



SKYLARK

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

2017-2018 SEASON



# WELCOME TO SKYLARK'S SIXTH SEASON

We are delighted to continue our **subscription series in the Greater Boston area**, with concerts in Cambridge, Chatham, Chelmsford, Exeter NH, Falmouth, Marblehead, Milton, and Newburyport. We are particularly happy about deepening our connection to our home community in Falmouth, as well as a new partnership with St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Chatham. We love being on the Cape, and are so happy that all of our concerts will be presented there!

We are proud to share that **Skylark in Schools** educational initiatives continues to grow, with exciting residencies and performances at Phillips Exeter Academy, Milton Academy, Falmouth Academy, and Harvard University.

We are thrilled to announce that Skylark will make its **international debut** at Tenebrae's prestigious Holy Week Festival at St. John's Smith Square in London – we will record and release a new album in conjunction with this program. This is a special year for recordings, as we will also release our new *A Skylark Christmas* album during our Christmas concert series.

Finally, our new **Skylark Spotlight Series**, an engaging experience where audience members can hear our Skylarks in a more intimate chamber setting, debuted last season, and will continue this season with concerts on July 7th and 8th, and additional concerts throughout the year.

We hope you will join us for our full season!

–**Matthew Guard**  
Artistic Director

# ALL HALLOW'S EVE

Skylark opens our 2017-18 season with a dramatic evening of music for Halloween. Storyteller Sarah Walker returns to join the artists of Skylark as we present engaging tales of the season paired with evocative musical offerings.

## **SATURDAY OCTOBER 28**

7:30pm | St. Barnabas Memorial Church | Falmouth, MA

## **SUNDAY OCTOBER 29**

Venue & Time TBD

## **MONDAY OCTOBER 30**

7:30pm | St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | Chatham, MA

## **TUESDAY OCTOBER 31**

Time TBD | Milton Academy | Milton, MA

# a Skylark Christmas



Join Skylark for its annual journey through select excerpts of the Christmas story from the King James Bible, enhanced and celebrated through timeless carols. *This concert series will mark the release of Skylark's debut Christmas album!*

## **TUESDAY DECEMBER 19**

6:00pm | First Congregational Church | Falmouth, MA

## **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20**

7:30pm | St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | Chatham, MA

## **THURSDAY DECEMBER 21**

7:30pm | St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport, MA

## **FRIDAY DECEMBER 22**

7:30pm | Old North Church | Marblehead, MA

# AMERICAN VOICES

Join us for an exploration of the American story through music, with musical and literary vignettes from throughout our nation's history. Skylark will be in residence at Phillips Exeter Academy to rehearse this program, which will include two world premieres by composer Gregory Brown.

## **TUESDAY JANUARY 30**

7:00pm | Forrestal-Bowld Music Center, Phillips Exeter Academy | Exeter, NH

## **WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31**

7:30pm | Morse Hall, Falmouth Academy | Falmouth, MA

## **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1**

7:30pm | St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | Chatham, MA

## **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2**

7:30pm | Old North Church | Marblehead, MA



**HOLY WEEK MEDITATION  
FOR GOOD FRIDAY:  
SEVEN LAST  
WORDS**

**Conceived for Skylark's international debut on the evening of Good Friday at Tenebrae's prestigious Holy Week Festival in London, our program will progress through the scriptural seven last words of Christ on the Cross. This dramatic program will pair uniquely American choral works with choral music from other regions of the world. Skylark will record this album for international release on the GRAMMY® Award-winning Sono Luminus label for release in conjunction with this series of concerts.**

**SATURDAY MARCH 24**

7:30pm | The Memorial Church, Harvard University | Cambridge, MA

**MONDAY MARCH 26**

7:30pm | First Congregational Church | Falmouth, MA

**FRIDAY MARCH 30\***

7:30pm | St. John's Smith Square | London, UK

\*Skylark is offering a special tour package for interested subscribers and patrons. Join us in London for the broader Holy Week concert series (with concerts by groups like Polyphony, Tenebrae, The Tallis Scholars, and others), behind-the-scenes tours of choral venues, a conversation with Matthew Guard and Nigel Short, Artistic Director of Tenebrae (and former Kings' Singer), and more. Please contact [carolyn.guard@skylarkensemble.org](mailto:carolyn.guard@skylarkensemble.org) if interested in learning more.



