

VILLAINS & HEROES

messiahs false and true

If we have wisdom

(World premiere, 2021)

Messiahs false and true

(Pacific Northwest premiere, 2014, rev. 2019)

by Rex Isenberg



THE ESOTERICS
Directed by Eric Banks

Saturday | 25 March 2023 | 8pm
Plymouth United Church of Christ
1217 6th Avenue | Seattle

Sunday | 26 March 2023 | 3pm
St John's Episcopal Church
114 20th Avenue Southeast | Olympia

VILLAINS & HEROES

messiahs false and true

P R O G R A M

Please turn off all noise-making devices, and refrain from talking during the performance.

If we have wisdom (2021)

World premiere

by Rex Isenberg (b 1987)

Messiahs false and true (2014, rev. 2019)

Pacific Northwest premiere

by Rex Isenberg (b 1987)

PART I

- I. Consolamini, consolamini
- II. Vox clamantis
- III. Populus qui ambulabat in tenebris
- IV. Exulta satis, filia Sion

PART II

- V. Dominus dabit verbum evangelizantibus
- VI. Omnes videntes me deriserunt me -
Qui habitat in caelis irredebit eos
- VII. Omnes nos quasi oves erravimus
- VIII. Videtis, videtis
- IX. Nos autem sperabamus

EPILOGUE

- X. Man is his own star

Wyatt Smith, organ
James Doyle, percussion
Kelle Brown, narrator

*After a brief talk with Rex after the first piece,
the second work will be performed without intermission.
The running time of the concert is about 60 minutes.*

Special thanks to:

Daniel Powers | Audio Producer
Mitchell Baier | Facilities Coordinator
Matthew Bonner | Volunteer Coordinator

THE ESOTERICS

Eric Banks *Founding director*

Aaron Moore

Allison Fortenberry

Avery Wong

Bayta Maring

Betsy Baeskens

Brittni Liyanage

Curtis Man

Daniel Powers

Erin Harlan

Jeremy Evans

Jim Peterson

Joe Scott

Julia Jay

Kelly Kennedy

Leigh McGill

Lillian Ashworth

Livia Lennington

Logan Cox

Lora Korpar

Matt Bonner

Michael Saunders

Mimi Couture

Mitchell Baier

Nathan Wasner

Nik Krainchich

Nora Allen

Patricia Lahtinen

Patrick Clark

Sarah Haynes

Sarah Lewontin

T H E E S O T E R I C S

Now celebrating its 30th concert season, Seattle's most innovative chorus has drawn local, national, and international praise for performing rarely-heard compositions of contemporary music for unaccompanied voices, for infusing elements of the literary, theatrical, and visual arts into the typical concert experience, and for inspiring and performing new *a cappella* choral settings of poetry, philosophy, and spiritual writings by composers around the world. In early 1992, Eric Banks brought together a group of friends to perform his Master's and Doctoral recitals in Choral Studies at the University of Washington. After Banks' recitals were completed, the group wanted to keep singing together, so Banks chose a name for his ensemble based on the Greek adjective εσωτερικός – which describes a close-knit community and the secret knowledge that its members share. Since incorporating with this name in 1993, The Esoterics has performed hundreds of concerts throughout the Pacific Northwest, has commissioned and premiered hundreds of new works for *a cappella* voices in myriad languages, and has mastered many of the most virtuosic choral works of the last century in concerts described as “compelling,” “crafted,” “luxuriant,” “lyrical,” “sumptuous,” and “superb.” The Esoterics has released twenty-one CD recordings on its own label (Terpsichore) and has been honored to compete at the 2000 Cork International Choral Festival (Ireland), the 2001 Certamen Coral de Tolosa (Spain), and the 2006 Harald Andersen International Choir Competition in Helsinki (Finland). As well, The Esoterics has demonstrated its continuing commitment to choral education in becoming the only choral ensemble in Washington State that grants continuing-education credit to its members who also teach in the public schools. In recognition for its efforts in choral education and innovation, The Esoterics has been honored five times with the ASCAP and Chorus America Award for the Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music (in 2001, 2003, 2006, 2008, and 2017). The Esoterics has been honored to receive grants from the arts commissions of Washington State, King County, and the City of Seattle, as well as funding from Amazon, Google, Microsoft, the Seattle Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, the BMI Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Esoterics is a proud member chorus of ACDA (the American Choral Directors Association), Chorus America, IFCM (the International Federation for Choral Music), and GALA (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses).

