and teaches voice at University of the South in Sewanee, TN. Erik has collaborated on two GRAMMY® Award-winning recordings with the Phoenix Chorale, and albums with Skylark, Bach Collegium San Diego, Conspirare, True Concord, Spire Chamber Ensemble, and Sounding Light. He performs regularly with Seraphic Fire and Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and is a founder of Quadrivium. Past solo highlights include Bach's *St. John Passion* with Arizona Bach Festival, Handel's *Messiah* with Tucson Symphony Orchestra, and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with Oregon Bach Festival. Erik is a connoisseur of craft beer.



Nathan Hodgson is a New York based tenor specializing in early music, chamber music, and choral singing. He sings with the Schola Cantorum at The Church of Saint Vincent Ferrer in New York City and performs with ensembles across the nation. A native of DFW, Nathan studied at the University of North Texas and, after receiving a Bachelor of Music in Music Education, sang regularly in the Dallas area with ensembles including the Orpheus Chamber Singers, Dallas Bach Society, and Denton Bach Society before moving to New York City in 2015. Nathan's extramusical pursuits include baking, hiking, and kickboxing.



Musician and educator **Matthew Goinz** has performed in venues around the world, created arrangements that have been heard from California to South Korea, and enjoyed collaborations with prominent artists of our day. He maintains performance relationships with a number of GRAMMY®-recognized ensembles and received his doctorate in conducting from the University of Maryland. Matthew works as a music director, pianist, vocalist, and arranger in the New York City area. He makes his home in Astoria with his wife, soprano and actor Sophie Amelkin, and Lucy, the sweetest beagle that ever was, and fancies himself a pretty good cook. mt-tracks.com | matthewgoinz.com



Dana Whiteside's solo appearances include concert, opera and recital. A product of Longy School of Music, New England Conservatory and Tanglewood Music Center, he has received critical acclaim for his voice of "noble clarity throughout powerful and resonant" (*The Washington Post*). Recent highlights include *The Magic Flute* with Boston Baroque; the role of Count Carl Magnus in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*; *Carmina Burana* at Mechanics Hall; Verdi's *Requiem*; and *Sea Symphony* at the Kennedy. Dana holds a degree in economics and parlays his skills and interest organizational development as President of the Board of Directors of Emmanuel Music.

23/24 Subscription Season

www.skylarkensemble.org



Immerse yourself in seasonal favorites.

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 | 7PM

Corpus Christi Parish, Sandwich MA

Thursday, December 7, 2023 | 7PM

Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill MA

Friday, December 8, 2023 | 7PM

St. Paul's Episcopal, Newburyport MA

Sunday, December 10, 2023 | 4PM

Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford NY



Skylark's new signature storytelling concert.

Thursday, March 14, 2024 | 7PM

Falmouth Academy, Falmouth MA

Friday, March 15, 2024 | 7PM

Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill MA

Saturday, March 16, 2024 | 3PM

St. Paul's Episcopal, Newburyport MA

Sunday, March 17, 2024 | 4PM

Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford NY



A reflection on unconditional love.

Thursday, May 2, 2024 | TBD

Location TBD, New York City, NY

Friday, May 3, 2024 | 7PM

St. Paul's Episcopal, Newburyport MA

Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 3PM

Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill MA

Sunday, May 5, 2024 | 2PM

John Wesley UMC, Falmouth MA



Staff


Matthew Guard, *Artistic Director*

Carolyn Guard, *Executive Director*


Sarah Moyer, *Ensemble Manager*

Janet Stone, *Operations & Marketing*

Contact:

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Acknowledgements



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Support Our Mission

Skylark's mission is to be the most exciting and innovative vocal ensemble for audiences and artists alike, and to provide inspiring educational activities that positively impact students' lives. Even the best musical groups in America can only count on ticket sales to cover 50% of operating costs. We rely on your generous donations to help us with the balance of our operating budget.

The names listed below reflect gifts received between September 1, 2022 through September 1, 2023.

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December 10, 2023 | 4PM

Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford NY

December 12, 2023 | 7PM

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