

Bach Tage Soloists 2017



Heather Cogswell (Soprano)

A native of Minnesota, Heather has performed with numerous groups in the Twin Cities including *Consortium Carissimi*, The Bach Society of Minnesota, The Rose Ensemble, and The Gregorian Singers. Heather completed her undergraduate work in vocal performance and music education at Illinois Wesleyan University and her graduate degree in music education at The University of St. Thomas. In addition to performing, Heather has taught music to children in kindergarten through 12th grade and has also taught early childhood music to children birth to age 5 and their parents. Heather currently serves as the choir director and organist at Parkview United Church of Christ in White Bear Lake, MN.



Clara Osowski (Alto)

Clara Osowski is an active soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe. Hailed for her artistry and “rich and radiant” voice (*Urban Dial*, Milwaukee), her recent awards include the runner-up in the 2016 American Prize for Art Song, runner-up in the 2016 Schubert Club Bruce P. Carlson Scholarship Competition, and the 2017 winner of the Houston *Sängerbund* Competition. Clara’s passion for song creation and collaboration is evident in her most recent premieres with Libby Larsen (*Blood Moon*), Jeremy Walker (*Alma Gentil*) and James Kallembach (*Songs on Letters of John and Abigail Adams* and *St. John Passion*).

Highlights in the 2016-2017 season include a residency at the 50th Contemporary New Music Festival at Indiana State University, soloist in Paul Rudoj’s premiere oratorio with *Magnum Chorum* in the Twin Cities, and several recital engagements across the United States. Clara is featured on numerous recordings with *Consortium Carissimi* (Naxos), and James Kallembach’s *St. John Passion*, released with high acclaim on Roven Records. In collaboration with pianist Mark Bilyeu and composer Libby Larsen, Clara serves as the Associate Artistic Director of Source Song Festival, a week-long art song festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In addition to her solo work, she participates in a number of ensembles, including Consortium Carissimi, Lumina Women’s Ensemble, the Rose Ensemble and Seraphic Fire.



William Pederson (Tenor)

Minnesota tenor Bill Pederson has been a member of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers for 12 years and contracted singer in the Minnesota chorale for 13. He holds a BM in Vocal Performance from the University of Minnesota where he studied with Clifton Ware, Glenda Maurice and Wendy Zaro-Mullins. Along with being cantor/section leader at the Church of St. Louis King of France, in Saint Paul, Bill has sung with the Minnesota Bach Society, the SPCO Chorale, *Consortium Carissimi*, and Ensemble Polaris. An avid Bach performer, Bill has performed numerous cantatas throughout the Midwest, and been featured as the Evangelist in Bach's St John Passion, on numerous occasions.



Andrew Kane (Baritone)

Since earning his Bachelor of Music in voice performance from Augsburg College in 2010, Baritone Andrew Kane has focused mainly on early vocal chamber music, oratorio and other sacred works.

Andrew has served as baritone section leader at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis since 2010. In that capacity, he has appeared as a soloist in Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *Serenade to Music*, Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, requiems of Fauré and Duruflé, and passion settings on Good Friday of Bach, Arvo Pärt, Charles Wood and Sir John Stainer.

Andrew was a regular member of the St. Paul-based Rose Ensemble from 2012 to 2016, appearing internationally in Spain, Germany and Bolivia, and nationally in cities including Washington, D.C., New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston, Columbus, Tampa. Since 2011, Andrew has been a member of Minneapolis-based Renaissance group the *Mirandola Ensemble*.

Andrew appeared as a soloist in Oratorio Society of Minnesota's fall 2016 performance of Benjamin Britten's *Cantata Misericordium*. Additional soloist appearances include the Minnesota Bach Ensemble, Glorious Revolution Baroque, *Consortium Carissimi*, and VocalPoint Chorus. Andrew has also sung with the Oregon Bach Festival since 2013, and with VocalEssence, the Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Bach Society, Lyra Baroque Orchestra, Minnesota Chorale, Lau Hawaiian Collective, and the new choral compositions workshop First Readings Project.



Tulio Rondón (cello piccolo)

Born in La Victoria, Venezuela, Dr. Tulio Rondón began his cello studies through El Sistema, quickly moving up to the highest orchestra by age fifteen. He received his Bachelor of Music from the Simón Bolívar Conservatory, his Master of Music from Miami University (Oxford, OH), and completed a Doctoral Degree in performance at the University of Arizona. Pursuing his strong interest in historic performance practice, he continued his studies in The Netherlands, doing two years of post-graduate studies on baroque cello and viola da gamba with Jaap ter Linden and Rainer Zipperling at The Royal Conservatory in The Hague. Dr. Rondón is currently the violoncello professor at the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire.