M I S S I O N S T A T E M E N T

The Esoterics is a Seattle-based vocal ensemble that is dedicated to performing and perpetuating contemporary *a cappella* choral settings of poetry, philosophy, and spiritual writings from around the world.

While cultivating artistic expression and cultural understanding among its singers and audience alike, The Esoterics aspires to reflect the beauty, power, and significance that are inherent in the music of our time.

E R I C B A N K S

As a conductor, composer, clinician, vocalist, linguist, and ethnomusicologist, Eric Banks has garnered significant acclaim as one of the most creative and compelling choral directors in the United States for his unwavering commitment to new music for unaccompanied voices. In 1992, Eric founded The Esoterics, a professional-caliber chamber chorus in Seattle whose mission is to perform and perpetuate contemporary choral music beyond the scope of the established *a cappella* canon. After completing his BA in Composition at Yale University in 1990, Eric relocated to Seattle to study in the departments of Choral Studies and Music Theory at the University of Washington. His MM thesis (1992) is a performance edition of *Dixit Dominus* by Chiara Margarita Cozzolani; his MA thesis (1995) is a postmodern analysis of Arvo Pärt's *Credo*; and his DMA dissertation (1996) surveys the choral music of Mexican composer and Aztec ethnomusicologist Carlos Chávez. In 1997, at the conclusion of his graduate study, Banks traveled to Sweden as a Fulbright Scholar and Lois Roth Fellow in order to learn more about its contemporary choral culture. While in Stockholm, Eric performed with several ensembles, including the Swedish Radio Choir and the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir. In his music, Eric is drawn to ideas that are 'esoteric' in origin, and chooses to express concepts that are undiscovered, under-represented, or not easily decipherable to a wider audience. As a composer, Banks has been able to combine his love of poetry, foreign language, classical civilization, social justice, comparative religion, and the natural sciences to create a growing repertoire of new works for *a cappella* chorus. Several of Banks' commissioned works have been recorded by The Esoterics, and can be found on CDs released on the Terpsichore label. Eric was a visiting scholar at the Royal Conservatory of Music and Swedish National Radio in Stockholm, as well as at the Cama Oriental Institute in Mumbai, India. Winner of the 2010 *Dale Warland Singers Commission Award* from Chorus America and the American Composers Forum, Eric has received composition and research grants from 4Culture, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Artist Trust, the Atwood Foundation, New Music USA, the San Francisco Arts Commission, Seattle City Artists, the Washington State Arts Commission, and three “creativity” grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. His upcoming premieres include pieces for the International Federation for Choral Music, the Taipei Philharmonic Chorus, and the Vancouver Chamber Choir. Eric lives in Seattle with David Gellman, his husband of 26 years (who is also The Esoterics' graphic design guru). You can read more about Eric's work on his own webpage: www.ericbanks.com. Eric is a member of ASCAP.

R E X I S E N B E R G

Rex Isenberg is a Los Angeles-based composer whose music has been described as “timeless” and “inviting.” Many of Isenberg’s works touch upon the nature of human relationships from the personal to the societal throughout history and the present day. He is also devoted to expanding the catalog of Jewish liturgical music, with compositions that honor the spirit of the original text while offering renewed meaning for contemporary audiences. Isenberg’s work has been performed throughout the US and abroad by ensembles including JACK Quartet, NOTUS Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, NOW Ensemble, Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia, Angeles Chorale, Cecilia Chorus of New York, North Carolina Master Chorale, St Olaf Cantorei, Choral Chameleon, and Cantori New York. His oratorio *Messiahs false and true* was recorded by Choral Chameleon on their debut album, *Deus ex machina*, in 2021. Isenberg was Composer-in-residence for Choral Chameleon in 2016-17 and has been a fellow at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Isenberg holds a BA in Music from Yale University and Masters and Doctorate degrees in Composition from Manhattan School of Music. He studied composition with Richard Danielpour, Reiko Fūting, Kathryn Alexander, Michael Klingbeil, and Missy Mazzoli. While at Yale, he was a member of The Whiffenpoofs, composing several arrangements which he performed with the group in 20 countries and 25 US states, for audiences which included the US Ambassadors to China, Lithuania, and Chile, the Consul General of Mexico, and President George W Bush. Born in Philadelphia, he lives in LA with his husband Matt. Select choral works are available through ECS Publishing.

