

 MID-COLUMBIA
MASTERSINGERS
2025-2026 SEASON

I Believe

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 7PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 2PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kennewick

WWW.MCMASTERSINGERS.ORG



MID-COLUMBIA MASTERSINGERS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Justin Raffa

PIANIST/ORGANIST
Gavin Duncan

Mary Dann, guest conductor
Myah Rose Paden, mezzo soprano
Jadrian Tarver, baritone

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MCB mid.columbia
ballet

Join us in celebrating our
50th season

The Nutcracker
50

Don't miss the most magical event of the holiday season! Dancers in costume, a scrumptious tea at Cafe Magnolia, All Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets on sale now



Tea Party
Nov 9th
Cafe Magnolia



Winter Ball
Nov 15th
Kiona Vineyards



Celebrate half a century of holiday magic with the Mid-Columbia Ballet at an exclusive, adults-only event. Join us for the Nutcracker Ball, a special evening commemorating 50 years of the beloved holiday tradition.

Tickets on sale now



Performances
Thursday Dec 11 at 7pm
Friday Dec 12 at 7pm
Saturday Dec 13 at 1pm & 7pm
Sunday Dec 14 at 1pm
Tickets on sale Nov 1



Performances
Dec 11-14
RHS Auditorium



Watch our website or follow us on facebook or instagram for more information

www.MidColumbiaBallet.org

509.946.5417

PROGRAM

Today's performance is being recorded. Please silence cell phones and watches.

America Will Be! (2020)

Paul John Rudoj (b. 1985)

Festival Te Deum (1944)

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Credo (1965)

Margaret A. Bonds (1913-1972)

1. I Believe in God
2. Especially Do I Believe in the Negro Race
3. I Believe in the Pride of Race
4. I Believe in the Devil and His Angels
5. I Believe in the Prince of Peace
6. I Believe in Liberty
7. I Believe in Patience

INTERMISSION

Littlemore Tractus (2000)

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Songs for the People (2022)

Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980)

America the Beautiful (2008)

arr. Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)

SPECIAL THANKS

Rev. Rick Matters and
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

RIVERFRONT
HOTEL


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GUEST SOLOISTS



MYAH ROSE PADEN (she/they) is a Seattle-based mezzo-soprano whose work spans opera, oratorio, chamber music, and new music collaborations. A graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance, she has performed with Seattle Opera in both mainstage and community settings, including the Seattle Opera Chorus, Creation Lab, and Opera on Tap, as well as the 2023–24 school tour production of *Earth to Kenzie*. Their commitment to new and diverse repertoire has led to premieres of works by established and emerging composers, including a collaboration with Shawn E. Okpebholo. Myah's artistry is marked by versatility and depth—equally at home in jazz, choral, and operatic settings. In 2023, they were named a District Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition.

Alongside her performance career, Myah has built a presence as a speaker, writer, and host dedicated to connection and community through music and storytelling. She has been a regular pre-concert lecturer at the Seattle Symphony since 2022, served as host of the Symphony's 2024 Day of Music festival, and given talks at Seattle Opera for major premieres including *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X* (2024) and *Jubilee* (2025).

On air, she is a familiar voice to listeners of KNKX and Jazz24, bringing warmth and joy to broadcasts that reach audiences worldwide. Previously a full-time announcer at Classical KING, Myah continues to blend her passions for performance, education, and broadcasting into a career that uplifts music as a space for belonging, discovery, and shared experience.



THE COLUMBIA CHORALE JOINS THE MID-COLUMBIA SYMPHONY FOR

Joyful Resonance: *The Sound of the Holidays*

Saturday, December 20, 7:30PM
Sunday, December 21, 3:00PM

Richland High School Auditorium

Tickets available at midcolumbiasymphony.org

GUEST SOLOISTS



DR. JADRIAN TARVER, baritone, is a native of Haines City, Florida. Dr. Tarver is a dynamic educator, performer, conductor, and clinician. He has performed with the Spokane Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Opera, Peach State Opera, Capitol City Opera Company, Michigan State University Opera, Inland Northwest Opera Company, and Opera Grand Rapids. His career has also extended internationally, with performances across Europe and Asia, further solidifying his reputation as a distinguished global artist.

