

PROGRAM

Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage
from *Christmas Oratorio* BWV 248

J.S. Bach
(1685—1750)

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872—1958)

Ben Reisinger, baritone

Christmas Day

Gustav Holst
(1874—1934)

Messiah

G.F. Handel
(1685—1759)

Recitative. Comfort ye, comfort ye my people

Air. Ev'ry valley shall be exalted

John Henrikson, tenor

Chorus. And the glory of the Lord

Recitative. Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of Hosts

Air. But who may abide the day of His coming

Peter Boylan, baritone

Chorus. And He shall purify the sons of Levi

Recitative. Behold, a virgin shall conceive

Air and Chorus. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

Megan Magsarilli, mezzo soprano

Recitative. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth

Air. The people that walked in darkness

Peter Boylan, baritone

Chorus. For unto us a Child is born

Recitatives. There were shepherds abiding in the field

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them

And the angel said unto them

And suddenly there was with the angel

Jillian Brennan, soprano

Chorus. Glory to God in the highest

Air. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion

Tianxi Wang, soprano

Chorus. Hallelujah

TRANSLATIONS

Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage from *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 248, J.S. Bach

Rejoice, exult! Up, glorify the days,
Praise what the All Highest this day has done,
Set aside fear, banish lamentation,
Strike up a song full of joy and mirth!
Serve the All Highest with glorious choirs!
Let us worship the name of the Lord!

SOLOIST BIOS

Tianxi Wang is currently pursuing a DMA in vocal performance under the tutelage of Richard Fracker. An international student from China, Tianxi also completed her MM degree at Michigan State University. She has performed several leading roles with MSU Opera Theatre, including Adina in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Mrs. Fiorentino in Weill's *Street Scene*, and Rosalinda in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*.

Originally from Portland, Oregon, **Megan Magsarili** received her BM in vocal performance at DePaul University in 2017. Her notable roles with DePaul Opera Theatre include Arnalta in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Emma Jones in Weill's *Street Scene*, and Ernestina in Rossini's one act opera, *L'occasione fa il ladro*. She also performed new music works with some of DePaul's large ensembles, including *Grand Pianola Music* by John Adams and Luciano Berio's *Sinfonia for Eight Voices and Orchestra*. Upon graduating, Megan accepted a position with the Chicago Symphony Chorus. She is currently pursuing an MM in vocal performance in the studio of Jane Bunnell. She recently sang the role of Prince Orlofsky in MSU Opera Theatre's production of *Die Fledermaus*.

Jillian Brennan is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Music Education in the studio of Anne Nispel. Last spring she was featured in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* as "The Youth". She also performed the role of Jennie Hildebrand in Weill's *Street Scene*. This past summer Brennan had the opportunity to attend the MSU College of Music Study Abroad program in Todi, Italy that focused on the Italian language and vocal performance. Brennan is passionate about music education and dedicates much of her time to teaching. She currently teaches in the early childhood music program at the MSU Community Music School and is a music ministry intern at St. John Church and Student Center. She is also on the Student Advisory Board for the Michigan School Vocal Music

SOLOIST BIOS (CONTINUED)

Association and is the treasurer for the Michigan State University Chapter of the National Association for Music Educators.

Originally from Northville, Michigan, **Peter Boylan** is currently pursuing a Performance Diploma, studying with Richard Fracker. He holds a BM from MSU and an MM from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Mr. Boylan has appeared with the Great Lakes Light Opera as Mr. Gobineau in Menotti's *The Medium*, and Main Street Opera Theatre as King Melchior in the same composer's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. With MSU Opera Theater he has sung Dr. Falke in Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Frank Maurant in Weill's *Street Scene*, Schauard in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Lindorf in Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Noah in Ricky Ian Gordon's *Grapes of Wrath*, and the Police Sergeant in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.

Ben Reisinger, baritone, is a recent graduate of Nazareth College of Rochester, and is in his 1st year of the master's program in vocal performance studying with Mark Rucker. He is the 2017-18 American Prize Award winner in Vocal Performance in the Opera/Operetta division and was one of the Northeast Finalists for the Michael Feinstein 'Great American Songbook' Competition in New York City. He was part of the Martina Arroyo Foundation Prelude to Performance Young Artists Program in the summer of 2017, has performed Fauré's *Requiem* with the Philharmonic of Rzeszow, Poland, and is a frequent soloist at the Rochester Lyric Opera.

John Henrikson, tenor, is a senior vocal performance major in the studio of Richard Fracker. For MSU Opera Theatre he has sung Dr. Blind in Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Abe Kaplan in Weill's *Street Scene*, and Don Curzio in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*. In October 2018, he participated in the MSU-China XII Vocal Arts Collaboration. He has placed first or second in his division in several National Association of Teachers of Singing competitions and was the first prize winner in the Ethel J. Armeling Vocal Competition in 2015.