W Y A T T S M I T H

American concert organist Wyatt Smith is a native of Rapid City, South Dakota. He performs with “nuance, polish, and personality.” Wyatt concertizes extensively, keeping an active concert schedule throughout the United States and Europe, including concerts in 28 states, Germany, France, and England. Additionally, his performances and recordings have been heard on various episodes of *American Public Media’s Pipedreams*. His achievements in performance were recognized by *The Diapason’s* program “20-under-30” as a member of the “Class of 2016,” which recognizes young leaders in the fields of organ, harpsichord, carillon, and church music. Wyatt has a passion for commissioning and performing new works for the organ. Since 2008, he has commissioned and premiered works by Craig Phillips, David Cherwien, Carson Cooman, Emma Lou Diemer, Kurt Knecht, Kristina Langlois, and Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra, among others. Smith serves as Instructor of Organ & Harpsichord at the Epiphany Music Academy in Seattle and the Affiliate Artist in Organ & Harpsichord at the University of Puget Sound. At UPS he teaches applied lessons, curates the care of the Paul Fritts organ in Kilworth Chapel, and performs “Organ at Noon” recitals throughout the year. Smith holds degrees in organ performance from the University of Washington (DMA), Yale University (MM), and the University of South Dakota (BM). His primary teachers have included Carole Terry, Martin Jean, and Larry Smith.

J A M E S D O Y L E

James W. Doyle is a percussionist, educator, and collaborative artist based in the Pacific Northwest. He serves on the musicology faculty at the University of Puget Sound, the graduate music education faculty at Adams State University, teaches world music and percussion at Pierce College, and teaches percussion at Saint Martin’s University and the University of Puget Sound’s Community Music program. James is a member of the Seattle-based contemporary percussion and multimedia group, *Striking Music*, is co-owner of *Pacific Edge Multimedia*, and maintains a performance and artist-in-residency schedule throughout the United States and abroad. As a classical, contemporary, commercial, and jazz artist, James has performed throughout North America, Europe, Australia, Africa, and Asia, and has recorded over 40 albums for Austin, Nashville, and Southwest-based commercial artists. His appearances include university residencies in the U.S. and Japan, performances in preeminent concert halls in Tokyo, salon concerts in the American Southwest, and performances at the Japanese international arts festival, the *Nakanajo Biennale*. Most recently, he has performed with Symphony Tacoma, the Northwest Sinfonietta, Olympia Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Collaborative Orchestra, Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra, Yakima Symphony Orchestra, Vashon Opera, Federal Way Symphony, Lake Chelan Bach Fest, Inverted Space Ensemble, and with contemporary music and world music ensembles in the Pacific Northwest. James earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, a Master of Music in Percussion Performance from Louisiana State University, and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Central Missouri.

K E L L E B R O W N

Originally from Columbus, Georgia, The Reverend Dr Kelle Brown brings a wealth of experience, from spiritual leadership and business acumen to inclusion education and community building. While attending Spelman College, she was asked to lead music for a church start, Amistad UCC in Atlanta, Georgia. At the age of 19, her life of ministry began. In addition to being a Minister of Music, youth minister and church administrator, Kelle consistently pursued her call to ministry. Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Spelman College in Atlanta, and after working in different capacities as a mental health provider, Kelle traveled to Seattle in 2003 to earn her Master of Divinity from Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry. She received a post-Master’s degree and completed her Doctorate of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2018. Her dissertation is entitled: *Moving from the Gate to the Porch: Solidarity as a Hallmark of Discipleship*. Kelle provided pastoral leadership at Madrona-Grace Presbyterian Church during a time of great change and transition, and as an intern, was Director of Child and Youth Ministries at Bethany UCC. She also interned at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church, gathering experience and skill. After ordination in 2011, Kelle moved to Richmond, Virginia to provide pastoral leadership to the women and children of Daughters of Zelophehad, a Presbyterian supported ministry for families experiencing homelessness, as well as pastoring the Woodville Presbyterian Church. She returned to Seattle as Pastor for *Mary’s Place*, where she facilitated weekly empowerment and spirituality groups, led powerful and dynamic worship and worked as community liaison to other faith organizations. Kelle also facilitates conversation on dismantling oppression. She offers ways to consider and reflect on privilege, bias, prejudice and bigotry, and provides individual spiritual and leadership coaching. Kelle arrived at Plymouth in August of 2015, and has since discovered that this church is poised to be a progressive voice of inclusion to all people, a place that will welcome church “refugees” looking for healing, and a chalice where all sacred music is seen for its beauty. Kelle enjoys writing, drawing, composing music, and reading. In addition to her children’s book, *Sun and Moon*, she is working on a novel, *Casseroles*. She is most proud of her daughter Indigo, the love of her life, who is a student at the University of Washington.