As an educator, he has taught choral and band ensembles in middle and high schools across Metro Atlanta and Florida, experiences that continue to enrich his work in higher education and community music-making. Through these various roles, Dr. Tarver plays a pivotal role in shaping both academic programs and community engagement initiatives, utilizing music as a means for education, cultural celebration, and social connection.

Currently, he serves as the Director of Voice at Gonzaga University, where he oversees the voice program and acts as the music director for the university's musical productions. He is also the first Assistant Professor of Applied Voice in Gonzaga's 136-year history. In addition to his university role, he serves as the Music Director at Manito United

Methodist Church and is the Founding Director of the newly established performance ensemble, Black United Voices of Spokane.

Dr. Jadrian Tarver's research interests delve into the ways in which Black musical traditions—specifically spirituals, gospel, soul music, and jazz—serve as powerful instruments for emotional healing, cultural memory, and community resilience. His work

positions music as a therapeutic and restorative force that intersects with themes of spirituality, identity, and social justice. Focusing on the relationship between music and wellness, he emphasizes how performance and pedagogy can promote holistic well-being for both artists and their communities.

Dr. Tarver is a dedicated advocate for amplifying underrepresented voices in classical music. He spearheads initiatives like "Beyond the Canon: A Tribute to Composers from the African Diaspora" (2023) and has performed a prominent Juneteenth recital in Hamburg, Germany, celebrating African diasporic composers on an international stage. These performances weave together scholarship, artistry, and community engagement, honoring the rich cultural heritage of Black music while expanding the repertoire of vocal performance.

At Michigan State University, Dr. Tarver also served as Project Manager for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) initiatives at the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts and the College of Music, where he helped foster meaningful goals to strengthen equity and inclusion across campus.

Dr. Tarver holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Bethune-Cookman University, a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Georgia State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance from Michigan State University.

MID-COLUMBIA OPERA
PRESENTS

Handel's
MESSIAH
with chamber orchestra and chorus

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 5, 2025
7:00PM

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2025
2:00PM

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

MCO
MID-COLUMBIA OPERA

UPTOWN THEATRE ~ RICHLAND, WA

COME AND BE PART OF OUR INAUGURAL SEASON!

SONG TEXTS

LET AMERICA BE AMERICA AGAIN (1935)

adapted from Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.

(America never was America to me)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed –
Let it be the great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.

(It never was America to me)

O, let my land be a land where
Liberty is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.

(There's never been equality for me,
Nor freedom in this "homeland of the free.")

Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?
And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?

I am the poor one, fooled and pushed apart,
I am the black one bearing slavery's scars.
I am the native driven from the land,
I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek

I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream In the Old World
while still a serf of kings,
Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true,
That even yet its mighty daring sings
In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned
That's made America the land it has become.

O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas
In search of what I meant to be my home—
For I'm the one who left dark Ireland's shore,
And Poland's plain, and England's grassy lea,
And torn from Black Africa's strand I came
To build a "homeland of the free."

The free?

For all the dreams we've dreamed
And all the songs we've sung
And all the hopes we've held
And all the flags we've hung,

The millions who have nothing for our pay—
Except the dream that's almost dead today.

O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land where every man is free.
The land that's mine—the poor one's, the native's, the black one's,
ME—

O, yes, I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath—
America will be!

FESTIVAL TE DEUM

Te Deum Laudamus, from the Book of Common Prayer

We praise thee, O God: we knowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee: the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud: the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim: continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles, praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs, praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth knowledge thee:
the Father of an infinite Majesty;
thine honourable, true: and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver Man,
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest on the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come: to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
And we worship thy Name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

SONG TEXTS

CREDO (1904)

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963)

I BELIEVE in God who made of one blood all races that on earth do dwell. I believe that all men, black and brown and white, are brothers, varying through Time and Opportunity, in form and gift and feature, but differing in no essential particular, and alike in soul and in the possibility of infinite development.

