



SKYLARK  
VOCAL ENSEMBLE  
2018-2019 SEASON



# ABOUT SKYLARK

**Skylark** is a premier vocal ensemble of leading American vocal soloists, chamber musicians, and music educators. Skylark's dramatic performances have been described as “gripping” (*The Times of London*) and “awe-inspiring” (*Boston Music Intelligencer*). With “some of Boston's best singers” (*Boston Globe*), the voices of Skylark “can sway you softly into calm and then all but throw you across the room with sheer harmonic force” (*Thought Catalog*).

Skylark strives to set the standard for innovative and engaging programs that re-define the choral experience for audiences and singers alike. Artistic Director Matthew Guard's well-researched and creative programs have been described as “engrossing” (*WQXR New York*) and “original, stimulating, and beautiful” (*BBC Radio 3*). Skylark's most recent three recordings all reached the top 10 of Billboard's Traditional Classical Chart, earning praise for “imaginative” programming (*Limelight Australia*) and “singing of the highest standard for any area or any repertoire” (*Classics Today*).

Since its founding in 2011 in Atlanta and Boston, Skylark has branched out to perform its dynamic programs in museums, concert halls, and churches across the United States. Skylark made its international debut in March 2018 at St. John's Smith Square, London, as part of the UK choir Tenebrae's *Holy Week Festival*. *The Times of London* declared that Skylark was “the highlight” of the festival that included some of the UK's leading choirs, including The Tallis Scholars, Polyphony, Tenebrae, and the Gabrieli Consort.

A not-for-profit entity with a passion for music education, Skylark performs educational outreach programs with high school and college students across the United States during its concert tours.

# WELCOME TO SKYLARK'S SEVENTH SEASON

After last season's incredible debut in London, where Skylark was touted as the “highlight” of the festival (*The Times of London*), and our Billboard-topping album releases (*Winter's Night* and *Seven Words from the Cross* both made the Billboard Top Ten in new releases), Skylark is sticking closer to home this season, with a series of six concert programs (four full ensemble performances, and two Skylark *Spotlight* performances) in the Greater Boston area.

Chatham, Falmouth, Newburyport, and Wellesley host three or more concerts each, and we are thrilled to add performances at new (to Skylark) venues in Cambridge, Gloucester, and Newton.

As a continuation of our Skylark in Schools initiative, we are excited to be working with students at Fitchburg State University, Wheaton College, and Wellesley College during our October and April programs.

This season we are happy to include Skylark *Spotlight* recitals as part of our full subscription offering in the Greater Boston area – we've included more information on Skylark *Spotlight* on the following page.

We hope you will join us for our full season!

–**Matthew Guard**  
Artistic Director



# SKYLARK

*spotlight series*

## SKYLARK SPOTLIGHT

Our **Skylark Spotlight** recitals feature our individual Skylarks in a more intimate chamber setting, whether through small ensemble performances, or individual cameo appearances in a variety of genres. *Spotlight* allows our talented artists the freedom to perform their personal choice of repertoire – past recitals have included fiery Italian art songs, early music by Henry Purcell, and traditional music (including bagpipes) from the Scottish Isles.

This season we are delighted to include two Skylark *Spotlight* recitals – featuring sopranos Fiona Gillespie and Sarah Moyer – as part of our season in Falmouth, Newburyport, and Wellesley!

SKYLARK SPOTLIGHT:  
SOPRANO FIONA GILLESPIE PRESENTS  
**BOLD OUTLAW**

A musical exploration of the legend and history surrounding Robin Hood, featuring folk, Medieval, and Renaissance music from France and the British Isles. Skylark Soprano Fiona Gillespie joins with her sister Genna (a fiddler and vocalist), and instrumentalists Paul Morton and Bradley King.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 7 PM**  
Church of the Messiah | Woods Hole MA

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 3 PM**  
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | Chatham MA



# SAGA



Skylark once again welcomes storyteller Sarah Walker to help open our season with a dramatic evening of music and tales from Norse Mythology and the land of the Vikings. This is our third season working with Sarah, and our storytelling concerts are always among our most requested – you won't want to miss this journey to the North Sea!

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7 PM**

Simon Center for the Arts at Falmouth Academy | Falmouth MA

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 7 PM**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport MA

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 7 PM**

Nordic Hall at the Scandinavian Cultural Center | West Newton MA

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2 PM**

Houghton Memorial Chapel, Wellesley College | Wellesley MA

# A CENTURY OF CAROLS

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, held annually at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, Skylark will explore the history of this service, and music that has made its mark on beloved Christmas broadcasts over the last century.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 6 PM**

First Congregational Church | Falmouth MA

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 6 PM**

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | Chatham MA

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 7 PM**

Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley | Wellesley MA

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 4 PM**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport MA



SKYLARK SPOTLIGHT:  
SOPRANO SARAH MOYER PRESENTS  
**CELESTIAL SPRITES**

Join Skylark soprano Sarah Moyer and pianist Nate Salazar as they perform music by James Dillon, Jonathan Dove, and other contemporary composers, as well as a world premiere by composer Benjamin Montgomery.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 7 PM**  
Home of Carol McMullen & Sean Rush | Weston MA

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 4 PM**  
St. Barnabas Memorial Church | Falmouth MA



# MASTERPIECE

Over the centuries, art has inspired music, and music has inspired art. In this innovative multi-faceted program, we will offer musical reflections and reactions to the visual arts from the ancient to the modern. Skylark is excited to premiere a commissioned work by Nell Shaw Cohen, a New York City-based composer with a particular interest in the intersection of visual art and music.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 7 PM**

Fitchburg State University | Fitchburg MA

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 7 PM**

Gloucester Meetinghouse | Gloucester MA

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 3 PM**

Cole Memorial Chapel, Wheaton College | Norton MA

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 4 PM**

St. John's Episcopal Church, Georgetown Parish | Washington DC

# REMEMBRANCE

In honor of our veterans, and in remembrance of the many wars fought across the centuries, Skylark offers a war remembrance program.

**FRIDAY, MAY 24, 7 PM**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport MA

**SATURDAY, MAY 25, 7:30 PM**

First Church in Cambridge | Cambridge MA

**SUNDAY, MAY 26, 4 PM**

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | Chatham MA

**MONDAY, MAY 27, 4 PM**

First Congregational 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.





SKYLARK  
SEASON AT-A-GLANCE

SKYLARK  
*spotlight series*

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## TICKET INFORMATION

General Admission Tickets to Skylark Concerts: \$30

General Admission Tickets to Skylark *Spotlight* Concerts: \$20

Student & Music Educator Tickets to any concert: \$10

**Please visit [www.skylarkensemble.org](http://www.skylarkensemble.org) to purchase tickets.**

## SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS & UPGRADED SEATING

We are pleased to offer season subscriptions to our concerts in Chatham, Falmouth, the North Shore, and Wellesley, with special subscriber-only perks in each location. Season subscriptions are general admission. Skylark subscribers may reserve the best seats in each venue by contributing to Skylark (in excess of ticket purchases) to receive Premium Reserved Seating, with a reserved name card for each concert.

**More information on season subscriptions and upgraded seating is available on our website, [www.skylarkensemble.org](http://www.skylarkensemble.org).**

[WWW.SKYLARKENSEMBLE.ORG](http://WWW.SKYLARKENSEMBLE.ORG)

  
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