Texts and translations

If we have wisdom (2021)

by Rex Isenberg (b 1987)

World premiere, setting an excerpt from
"Letter of George Washington
to the Hebrew congregation
of Newport, Rhode Island" (1790)

If we have wisdom, we cannot fail
to become a great and happy people.
All alike possess liberty of conscience
and immunities of citizenship.

It is now no more that toleration is spoken of
as if it was the indulgence of one class of people.

For happily these United States,
which give to bigotry no sanction,
to persecution no assistance
require only that they
who live under its protection
demean themselves as good citizens.

And may the children of the Stock of Abraham,
who dwell in this land,
continue to merit and enjoy
the good will of the other inhabitants;
while every one shall sit in safety
under his own vine and fig tree,
and there shall be none to make him afraid.

And may the father of all mercies
scatter light and not darkness on our paths,
and make us all useful here,
and in his own due time and way
everlastingly happy.

Messiahs false and true (2014, 2019)

by Rex Isenberg (b 1987)

Pacific Northwest premiere, an oratorio
for chorus, organ, bass drum, and narrator

PART I

I. Consolamini, consolamini

CHORUS:

Consolamini, consolamini, popule meus,
Comfort, comfort my people,
dicit Deus vester.
says your God.

Loquimini ad cor Jerusalem, et advocate eam,
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her,
quoniam completa est malitia ejus,
that her hard service has been completed,
dimissa est iniquitas illius
that her sin has been pardoned.

– Isaiah 40:1-2

NARRATOR:

The time has come
to reaffirm our enduring spirit,
to choose our better history,
to carry forward that precious gift,
that noble idea, passed on
from generation to generation:
the God-given promise that all are equal,
all are free, and all deserve a chance
to pursue their full measure of happiness.

– Barack Obama, First Inaugural address (2009)

CHORUS:

Consolamini...
Comfort...

My brethren and friends!
May you be privileged to see God's salvation,
to be eyewitnesses to his return to Zion!

– Sabbatai Zevi, "Letter to the People of Sofia" (1668)

A voice calls from the wilderness!

– Isaiah 40:3

II. Vox clamantis

CHORUS:

Vox clamantis in deserto:
A voice calls in the wilderness:
Parate viam Domini.
Prepare the way for the Lord.

– Isaiah 40:3

NARRATOR:

The time for empty talk is over.
Now arrives the hour of action.
This carnage stops right here and right now.
From this day forward,
a new vision will govern our land.
The forgotten men and women of our country
will be forgotten no longer.
You will never be ignored again.

– Donald Trump, Inaugural address (2017)

CHORUS:

Vox clamantis...
A voice calls...
rectas facite in solitudine semitas Dei nostri.
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

– Isaiah 40:3

III. Populus qui ambulabat in tenebris

NARRATOR:

In his great spirit, he lives among the people.
As he pauses for the night in a village,
or in the open countryside,
great throngs come to him as to a holy shrine.
He would seem to be what the people regard him
– the perfect and universal man, simple and undefiled.
His endeavor is to wipe out the barriers
which divide the people from one another
and make them one great united brotherhood.
His idealism transcends the boundaries
of race and country and seeks to make itself
one with the highest hopes of humanity.

– John Haynes Holmes, "Mahatma Gandhi: Who is the Greatest Man in the World Today?" (1921)

CHORUS:

Populus qui ambulabat in tenebris,
The people that walked in darkness
vidit lucem magnam;
have seen a great light;
habitantibus in regione umbræ mortis, lux!
on those living in deep darkness a light shines.

– Isaiah 9:2

IV. Exsulta satis, filia Sion

CHORUS:

Lux! Exsulta satis!
Light! Rejoice greatly!

– Zechariah 9:9-10

NARRATOR:

By ascending the throne,
he fulfilled the highest hopes of the people.
Full and absolute power
was at once put into his hands
by the senate and the mob.

He was met by a dense and joyful throng,
who called him their 'star.'

'I prayed to the gods for our tyrant to die
and for you to become our king.'