Especially do I believe in the Negro Race; in the beauty of its genius, the sweetness of its soul, and its strength in that meekness which shall yet inherit this turbulent earth.

I believe in pride of race and lineage and self; in pride of self so deep as to scorn injustice to other selves; in pride of lineage so great as to despise no man's father; in pride of race so chivalrous as neither to offer bastardy to the weak nor beg wedlock of the strong, knowing that men may be brothers in Christ, even though they be not brothers-in-law.

I believe in Service—humble reverent service, from the blackening of boots to the whitening of souls; for Work is Heaven, Idleness Hell, and Wage is the "Well done!" of the Master who summoned all them that labor and are heavy laden, making no distinction between the black, sweating cotton-hands of Georgia and the First Families of Virginia, since all distinction not based on deed is devilish and not divine.

I believe in the Devil and his angels, who wantonly work to narrow the opportunity of struggling human beings, especially if they be black; who spit in the faces of the fallen, strike them that cannot strike again, believe the worst and work to prove it, hating the image which their Maker stamped on a brother's soul.

I believe in the Prince of Peace. I believe that War is Murder. I believe that armies and navies are at bottom the tinsel and braggadocia of oppression and wrong; and I believe that the wicked conquest of weaker and darker nations by nations whiter and stronger but foreshadows the death of that strength.

I believe in Liberty for all men; the space to stretch their arms and their souls; the right to breathe and the right to vote, the freedom to choose their friends, enjoy the sunshine and ride on the railroads, uncursed by color; thinking, dreaming, working as they will in the kingdom of God and love.

I believe in the training of children, black even as white; the leading out of little souls into the green pastures and beside the still waters, not for pelf or peace, but for Life lit by some large vision of beauty and goodness and truth; lest we forget, and the sons of the fathers, like Esau, for mere meat barter their birthright in a mighty nation.

Finally, I believe in Patience—patience with the weakness of the Weak and the strength of the Strong, the prejudice of the Ignorant and the ignorance of the Blind; patience with the tardy triumph of Joy and the mad chastening of Sorrow—patience with God.

LITTLEMORE TRACTUS (1845)

From Wisdom and Ignorance by John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done! Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

SONGS FOR THE PEOPLE (1895)

From Poems by Francis Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911)

Let me make the songs for the people,
Songs for the old and young;
Songs to stir like a battle-cry
Wherever they are sung.

Not for the clashing of sabres,
For carnage nor for strife;
But songs to thrill the hearts of all
With more abundant life.

Let me make the songs for the weary,
Amid life's fever and fret,
Till hearts shall relax their tension,
And careworn brows forget.

Let me sing for little children,
Before their footsteps stray,
Sweet anthems of love and duty,
To float o'er life's highway.

I would sing for the poor and aged,
When shadows dim their sight;
Of the bright and restful mansions,
Where there shall be no night.

Our world, so worn and weary,
Needs music, pure and strong,
To hush the jangle and discords
Of sorrow, pain, and wrong.

Music to soothe all its sorrow,
Till war and crime shall cease;
And the hearts of all grown tender
Girdle the world with peace.

SONG TEXTS

AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL (1911 VERSION)
Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929)

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

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CONCERT SURVEY

What did you think of today's concert?
Please help us by filling out the
online survey at this QR code link



TRI-CITIES ARTS EVENTS

MID-COLUMBIA MUSICAL THEATRE
Oct 17-19 - [title of show]

PRINCESS THEATRE, PROSSER
Oct 17-19 - The Addams Family
Oct 31 - The Rocky Horror Picture Show