# LIEDER & *Lovesongs*

During a time when classical instrumental music underwent a remarkable metamorphosis (from Brahms to Stravinsky and beyond), the popular love song experienced a parallel evolution, from the romantic lieder of 19th century Europe to the “American Standard” of the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. This charming program will pair melodies from romantic masters such as Brahms, Schubert, Debussy, and Saint-Saëns with offerings from American songwriters such as Cole Porter and Irving Berlin.

## **FRIDAY MAY 25**

7:30pm | St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | Chatham, MA

## **SATURDAY MAY 26**

7:00pm | All Saints' Episcopal Church | Chelmsford, MA

## **SUNDAY MAY 27**

4:00pm | St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport, MA

## **MONDAY MAY 28**

4:00pm | St. Barnabas Memorial Church | Falmouth, MA



## ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Skylark Artistic Director Matthew Guard is quickly earning a reputation as one of the most innovative and thoughtful programmers in American choral music. Praised for his “catalyzing leadership” (Q2/WQXR) 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. In addition to his day-to-day leadership of Skylark and role as a conductor in concerts, Matthew is also an active arranger and editor of scores, as he rarely finds programming ideas that will truly sing without at least one piece specifically arranged or composed for the program.



# 2017-2018 SEASON OVERVIEW

## ALL HALLOW'S EVE

### **Saturday, October 28**

7:30pm | St. Barnabas Memorial Church  
Falmouth, MA

### **Sunday, October 29**

Time & Venue TBD

### **Monday, October 30**

7:30pm | St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
Chatham, MA

### **Tuesday, October 31**

TBD | Milton Academy  
Milton, MA

## A SKYLARK CHRISTMAS

### **Tuesday, December 19**

6:00pm | First Congregational Church  
Falmouth, MA

### **Wednesday, December 20**

7:30pm | St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
Chatham, MA

### **Thursday, December 21**

7:30pm | St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Newburyport, MA

### **Friday, December 22**

7:30pm | Old North Church  
Marblehead, MA

## AMERICAN VOICES

### **Tuesday, January 30**

7:00pm | Forrestal-Bowld Music Center,  
Phillips Exeter Academy | Exeter, NH

### **Wednesday, January 31**

7:30pm | Morse Hall, Falmouth Academy  
Falmouth, MA

### **Thursday, February 1**

7:30pm | St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
Chatham, MA

### **Friday, February 2**

7:30pm | Old North Church  
Marblehead, MA

## SEVEN LAST WORDS

### **Saturday, March 24**

7:30pm | The Memorial Church, Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

### **Monday, March 26**

7:30pm | First Congregational Church  
Falmouth, MA

### **Friday, March 30**

7:30pm | St. John's Smith Square  
London, U.K.

## LIEDER & LOVESONGS

### **Friday, May 25**

7:30pm | St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
Chatham, MA

### **Saturday, May 26**

7:00pm | All Saints' Episcopal Church  
Chelmsford, MA

### **Sunday, May 27**

4:00pm | St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Newburyport, MA

### **Monday, May 28**

4:00pm | St. Barnabas Memorial Church  
Falmouth MA

## TICKET INFORMATION

**General Admission Tickets: \$30**

**Season Subscriber Tickets: \$25**

*General admission. Must purchase tickets for all concerts in the 2017-18 season. Discount available through August 31, 2017.*

Purchase tickets online at  
**[www.skylarkensemble.org](http://www.skylarkensemble.org)**  
beginning June 15, 2017.

### **Upgrade your seating\***

Reserve the best seats in each venue by contributing \$300 or more to Skylark (in excess of ticket purchases) to receive Premium Reserved Seating with up to two personalized place cards.

*\*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. Skylark is a 501(c)(3) organization — donations in excess of ticket subscriptions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*



**Skylark is a premier ensemble of world-class vocal soloists, chamber musicians, and music educators with a passion for small ensemble performance. Formed in 2011 by Artistic Director Matthew Guard, Skylark's music has been described as "sublimely beautiful." The voices of Skylark "can sway you softly into calm and then all but throw you across the room with sheer harmonic force." Skylark strives to set the standard for innovative, engaging, well-researched, and dramatically presented programs that redefine the choral experience for audiences and singers alike.**