– Suetonius, *The lives of the twelve Caesars*,
on Caligula, (CE 121)

CHORUS:

Exsulta satis, Sion!
Rejoice greatly, Zion!
Jubila filia Jerusalem
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!
Ecce rex tuus veniet tibi,
Behold, your king comes to you,
justus et salvator...
righteous and a savior...
... et loquetur pacem gentibus.
... and he will speak peace to the nations.

– Zechariah 9:9-10

PART II

V. Dominus dabit verbum evangelizantibus

NARRATOR:

But soon the people began whispering about him.
Some said he was a good man,
but others thought he deceived the people.
Still many believed in him fervently, saying,
"When the Messiah comes,
will he perform more miracles than this man?"
No one would question him publicly out of fear.
At the festival, the man stood up
and addressed the people.
"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.
Whoever believes in me rivers of living water
will flow forth from within them."
Some of the people cried out,
"Surely this man is our prophet. He is the Messiah!"
But others replied,
"How can the Messiah come from Galilee?"
The priests observed,
"This mob knows nothing – there is a spell on them."
And every man retreated into his own house.
And so the people were divided.

– John 7:12-13, 31, 37-38, 40-41, 49, 53
(King James Version, adapted by the composer)

CHORUS:

Dominus dabit verbum:
The Lord gave the word:
evangelizantibus virtute multa.
great was the company of the preachers.
– Psalm 68:11

VI. Omnes videntes me deriserunt me – Qui habitat in caelis irredabit eos

CHORUS:

Omnes videntes me deriserunt me.
All who see me mock me.
– Psalm 22:7-8

Qui habitat in caelis irridebit eos,
He that dwells in heaven shall laugh at them;
et Dominus subsannabit eos.
The Lord shall have them in derision.
– Psalm 2:4

NARRATOR:

No man has rendered more important services
to his country than this man.
His deeds have shed imperishable glory
upon his country and his name.

For these services, his country is grateful.
But these great services and deeds of devotion
to the general welfare,
and perilous defense of his native soil,
are the sources of envy in the minds of
malignant partisans and bad-hearted men.
Such men have filled the country
with gross misrepresentations
of his character and conduct.
Every act of his life has been perverted.
No man, elevated and noble
in his devotion under great emergencies,
and in the most trying times,
has been so much defamed.
No man has been more foully slandered.
– Major Henry Lee, *A vindication
of the character of Andrew Jackson (1828)*

CHORUS:
Omnes videntes...
All who see me...

NARRATOR:
The standard of truth has been erected.
No unhallowed hand can stop
the work from progressing,
persecutions may rage, mobs may combine,
armies may assemble, but the truth will go forth
boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has
penetrated every continent, visited every clime,
swept every country, sounded in every ear,
till the purposes of God shall be accomplished,
and the great Jehovah shall say the work is done.
– Joseph Smith, *“The Standard of Truth”
from the “Wentworth Letter” (1842)*

CHORUS:
Qui habitat in caelis...
He that dwells in Heaven...

VII. Omnes nos quasi oves erravimus

NARRATOR:
It is time for us to realize that we're too great
to limit ourselves to small dreams.
We're not, as some would have us believe,
doomed to an inevitable decline.
Let us begin an era of renewal.
Let us renew our determination,
our courage, and our strength.
And let us renew our faith and our hope.
We have every right to dream heroic dreams.
Those who say that we're in a time
when there are no heroes,
they just don't know where to look.
– Ronald Reagan, *First Inaugural address (1981)*

CHORUS:
Omnes nos quasi oves erravimus,
*All we like sheep have gone astray,
unusquisque in viam suam declinavit:
each one in his own way:
et posuit Dominus in eo iniquitatem omnium nostrum.
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
– Isaiah 53:6

NARRATOR:
Let us strive on to finish the work we are in,
to bind up the nation's wounds,
to do all which may achieve,
and cherish a just and lasting peace
among ourselves and with all nations.
– Abraham Lincoln, *Second Inaugural address (1865)*

CHORUS:
...et posuit Dominus...
...and the Lord has laid...