Sian Ricketts (Oboe da caccia)

SIAN RICKETTS, oboe and soprano, enjoys a multi-faceted career as a singer and a period woodwinds specialist. This season she will be performing with the choir of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (NY), the Bard Festival Chorale (NY), New Vintage Baroque (NY), Bach Collegium-Fort Wayne (IN), Burlington Choral Society (VT), Three Notch'd Road (VA), and the Kinnara Ensemble (NJ), among others. Sian is a co-founding member of the early music ensemble *Alkemie*, which has been appointed the ensemble-in-residence for Fairmont State University (WV) for 2016-2017. Sian holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in historical performance practice from Case Western Reserve University with concentrations in voice and baroque oboe.



James Bobb (recitalist)

James E. Bobb joined the St Olaf faculty with more than 20 years' experience directing church music in Lutheran and United Church of Christ congregations. Bobb holds performer's certificates and M.M. degrees in organ and harpsichord performance and literature from the Eastman School of Music where his teachers included Russell Saunders and David Craighead in organ and Arthur Haas in harpsichord. His undergraduate work was at Capital University where his teachers were Janet Linker in organ and Frank Hussey in piano.

As the Minister of Music at First Congregational Church, Columbus, Ohio from 2009-2012, Bobb presided over a three-manual 1972 Rudolph von Beckerath organ of 73 ranks, a four-manual 1931 W. W. Kimball organ of 66 ranks, four parish ensembles and two concert series. He also taught organ and organ literature at Capital University in Columbus. For fifteen years prior to that, Bobb served the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word in Rochester, New York. There he led parish ensembles of all ages, conducted the St. John Passion and other works by Bach, Buxtehude, Schütz, Gabrieli, Purcell, and Telemann, and led the choir on a tour of Sweden. Also in Rochester, he was director of the Rochester Bach Festival, an instructor in Sacred Music at the Eastman School of Music, Adjunct Professor of organ at Nazareth College, and a chapter dean of the American Guild of Organists. At the harpsichord, Bobb has performed Bach's Goldberg Variations in Manhattan, Boston, Rochester, and Baltimore. He has appeared as organ and harpsichord soloist, conductor, and continuo player with The Publick Musick and the Rochester Bach Festival. With The Publick Musick, he had appeared in New York, Indiana, Maine, and Germany, and has recorded music of Telemann and Vivaldi. Bobb has also enjoyed leading hymn festivals in Ohio, New York, Georgia, and Oklahoma.

Kathy Saltzman Romey, Conductor Co-founder of Bach Tage

Kathy Romey is Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at the University of Minnesota, as well as Artistic Director of The Minnesota Chorale, which performs frequently with The Minnesota Orchestra.

She has prepared the Chorale for performances with the Minnesota Orchestra conducted by Roberto Abbado, Christopher Hogwood, Nicholas McGegan, Roger Norrington, Robert Shaw, Leonard Slatkin, Osmo Vänskä, and Edo de Waart.

Romey studied in Germany at the *Frankfurt Musikhochschule* under acclaimed conductor Helmuth Rilling, receiving an artistic degree in choral conducting. She has been a leader of the Oregon Bach Festival since 1984, and is principal chorus master

of the 54-voice professional choir. Additionally, she has been a chorus master to the *Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart*.

Kathy Romey was named 2002 Conductor of the Year by the Minnesota Chapter, American Choral Directors Association.





David Cherwien, Cantor Co-founder of Bach Tage

An American "Bach Tage," modeled after similar events held across Germany for decades, was a vision shared in 2005 by David and conductor Kathy Romey. Over the past decade, hundreds of professional musicians and lovers of Bach's music have gathered for this annual conference to study and perform his music.

David Cherwien was installed as Mount Olive's third Cantor in August of 2001. He also is Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir, and an adjunct faculty member for the Master of Sacred Music program at Luther Seminary. Previously he was a faculty member at Gustavus Adolphus and Elmhurst Colleges.

Cantor Cherwien's specialty and passion is congregational song, encouraging meaningful and vibrant participation through his improvisations and creative approach. His ministry spreads across the country through his frequent hymn festivals, workshops, guest appearances, and over 100 publications.

Arthur Halbardier, Lecturer



Arthur Halbardier is a retired pastor who served ELCA congregations in Missouri and Illinois. Prior to ordination, however, he was an organist and choral director for churches in New York City and Chicago.

Art did graduate study at Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music. He received his Master of Music degree from Northwestern University, studying conducting with Margaret Hillis and organ with Karel Paukert.

During his seminary studies at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, his dual interests in theology and music came together in his Master of Divinity thesis, *Johann Sebastian Bach as Theologian: An Historical-Critical Analysis of His Clavierübung Part III, and Symbolum Nicenum from His Hohe Messe h-moll*.

Art enjoys creating dynamic audio-visual presentations to illustrate his lectures on Bach's musical and theological language. He has enjoyed the opportunity to share his enthusiasm for these topics in parishes and conferences. Art, and his wife, Elaine, are members of Mount Olive, and sing in the Mount Olive Cantorei.