MID-COLUMBIA SYMPHONY
Oct 18 - Spooky Revelry
Dec 20-21 - Joyful Resurgence

CAMERATA MUSICA
Oct 25 - Cheng² Duo
Nov 15 - Tecalli Duo

ACADEMY OF CHILDREN'S THEATRE
Nov 8-16 - Go, Dog. Go!
Dec 5-14 - Best Christmas Pageant Ever

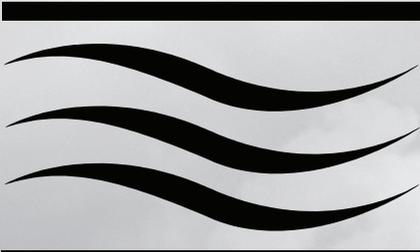
TRIFI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Nov 7-9

MID-COLUMBIA BALLET
Nov 9 - Nutcracker Tea Parties
Nov 15 - Nutcracker Winter Ball
Dec 11-15 - The Nutcracker Performance

RICHLAND PLAYERS
Dec 5-21 - Five Golden Rings

MID-COLUMBIA OPERA
Dec 5-6 - The Messiah

TRI-CITY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Dec 12 - Messiah Sing-Along Fundraiser



MID-COLUMBIA MASTERSINGERS

Transforming lives through the power of choral music

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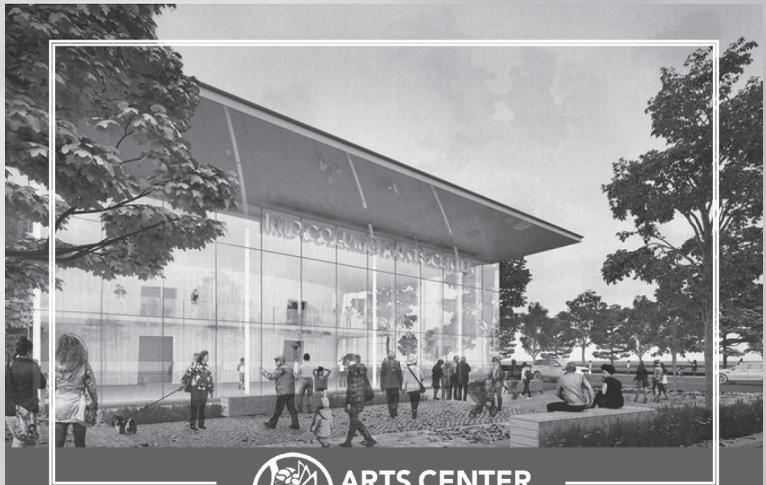
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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ARTS CENTER
TASK FORCE

Arts Center Task Force is the 501c3 organization working to build the Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center; a state-of-the-art venue and gathering space that will elevate the perception of the Tri-Cities as a vibrant destination to live, work, stay, and play by providing a home for our many excellent performing arts organizations, including the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers.

Learn more at: artscentertaskforce.com



Saturday, October 25

6:30-9:00pm

Ice Harbor Brewery, Kennewick

Beer Choir is the choir that sings while drinking beer! Come join us in the grand old tradition of pub singing. Beer Choir Hymnals are provided. All are welcome!

THANKS TO OUR 2025-26 DONORS... SO FAR!

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS TODAY!

*We are very grateful to all of our donors. Every contribution makes a big difference to us.
While every attempt has been made for accuracy, please alert us to any errors.*

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venmo



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Complimentary concert concessions

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Con Brio \$6,000-9,999

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Maestoso \$10,000+

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www.mcmastersingers.org

MID-COLUMBIA SYMPHONY



81ST
SEASON
2025-2026

TOGETHER IN ACTION. UNITED IN SOUND.

RESOUND

SPOOKY REVELRY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

7:30 PM | RICHLAND HIGH AUDITORIUM

A HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

A playful gathering of characters, creatures, and legends from your favorite stories, movies, and music. It's a night where the unexpected is celebrated and costumes are encouraged—because delight is a powerful beginning.

INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR: ADRIENNE FLETCHER

Tickets at MidColumbiaSymphony.org or 509.943.6602