Et livore ejus sanati sumus.
And with his stripes we are healed.
– Isaiah 53:5

VIII. Videtis, videtis

NARRATOR:
He's a liar, a despot, and a buffoon.
– General McClellan, *on Abraham Lincoln (1864)*

CHORUS:
Videtis quia nihil proficimus?
Do you see how you can do nothing?
Ecce mundus totus post eum abiit.
Look, the world has gone after him!
– John 12:19

NARRATOR:
He was going to bring poverty to an absolute end!
He promised to see that there would be no such thing
as a man without a home and the comforts of a home.
He promised that there would be no such thing
as an unemployed man or woman,
but how many of you are unemployed today?
Why have this misery and this distress?
Why have people hungry?
Why have our people homeless? Why?
Because this man refused to carry out
his promise to the people.
– Senator Huey Long on Franklin D. Roosevelt,
*from “Our plundering government,” a speech to
US Congress (1935)*

CHORUS:
Ecce mundus totus post eum abiit.
Look, the world has gone after him!
– John 12:19

NARRATOR:
And the people cried out, “Away with him!”
– John 19:15

CHORUS:
Nos audivimus ex lege,
*We have heard from the law
quia Christus manet in aeternum.
that the Messiah remains forever.*
– John 12:34

Si tu es Christus,
*If you are the Messiah,
salvum fac te ipsum et nos.
save yourself and us!*
– Luke 23:39

Quia Filius Dei se fecit.
Because he made himself the son of God.
Crucifige, crucifige!
Crucify, crucify!
– John 19:7, 19:6

IX. Nos autem sperabamus

NARRATOR:
A hush solemn stillness went out over the land.
The heads of the people were bowed
– like the waves of the sea
when first swept by the tempest,
only to rise later in the storm.

For a moment there stole through men's hearts
a strange distrust of each other.
They looked at their fellow citizens
with a searching glance, which said
not so much who are you, but what are you,
and how do you feel at this mournful hour?
What was the cause of our grief?
It was not because the country had lost a leader,
but because the world had lost a man
– one whose like we may not see again.
– Frederick Douglass, *Eulogy for Abraham
Lincoln (address at Cooper Union, NYC) (1865)*

CHORUS:
Nos autem sperabamus quia ipse esset
*But we had hoped that he was the one
redempturus Israël
who was going to redeem Israel.*
– Luke 24:21

Consolamini...
Comfort...

NARRATOR:
Let us be vigilant, but not afraid.
It falls on each of us to be guardians of our democracy;
to embrace the joyous task we've been given
to continually try to improve this great nation of ours.
Because for all our outward differences,
we all share the same proud title: Citizen.
I will be right there with you, as a citizen,
for all my remaining days. But for now,
I have one final ask of you:
I'm asking you to believe.
Not in my ability to bring about change
– but in yours.
– Barack Obama, *Farewell address (2017)*

EPILOGUE

X. Man is his own star

NARRATOR:
Our chief want in life is somebody
who shall inspire us to be what we could be.
– Ralph Waldo Emerson, *“Considerations by
the way,” from The conduct of life (1866)*

Stand with a leader that stands right.
Stay with him while he is right
but part with him when he goes wrong.
– Abraham Lincoln, *Speech at Peoria, Illinois (1854)*

If you make yourselves sheep,
the wolves will eat you.
– Benjamin Franklin, *Benjamin Franklin: His Life
(autobiography) (1791)*

We can have faith in the future
only if we have faith in ourselves.
– John F. Kennedy, *“Equal to the challenge,”
Presidential nomination acceptance speech (1960)*

CHORUS:
Man is his own star; and the soul that can
Render an honest and a perfect man,
Commands all light, all influence, all fate;
Nothing to him falls early or too late.
Our acts our angels are, or good or ill,
Our fatal shadows that walk by us still.
– John Fletcher, *The honest man's fortune (1613),
used as the prologue to Emerson's Self-reliance (1841)*

THE ESOTERICS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christine Dove, *President*

Jennifer Hrachovec, *Vice President*

Allison Fortenberry, *Secretary*

Mitchell Baier, *Treasurer*

Aaron Moore

Daniel Powers

Matthew Bonner

Mimi Couture

Shawna Avinger, *Viva Vocalists*

Brittni Liyanage

Joseph Scott

Michael Saunders

Nora Allen

The Esoterics' continued success as an arts organization is directly related to you and your generosity. If you are committed to the future of the choral art, then please consider supporting The Esoterics: invite friends to our performances, or make a tax-deductible contribution to the group. Thank you!

If you would like to receive information about future concerts, or are interested in volunteering, please contact us:

The Esoterics | 1815 24th Avenue
Seattle WA 98122-3014 | 206.551.1379
info@TheEsoterics.org

The Esoterics would like to acknowledge our generous rehearsal and concert venues, as well as their staff, for their contributions to The Esoterics' success this year:

Pastor Annie Grogan, Mary Palmer, and the entire parish at Queen Anne Christian Church in Seattle
Reverend RC Laird, Adele Roberts, and Susan Bloomfield-Spangler at St John's Episcopal Church in Olympia
Reverend Kelle Brown and Toni Arthur at Plymouth United Church of Christ in Seattle

The Esoterics' last concert season was sponsored by generous support from:

4Culture | 501 Commons | The Aaron Copland Fund for Music | The Ann Stookey Fund for New Music | ArtsFund
ArtsWA | The BMI Foundation | Chorus America | Classic KING-FM | The Cricket Foundation | The Horizons Foundation
The Jeffery Cotton Award | The Live Music Project | The National Endowment for the Arts | Seattle's Office of Arts & Culture



ART WORKS.

**National
Endowment
for the Arts**

arts.gov



CULTURE



ARTSFUND



WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
SEATTLE

THANK YOU

The financial contributions of those listed below have been instrumental to the success of The Esoterics in the last year.

To all of you who have given so generously, The Esoterics extends its warmest thanks.

Benefactors (\$5000 and above)

ArtsWA
ArtsFund
The Ann Stookey Fund for New Music
Mitchell Baier
Eric Banks & David Gellman
Christine & Shawn Dove
The Cricket Foundation
The National Endowment for the Arts
Queen Anne Christian Church
Karen & Steve Shelton
Washington State
Department of Commerce

Patrons (\$1000 to \$4999)

4Culture
The Aaron Copland Fund for Music
Shawna Avinger
Elisabeth Bæskens & Jay Giri
in honor of Elizabeth Ogden
Marta Belcher
Matthew Bonner
The BMI Foundation
(Broadcast Music International)
Matt Burtness & Brittini Liyanage
Patrick Clark
Chorus America
André & Mimi Couture
Anne Dame
Kevin Fansler & Richard Isaac
Google.com
Jennifer Gosnell & Doug Rank
Joseph Gratz
Alexis & Harvey Greenberg
The Horizons Foundation
The Jeffery Cotton Award
Lois & Steve Larson
Barbara Leigh & Lyle Harwood
Nathan Leech
David & Sarah Lewontin
Meridithe Mendelsohn & Mary Wieneke
The Microsoft Corporation
Daniel Powers
Ed Ratcliffe & Joseph Scott
Seattle Office of Arts & Culture
(Civic Partners)

Sponsors (\$100 to \$999)

Amazon.com
Anonymous
Frederic & Marsha Banks
Bryan de Bourbon
Laura Certain & Benjamin Goldstein
Elaine & Martin Cox
Will Dean
Dave Doody & Michael Erickson
Elizabeth & Wayne Gilham
Erin Harlan
Jennifer & Michael Hrachovec
Christopher Jones
George David Kerlick
Meghan Madden & Garrett Nell
Andrew McKim
Patricia Naumann
Helen Owens
Lory Pomeroy DuMenil
Maria & Mike Ruth
Michael Saunders
Serhiy Savchuk
Donald Skirvin
Sara Slater
Michael Weidemann
Serap & Stephen Yigit-Elliott
in honor of Eiko Sato
Chris & Nichole Waterman
Bruce Weber
Jonathan Jia You

Donors (up to \$99)

Jeff Adams and Alejandra Tres
John Andrews
Beth & Dave Baier
in honor of Mitchell Baier
Erin & Samuel Bathurst
Cindy & John Bell
Nicole Belmont
The Boeing Foundation
Linda & Steve Braun
in memory of Jack & Rayna Gellman
Sari Breznau
Kimberly Brown
Merideth Burness & Linda Morgan
Maureen Flynn

Timothy Fosket

Brian Halbert
Hugh Ho
Jacque Hoekstra & Carol Leenstra
Nayoung Kim
Mary King
Stephanie Kirby
Ken Kriekenbeck
The Lahtinen Family
Michelle & Scott Lambrigger
Garrett & Livia Lenington
Aaron Moore
The O'Butlers
Cynthia Richardson
Judith Rozhon
Emily Transue
Mark Warden
Anne Waterman
Washington State Charities

JOIN THIS LIST OF DONORS!

Please scan this QR code to make a tax-deductible donation to The Esoterics!



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Please scan this QR code to join The Esoterics email list, and get more information about future performances!

